

Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

September 2008

President's Corner



Philip Loggins K4PDL

We had an excellent turnout for the LARC Family Picnic. Several of our new members were in attendance. Plenty of great southern cooking was enjoyed by all. If it's cooked here in the SOUTH, it's southern cooking. Thanks to all the great chefs who helped prepare the meal. Thanks are also in order to all who graced our tables for this event, even if it was on a holiday weekend. I believe total count was forty three.

I would also like to say a special thanks to Betty Monty for coming out and being a part of the picnic. She is the sister of SK Tom VanValkenburg, N2SBD. She is always welcome to our events and we will always remember her as being a very special person in our hearts of the LARC. During the entire time of Tom's ailment, she so graciously brought Tom to just about all of our functions. He was a very special person to all of us. He was so full of life up until the time of his passing. With all of his medical problems, he studied until near the end and passed his Morse Code Test. But OH, if only we could all have a touch of his determination. Thanks Betty, you two will be forever in our hearts. We love you both, and miss Tom very much!!

At the beginning of my term, I suggested for each one to help bring in just one new member for the year. My sincere thanks to all who have helped this come to be. We are now up over the thirty (30) mark for new members. How outstanding is this!! And to think we are pushing for the big 40!! Total membership to date stands at 100 and counting.

This is a very big plus for our club. I wanted to see it grow and we seem to be on the right foot. FANTASTIC!

With this growth, and summer coming to an end, I hope we will get more active now and get back into doing more things with the club. Summer seems to slow us down with everyone busy with vacations, family, kids out of school, etc. If we all pull together, work together, and play together, as a team in peace and harmony, we can make this club one of the best that we ALL can be very proud of. WOW! I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year. But again, it will take all of us pulling together to make this happen.

Be RADIO – ACTIVE!

As always, email (k4pdl@bellsouth.net) me with your thoughts, ideas, and/or criticisms. This is YOUR CLUB, be an active part of it. Help us preserve the good and build for tomorrow. Start today.

Until next time,
73
Phil

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

Hamstick Antennas 2

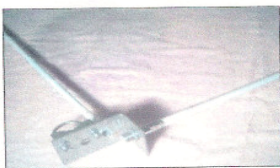
Back again for hamsticks. We all know that hamsticks have been use on the mobile scene for decades. They have been threaded into magnetic bases, paired with adjustable loading coils set into mobile mounts, as well as fitted to pickup boxes. In the main these antennas have given good service; and appear in most ham catalogs. I have noticed the old standbys are being joined by a new group of hamstick types that are tuned with a wandering lead or have become baby screwdriver antennas.

All very expensive, but is the old fashioned hamstick dead? Nope!! Let's see what we can come up with. How about our horizontal dipole on a 10-foot mast thrust out from a balcony or window with the elements vertical? Worked great for a PSK contact on 20m. I made a stand to accept a hamstick or any other vertical antenna using a 3/8-24 threaded base. Needed with this base are radials, easily attached to a post secured by a wing nut. This mount can be used on a tabletop, flat roof or open field. Mine was made up of a large angle strap with a CB 3-way mount on a wood base. There are holes drilled in each corner to accept 3/8 one-foot spikes for security. I have used the mini-screwdriver: MP-1 Superantenna in this mount, as well. How about this one, a Vee-beam? Vee-beams are an interesting concept. Setting at an angle 35-90 degrees apart, 2 hamsticks form a horizontal beam radiating toward the distant station with greater gain than a dipole. This was assembled using a Strong Tie A-24 angle and drilling it for a TV mast clamp, a 3/8" hole for one element and using a 1/2 " hole provided for a 3/8-24\SO-239 mount for the other. I can't go into a hardware store without seeing radio parts. (Grin.) I worked a station in Lula from the Lawrenceville Hamfest on 6m. That's 38 miles on simplex with an antenna at 15 feet, using a Yaesu FT-817 with only 5 Watts; Vee-beam is OK by me!

How about a vertical using hamsticks? I found an old scanner antenna in the junk box and refurbished it to a 6m FM antenna using the same elements I used on the 6m, isolated dipole. Strange, I found the frequency was now resonant 2MHz above the SSB portion of 6m? Answer: the close proximity of the lower element to the metal mast, plus the mount wasn't isolated from the mast. Using the Strong Tie A-24 angle again with its two predrilled holes and a 38-24\SO239 mount, make a gable mounted ground plane with radials hidden in the eaves for 2, 6, Or 10m fun. That is the key word in radio; FUN!!!

Here are illustrations of the various configurations mentioned above.

Vee-beam



Gable Mount



Vertical Stand

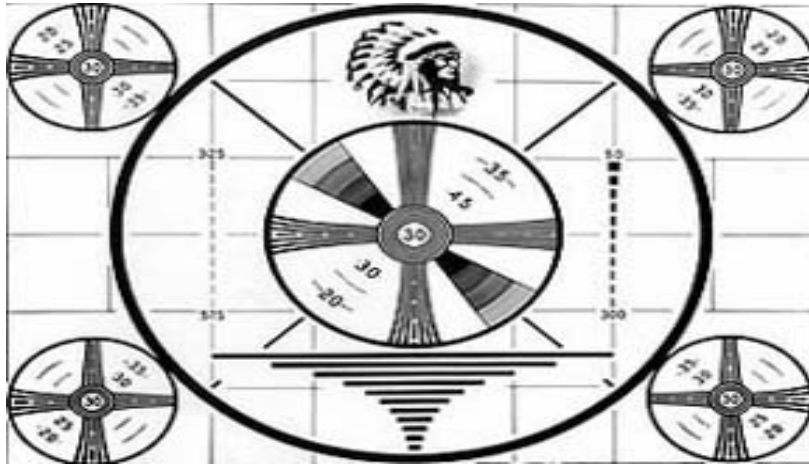


Amateur Radio Newsline: HAM RADIO EVENTS: OLYMPICS COMMEMORATIVE STATION
CONTINUES

Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association continue to be active as V-R-2008-O, This, to celebrate the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Operations will continue until August 31st on 40 through 6 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL direct only to VR2XMT Charlie Ho, PO Box 900, Fanling Post Office, Hong Kong.

Sorry. Note there is no electronic e-QSL or Logbook to the World filings accepted for this rather special commemorative event. (Hong Kong DXA)



LARC VE's in Testing Pattern

"Advancing The Future of Our Hobby One HAM At A Time"

Congratulations to New HAMS and Upgrades (Exam of 8-3-08)

James Robertson KC4LS upgraded to Extra
 William Calhoun KJ4DDZ upgraded to General
 Charles Locke KJ4FDZ upgraded to General
 Bill Farr, KJ4FQR (LARC Tech Class)
 John Wilson, KJ4FQS (LARC Tech Class)
 Thomas Keith, KJ4FGT (LARC Tech Class)
 Cody Hulsey, KJ4FQU (LARC Tech Class) (Grandson of David W4PSL)
 Debbie Edwards, KJ4FQV (LARC Tech Class)
 Curtis Clark, KJ4FQW
 Isaiah Becker, KJ4FQX

Congratulations New Technicians **LARC Tech Class**

Exam of **8-9-08**

Congratulations on Upgrades

Nina Cleveland-Hall, KJ4FVH
 Charles Honaker, KJ4FVI
 Jack Whidden, KJ4FVJ
 JoAnn Whidden, KJ4FVK
 Corby Stow, KJ4FVL
 William Banks, KJ4FVM
 Brandon West, KJ4FVN
 James Carmichael, KJ4FVO
 William Sant, KJ4FVP
 Ronald Wilson, KJ4FVQ
 Matt Trawick, KJ4FVR
 Billy Galloway, KJ4FVS
 Ben Mann, KJ4FVT
 Martin Mann, KJ4FVU

Douglas Woodhead, N7RVB upgraded to EXTRA
 Mark Murray, KD4PEO upgraded to GENERAL
 Chad Poole, KI4ZUA upgraded to GENERAL

Many thanks go to Roger, WB4T and his VE Team for providing testing sessions on a regular and special basis. Special thanks to Norman Harrill N4NH, our extraordinary WCARS/VEC.

Setting Up A Station - Buying Your First Radio

Doyle, W4DJG

Recently, we've had many new operators join the ranks. Most often question I've heard is "what radio do I buy"?

Most new Amateurs purchase a handheld VHF or UHF (or a combined "dual-band" VHF+UHF) radio. You can use your handheld radio while walking, while driving or from your home. You can optionally connect it to an external mobile antenna or an external antenna at your home for extended range. A mere handheld running low power is sufficient to gain access to most local repeaters so this is plenty to get you started. Single band handheld radios cost between about \$100 and \$300. Dual-band radios cost about \$400 and up.

If you plan to advance beyond the Technician stage, you might consider purchasing a radio like the ICOM IC-706 which provides VHF/UHF coverage and 6 meters , plus is a complete HF (below 30 MHz) transceiver. This unit can be used mobile or set up as a base station.

Another option to consider is a "mobile" radio. Mobile VHF/UHF radios and handhelds have pretty much the same features - except that the mobile radio probably supports 25 to 50 watts output while handheld radios typically operate in the 100 milliwatt to 5 watt output range. Mobile radios have larger speakers and a more powerful audio amplifier for better quality audio - this is especially nice to have in a noisy car environment. Most mobile radios are also designed for easier use while driving – that means bigger controls and buttons to easily set commonly used features.

In summation: the final choice is yours. We can help you see the pros and cons of many pieces of equipment but at the end of the day, you're the one to decide what's best for you.

I C E- IN CASE OF EMERGENCY apparently this is a standard procedure all paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone. ICE - 'In Case of Emergency'. We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign. The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell (mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic, who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there were a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have

stored as 'ICE.' For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today! It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.



Georgia Hams Meet with FEMA (Aug 4, 2008) -- On July 30, representatives from the ARRL Southeastern Division and Georgia Section participated in the FEMA Region IV, Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (RECC) Working Group meetings near Atlanta. Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK; Georgia Section Manager, Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, and Georgia Section Official Observer Coordinator Michael Swiderski, K4HBI, represented ARRL and Amateur Radio.

See: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/04/10245/?nc=1> for full story

Where oh where did the sunspots go?¿

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW P5-A MOVIE ON YOUTUBE

Amsat says that its Phase 5-A will be the first spacecraft built by radio amateurs to go to the Red planet and now there's a movie about it.

Titled "With AMSAT P5-A to Mars," the 10 minute video was produced by AMSAT Germany and covers almost every aspect of the AMSAT organization since its very beginning before taking us through the development cycle of P5-A. Here's a sample of the Phase 5 A story from the movie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilJ548EyUME>

CLUB LOGO ITEMS

(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

Ball Caps Embroidered Logo



\$10.00

T-Shirts (Silk Screen LOGO)



\$10.00

Embroidered Patches



\$3.50

Friendly cure for fire ants that has been announced by
Walter Reeves on his Georgia Gardener radio program.
Testimonial that it REALLY WORKS are coming in.

Simply pour two cups of CLUB SODA (carbonated water) directly in the center of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces the oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The whole colony will be dead within about two days.

Here's the plus: club soda leaves no poisonous residue, does not contaminate the ground water, and does not indiscriminately kill other insects. Each mound must be treated individually and a one liter bottle of club soda will kill 2 to 3 mounds.



ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE)

Visit <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> for more info

FEMA Independent Study Program (ISP)

For those of us who are emergency responders, it is a prerequisite to have taken and passed independent Study courses IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) and IS-700 (National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction) as a minimum. All ISP courses are designed to allow you to learn at your own pace and at your leisure and are FREE. All it will cost you is a little time.

A list of all FEMA ISP courses and links for each course can be found at
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

When you have completed the required courses (and/or other ISP courses) and have your course completion certificate in hand,, please let Ron Mulberry, KI4RBE or one of his assistants know so we can get your training logged. Take as many of the courses as you wish but REMEMBER IS-100 and IS-700 are required.



National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year, ARRL is once again a coalition member. National Preparedness Month 2006 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The agency will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. More information is available at <<http://www.ready.gov/>>.

http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/sq_disaster_w004.aspx

How important is a weather radio?

Doyle, W4DJG

Recently, while on assignment with the EMA to check weather radio's within several county schools, I was asked a very good question? On August 26th we actually had two tornado warnings for Hall County. The ladies in the office at South Hall Middle told me they heard the warning via WX radio a full five minutes before the sirens sounded. "Why?" they ask.

Everyone should keep in mind, the tornado sirens scattered throughout the County are NOT tied directly into the NOAA alert system. The tornado sirens are triggered by the Emergency Management Agency within the Hall County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) via a radio signal sent out at that location. This leaves a gap of precious minutes of any issued WX warning with the length of time lapse depending on how much information the EMA is getting.

So, how important is a weather radio? VERY !!!!

I, for one, want to know of any tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service as soon as they are issued from same.

Quote of the Month

Celebrate victories -- learn from mistakes

Chinese Proverb

Man who sneezes without hanky takes matter into own hands.

BUY, SELL, TRADE

Bill Farr, KJ4FQR is in the market for a multi-band mobile rig. He also has a mobile business band antenna looking for a new home. Contact Bill at

billfarr@windstream.netcom



OSCAR STATUS :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>

OSCAR FREQUENCIES :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/frequencies.php>

September Club Meeting
September 30 at Curt's in Oakwood.
Dinner at 5:30pm with meeting at 6:30pm
LARC dates for 2008 (mark your calendars)

LARC Family Picnic October 25
LARC Christmas Breakfast December 6

Lunch Bunch Every Friday at 11:30 there is a lunch get-together at a local restaurant. The location is announced on the Wednesday night net, our web site under the activities tab and under the calendar icon as well as announced on the 146.67 repeater. ALL are welcome

Repeater Info: 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz 224.840 (-) open 444.950 (+) 131.8 Hz

Hall County Nets W4ABP repeater 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz
Hall County ARES Net, Wednesday @ 20:00 & LARC Net Wednesday @20:30
"Everyone is welcome to check in"

Upcoming HAMFEST

September

20 Sep 2008 +	Paulding Amateur Radio Club http://pauldingarc.com Talk-In: 146.895+ (PL 77) Contact: Andy J. Peltier, KI4HVN 3188 Delhi Drive Powder Springs, GA 30127 Phone: 770-943-4793 Email: andy_peltier@yahoo.com	Dallas, GA Paulding Meadows Park Highway 61 N Div: Southeastern Sect: Georgia
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The Things My Mother Taught Me: epilogue

See past issues for 1-20

21. My mother taught me **HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.**

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

22. My mother taught me **GENETICS.**

"You're just like your father."

23. My mother taught me about my **ROOTS.**

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. My mother taught me **WISDOM.**

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

25. And my favorite: **My mother taught me about JUSTICE.**

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you." "When you do have your own kids, it's payback time."

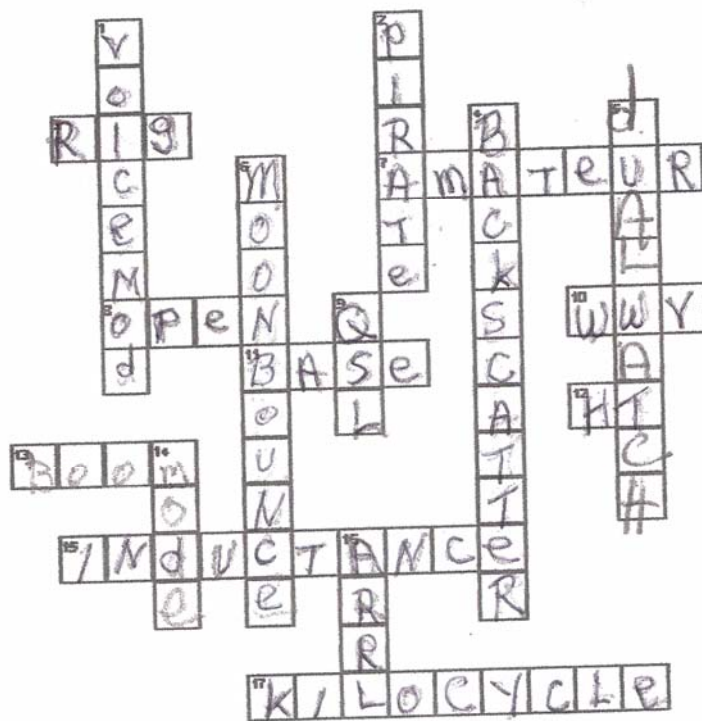
Answer to Last month's crossword
 Congratulations to Ed Cravey, KF4HPY for being first to submit correct answers.

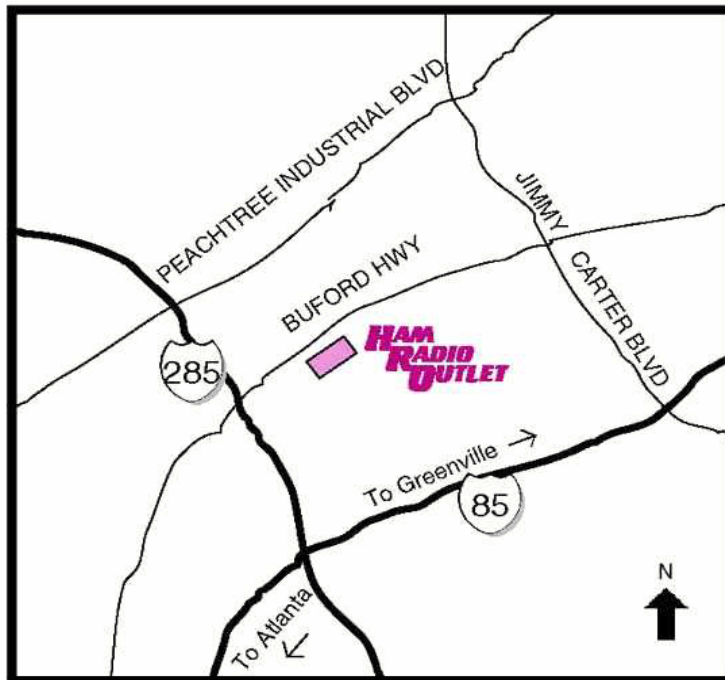
ACROSS

3. another name for a radio
7. a non-professional radio operator
8. a repeater whose access is not limited
10. callsign of US government radio station that broadcasts time signals
11. a fixed operating location
12. portable transceiver (abbr)
13. the part of a multi-element antenna that holds everything together
15. magnetic field storage
17. former unit of measure replaced by kHz

DOWN

1. AM, FM, SSB are examples
2. station using someone else's callsign and illegally operating on the air
4. form of propagation that allows stations to hear other stations in the skip zone
5. receiving two signals simultaneously
6. another term for earth-moon-earth communication
9. an acknowledgement of receipt (abbr)
14. term for type of signal or type of encoding used to send a signal
16. US amateur radio organization





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Fax 770-263-9548

Mark KJ4VO Tim KE4VDH Dale W4GCL Bill KF8AZ Josh W4JDH David W4EGT



My radio is sick. Who do I call?

We recommend "The Radio Doctor" Milton Lord, N4DA

Visit his web site at <http://www.n4da.com/>

Or give him a call at 770-966-1166

While your on his site, check out his Home Brew AMP

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LARC's Mike Strong, K4CRO



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LARC's Michael Crowder K9VR

Many thanks go to those who submitted news, information and articles for this edition. Send you newsletter contributions to W4DJG@bellsouth.net

As a reminder, the newsletters are archived within our website. Each issue is listed with the most recent edition first.

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org/newsletters.html>

73 to all