



The Communicator



Publisher GARC

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 1

Date January 13, 2003

Newly Elected Officers

At the regularly scheduled meeting of GARC November 12, 2002 the assembled members were given the opportunity to again nominate candidates for the slate of 2003 officers. After all nominations were in the vote was held and the following is the slate of elected officers for this year:

President: Dennis Posey

Vice President: William Hatter

Secretary: Harley Davidson

Treasurer:

We look forward to working with them in the coming year to build a better and more public responsive organization.

Emergency Practice net

The Emergency Practice Net still meets every Tuesday evening at 8:30P.M. on the 147.16 Repeater. Participation has increased noticeably in the last month. Dennis Posey, AG4SN, is the present control station for this net but this is a responsibility that we all should assume. If the need arises to activate the net in the event of an actual emergency, you may be called on to sit in that seat, and it is easier if you have had informal practice. No member will be asked to assume these duties for more than a four-week cycle. The format and other necessary aids for calling the net will be provided. Please contact Dennis if you will be available to assume the control station seat

Annual Christmas Dinner

The members met on the evening of December 2, 2002 for our annual Christmas Dinner. The gathering was held at Ruby Tuesdays in Attalla on Hwy 77. The turn out was a very pleasant surprise. Unfortunately no one took a head count but best guess was between 40 and 50 attendees. A single long table sustained the food and drink and one end of the table would have had to use a handie-talkie to communicate with the other end. All spent enjoyable evening, catching up on events, equipment and gossip.

The First Issue of the Newsletter

This is the first issue of this newsletter. It is the product of discussion between several members of GARC. Whether it will continue in the months to come is dependent on a number of factors: Membership acceptance and desire to read it; the decision of the membership as to mailing it out or relying totally on email; and of course on the input from the membership and other sources with material for the newsletter.

If you have input for the newsletter or recommendations for content, please address them to:

Harley Davidson, N4AQG

(205) 594-0130 Cell (256) 390-6677

harley@jharleydavidson.com



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Issue No. 2

Date February 10, 2003

From the Presidents Desk

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Word of Appreciation

In last months newsletter we announced the election of the new officers. We failed to express our appreciation to the outgoing officers.

Fulfilling the month to month duties of a club officer can be time consuming and sometimes involved. We are fortunate that we have people in our club willing to assume these duties and see that our club functions smoothly. Therefore we wish to express our appreciation to the

following outgoing officers for a job WELL DONE:

Emergency Practice net

The attendance at the Emergency Practice Net for the month of January was

Tower Decision May Affect Ham Towers

A big tower case win for a broadcaster could have a trickle down effect for ham radio. This, after the Hew Hampshire Supreme Court has rejected a city's zoning ordinance limiting the height of new communication towers to 42 feet. It says that regulation conflicts with federal law.

The ruling clears the way for Koor Communications Inc. to obtain local construction permits to begin constructing broadcast towers for WQTH-AM in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

From HamNews.

From the ARRL Newsline

FCC says power line communications technology shows promise: According to an

Associated Press report, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology has found that power line communications (PLC), which can enable high-speed Internet access over electric power lines, shows promise. The OET has said that PLC is "beginning to look like a viable alternative to cable and DSL connections to the Internet," AP reported.

At present, no regulations prevent the use of electric power lines to provide Internet connections. The FCC wants to ensure that the technology does not cause interference problems with other services, however. Some PLC devices use digital signals that occupy spectrum into the upper HF range. These signals can be radiated efficiently by some electrical wiring, so there can be a significant potential impact on Amateur Radio. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, chairs an IEEE C63 "RFI" ad hoc working group on the topic.

"The problem with PLC is that if a company wants to supply Internet service via PLC, it's going to happen at HF, and it will radiate," Hare said.

Last fall, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council noted the growing use of PLC for high-speed data and expressed concerns that PLC radiation could interfere with Amateur Radio reception. As a result of strong opposition from the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL), Japan's government said last summer that it was too soon to allow PLC devices in that country between 2 MHz and 30 MHz, due to its interference potential to other HF users.

AP says two utilities, PPL of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Ameren of St Louis, Missouri, are working with consumers to test Internet access over power lines.

PLC devices use overhead power lines and/or residential electrical wiring to communicate digital signals--for networking within a home or to provide Internet services to entire neighborhoods.

(From ARRL Website Newsline)

More from ARRL

Comments are due February 28 on another Petition for Rulemaking filed by Dale Reich, K8AD, of Seville, Ohio. Reich has petitioned the FCC to require sellers of two-way voice or data equipment to keep on file a buyer's name, address, telephone number and "any future information when selling a radio that required licensing under the current FCC rules." Information collected would remain private, available only to the FCC or law enforcement. Reich said in his petition that, under his proposal, any retail vendor would be able to ask local police to investigate if the retailer suspected that the radios were not going to be used in compliance with the law.

A separate petition would require "ownership and license tagging" for gear operating under Parts 5, 15, 18, 74, 80, 90, 95 and 97, including call sign, owner's name and address and any FCC file number. It would include CB, Family Radio Service, Multi-Use Radio Service and General Mobile Radio Service gear. In his petition, Reich said such tagging used to be an FCC requirement and that his proposed change was long overdue as a needed tool for local law enforcement. (From ARRL Letter Vol 22 No 5)

In an earlier petition, designated RM-10620, Dale Reich K8AD had asked the Commission to upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. Reich said such test-free upgrades would compensate for "the previous tougher exam that was past administered" and give credit for violation-free service records. Before the comment window for Reich's earlier petition closed January 17, it attracted more than 150 comments from the amateur community. (From ARRL Letter Vol 22 No 5)

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery: ARRL members first just register on the Members Only Web Site:
<<http://www.arrl.org/members/>>.

Hamfest Calendar

Feb 22 - Dalton, GA
Mar 1 - Knoxville, TN
Mar 14-15 - Kennehoochee, GA
Apr 5 - Cleveland, TN
May 3 - 4 - Birmingham, AL
Jun 7 - Atlanta, GA

Laughter section

Going To Sunday School

A young boy came to Sunday School late. His teacher knew that he was usually very prompt and asked him if anything was wrong.

The boy replied no, that he was going to go fishing but his dad told him that he needed to go to church. The teacher was very impressed and asked the boy if his dad had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing.

To which the boy replied, "Yes he did, Dad said he didn't have enough bait for both of us to go fishing!"

Old Aunt Emma

A couple's happy married life almost went on the rocks because of the presence in the household of old Aunt Emma. For seven long years she lived with them, always crotchety, always demanding. Finally the old lady died.

On the way back from the cemetery, the husband confessed to his wife, "Darling, if I didn't love you so much, I don't think I would have put up with having your Aunt Emma in the house all those years."

His wife looked at him aghast. "My Aunt Emma! she cried. I thought she was your Aunt Emma!"

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President: Wil Montgomery W4WM
Secretary: Dave Waits K4VMV
Treasurer: Nathan Hodge KD4PML
(We are still looking for a candidate to relieve Nathan of those duties, at his request)

Also, thanks to the returning Vice President, William Hatter KA4SAR.

Congratulations guys, on a job WELL DONE!

From the Gavel

So early in this new year for the GARC, its hard to find a lot to say, but hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to talk about what we have done and are doing rather than only what we would like to do.

We are currently working on some things that will maybe turn this club into something besides a dull, dry meeting once a month. As a club member, don't be afraid give us your ideas as we need all the help we can get, so give us your thoughts, good or bad, and lets see what we can make happen out them.

I encourage everyone to check in to the A.E.N.Y. every Tuesday night and invite any ham you may know to check in also. For the month of January, I turned in 76 total check-ins and had been averaging in the 80s for the previous months. I would love to be able to turn in average numbers over 100 every month, but I need your help to do it. So remember the net every Tuesday night on the 147.160 at 8:30.

Lets all work together to turn this club into something that not only we as club members and hams can be proud of, but something the whole community can be proud of as the amateur radio "service" that we are. If any of you need to contact me for anything, you can usually catch me at nights on the radio or contact me with the email or phone listed below.

Club President,

Dennis Posey, AG4SN
(256) 492-6251
AG4SN@arrl.net

Tower Decision May Affect Ham Towers

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Date March 10, 2003

Word from the Editor

The Hams in our area were given an opportunity to provide a public service to the City and County in the form of providing communications for the upcoming 'Renew the Coosa' effort scheduled for April 28th thru May 3rd.

There is a need for portable operators and at least one control station operator per day. Every volunteer is not expected to participate all six days but if you are available for more than one day it would be a great help.

Fox News will be reporting on the activities and local newspapers are expected to report also. It will also be a good opportunity for a public service article for submission to QST magazine.

If you can participate with a handie-talkie or portable rig on that date please contact Harley, N4AQG at (256) 390-6677 or any of the Club officers.

Article About eBay by WB4NBP

Ebay, Yea or Nay

Hamfest season is almost here, and many people are mentally picturing few wants and needs. If you are anxious and can't wait, log onto Ebay and you can see pictures of thousands of ham related items up for auction on one of the computer worlds largest and most

popular web sites. Right now as I type away, there are 8,016 ham related items up for auction on Ebay.

There are 1,585 transceivers listed on Ebay tonight. 165 of them are Icom. 185 of them are Kenwood's, 195 of them are Yaesu's. There are 334 items listed for Heathkit, 189 for Collins and 140 for Drake. Over 51 antenna tuners, 136 amplifiers, 491 antennas and 485 receivers are listed as of tonight.

This is just the beginning! Get the picture? This gathering of ham equipment could rival any major hamfest and you don't even have to get out of your living room. Ebay is the idea of a now gazillionaire where people can list their merchandise on the web site in an auction format. The item goes to the highest bidder at the end of the auction period, which can be anything up to 9 days.

Most items are accompanied by several digital photos taken by the seller and uploaded to the auction. Most of the better sellers have high resolution pictures that allow you to view items from every angle possible. Usually sellers try to offer descriptions of the condition of the item, and if you are careful about whom you buy from; a good deal can be found. All auction transactions on Ebay are subject to "feedback" from both the seller and buyer. The seller can comment on whether the buyer sent the payment in a timely manner. The buyer can comment on whether the seller shipped the item swiftly and if it was as described in the auction listing.

Sellers who get negative feedback and buyers who receive negative feedback would then have a bad reputation and not be able to buy or sell on Ebay. So it is in the best interest of the buyer and seller to be on the up and up. Look at the "feedback" of every seller or buyer you are dealing with. If a seller has hundreds of feedbacks and all are positive, this should be a good person to deal with. Since you cannot please all people all the time, it is not uncommon for a seller with hundreds or thousands of feedbacks to have a couple of negative comments from buyers.

Some hams feel that prices on Ebay are too high. They are not higher than a person is willing to pay however. It is my opinion that Ebay is a better deal for the seller than the buyer. But, at the same times, where can I find a whole bunch of Heathkit boatanchors to look at with a click of a mouse button?

Whether I buy or not, I enjoy browsing around the ham equipment and have spent many enjoyable hours surfing Ebay Yea or nay?.....I say YEA.

Wb4nbp Steve Smith

From HamNews

The Radio Amateur is:

Considerate...never knowingly uses the air in such a way to lesson the pleasure of others.

Loyal...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to their fellow radio amateurs, their local radio club, and to the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio is represented.

Progressive...with knowledge abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. Operating practice is above reproach.

Friendly...slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are marks of the amateur spirit.

Balanced...radio is their hobby. They never allow it to interfere with any of the duties they owe to their home, job, church, school, or community.

Patriotic...their knowledge and their station are always ready for the service of his country and their community.

From ARRL

HOLLINGSWORTH PREACHES
COURTESY, COMMON SENSE

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told those attending his forum at the Richmond, Virginia, Frostfest February 9 that Amateur Radio enforcement still has a long way to go, but that amateurs can do a lot through peer pressure to head off problems before they become enforcement issues.

"Enforcement is no substitute for courtesy and common sense," Hollingsworth declared. "More courtesy would go a long way. Hollingsworth again suggested that amateurs "operate so that listeners will be impressed with Amateur Radio," not offended or turned off by it. He said awareness of Amateur Radio is on the rise in the wake of media attention since September 11, 2001, and, more recently, with ham radio assistance in the search for debris from the shuttle Columbia. He pointed to 20 and 75 meters as the current enforcement hot spots as well as the bands where the least courteous operating practices are found--some of which he described as "a disgrace" to the Amateur Service.

Off-the-air peer pressure, he said, is an effective tool to provide guidance to amateurs who may be unaware of how they sound to others on the air. The reactions of some hams when they confront interference—or perceived interference—can be worse than the original interference—whether or not it's deliberate. "Don't overreact," Hollingsworth advised. "The best reaction is no reaction whatsoever."

"You have to always be aware of your image and be willing to protect it," he told those gathered in the packed forum. "You can't shoot yourself in the foot." More than 1000 attended the Richmond Frostfest, sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society <<http://www.rats.net/>>.

The use of new technology and on-the-air experimentation also sometimes brings controversy to the amateur bands, Hollingsworth said, and may prompt an occasion for the FCC to revisit its current Part 97 Amateur Service rules. Hollingsworth pointed to the use of so-called "enhanced SSB," where experimenters have been attempting to achieve full-carrier AM-like high-fidelity audio in that mode. Hollingsworth said the presence of the enhanced SSB experimenters has led to complaints to the FCC—as many as 20 per week—that these signals are taking up excessive bandwidth.

Hollingsworth told his Richmond audience that deliberately operating a wideband mode in a crowded spectrum is "shortsighted and rude," may be ignoring the "minimum bandwidth necessary" rule. If its use isn't accompanied by courtesy and common sense, he said, it will lead to pressure on the FCC to revise the Amateur Service rules.

The "Emission Standards" section of Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and

(b)--requires amateur transmissions to not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice" and to "not cause splatter" on adjacent frequencies.

Hollingsworth said the bandwidth of a given signal is not easily determined by the average amateur transceiver—even one equipped with a band scope of some sort. He pointed out that the problems with apparent splatter can be aggravated by the use of a noise blanker on the receiving end. "Just because it sounds wide doesn't mean it is wide," he said, adding that he'd prefer the amateur community come up a way to accommodate such experimentation, because "a government solution will be worse than the problem."

(From ARRL Website Newline)

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(From ARRL Letter Vol 22 No 5)

Talk about weak-signal DX!
Pioneer 10 spacecraft sends last signal:
Talk about weak-signal DX! NASA says that after more than 30 years, it appears the venerable Pioneer 10 spacecraft has sent its last signal to Earth. Pioneer's last, very weak signal was received on January 22. NASA engineers report Pioneer 10's

radioisotope power source has decayed, and it may not have enough power to send additional transmissions to Earth. NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN) did not detect a signal during the last contact attempt February 7. The previous three contacts, including the January 22 signal, were very faint with no telemetry received. The last time a Pioneer 10 contact returned telemetry data was last April 27. NASA plans no additional contact attempts for Pioneer 10, which is 7.6 billion miles from Earth. At that distance, it takes more than 11 hours 20 minutes for the radio signal to reach Earth. More information is available on the Pioneer 10 Web page <<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/tmp/1972-012A.html>>.

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Aug 16-17 – Huntsville, AL
Oct 15 - Rome, GA

Laughter section

A sign at a business establishment in Georgia:

"WE WOULD RATHER DO BUSINESS WITH 1000 AL QUAEDA TERRORISTS THAN WITH A SINGLE AMERICAN"

This sign was prominently displayed in the window of a business in Georgia. You are probably outraged at the thought of such an inflammatory statement. One would think that anti-hate groups from all across the Country would be

marching on this business... And that the National Guard might have to be called to keep the angry crowds back. But, perhaps in these stressful times one might be tempted to let the proprietors simply make their statement . . .

We are a society who holds Freedom of Speech as perhaps our greatest liberty . . .

And after all, it is just a sign.

You may ask what kind of business would dare post such a sign?

Answer:

*

A FUNERAL HOME

A FAMOUS SKATER'S NAME

The female skier Picabo Street (pronounced Peek-A-Boo) The famous Olympic skier Picabo Street is not just an athlete, she is a nurse. She currently works at the Intensive Care Unit of a large metropolitan hospital. She is not permitted to answer the telephone, however, as it caused simply too much confusion when she would answer the phone and say,

Picabo, ICU.

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Word from the Editor

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There is a need for 2 portable operators for 2 boats and at least two control station operators per day. Every volunteer is not expected to participate all six days but if you are available for more than one day it would be a great help. Actual time should not exceed 5 to 6 hours a day and lunch will be provided.

Handie Talkie operators will need a spare battery or an external power cord. 12 volt cigarette lighter power will be available on the boats for this or for mobile rigs. Accommodations will be made for magnetic mount antennas on the boats.

If you can participate in any capacity on these dates please contact Harley, N4AQQ at (256) 390-6677 or any of the Club officers.

Notes of Appreciation

First thanks to Steve Smith, WD4NBP, for volunteering to give Nathan Hodge, KD4PML, some relief from Treasurer duties by taking over the office for 2003.

Second thanks again to Steve for the interesting and informative article on

Ebay in the last issue of the newsletter. Comments on the article have been very appreciative. This newsletter is YOUR newsletter and informative articles from the membership are appreciated and welcomed.

From ARRL Newsletter

FCC WARNS AMATEURS: UNLICENSED OPERATION COULD COST YOUR HAM TICKET

The FCC has let a trio of Idaho amateurs know that unlicensed operation outside Amateur Radio frequencies could lead to revocation of their ham tickets. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth recently wrote three Boise amateurs, citing allegations that they had transmitted without a license on several 11-meter frequencies.

"Information before the Commission indicates that you have transmitted without a license on 26.350, 27.420 and 27.700 MHz using SSB and SSTV," Hollingsworth said. He pointed out that, in addition to revocation proceedings, fines for unlicensed operation normally range from \$7500 to \$10,000. Letters went out March 17 to Dave Every, KD7QAS; John F. Hail, KD7QAW; and Tom M. Sjoberg, KD7RCS. Every holds a General ticket, while Hail and Sjoberg are Technician licensees. Hollingsworth says he understands that the unlicensed operations have ceased. The three frequencies involved are below and above the Citizens Band.

An Ohio ham, Dave K. Childers, N8QGI, also heard from Hollingsworth March 18

in a case involving alleged obscene or indecent transmissions last December on 27.115 MHz--CB channel 13. Hollingsworth did not raise the issue of unlicensed operation in that case, but he did spell out the FCC's position on the transmission of obscene or indecent words or language. He also requested Childers, a Technician licensee, to respond to the complaint within 20 days and indicated that a tape recording would be made available to him upon request.

In another enforcement case, Hollingsworth has notified Drew B. Feldman of Los Angeles that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau had set aside his Amateur Radio license KG6PFC. "That action is based upon complaints about the operation of your station," Hollingsworth wrote March 18. In May 2000, the FCC canceled Feldman's Tech Plus ticket, N3KSO, after he failed to appear as requested for re-examination. Feldman subsequently retested for the Technician license and was issued KG6PFC on February 20. Following the complaints, the FCC canceled the grant a month later.

(From The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 15)

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Laughter section

(Offered by a Burmin'ham Native)

Visitor's Guide to Birmingham

1. You must learn to pronounce the city name. It is "Burmin'ham"
2. Forget the traffic rules you learned elsewhere. Birmingham has its own version of traffic rules... the truck with the loudest exhaust goes next at a 4-way stop. The truck with the biggest tires goes after that. (Note: Blue haired ladies driving anything have right of way anytime.)
3. To find anything in Birmingham it is required that you know where "malfunction junction" is... which is the Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end.
4. The morning rush hour is from 6:00 to 10:00. The evening rush hour is from 3:00 to 7:00. Friday's rush hour starts Thursday morning.
5. If you actually stop at a yellow light, you will be rear ended, cussed out and possibly shot.
6. You must know that "I59", "I20", and "I-65" are the same road.
7. Construction is a permanent fixture in Birmingham. The barrels are moved around in the middle of the night to make the next day's driving a bit more exciting.
8. Watch very carefully for road hazards such as deer, skunks, dogs, barrels, cones, cows, horses, pot holes, cats, pieces of other cars, opossum, truck tires, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, and crows or vultures feeding on any of these items.
9. If someone actually has their turn signal on, wave them to the shoulder immediately to let them know it has been "accidentally activated".

10. The minimum acceptable speed on "I-65 (see above) is 85 mph. Anything less is considered downright sissy. This is Alabama's version of NASCAR.

11. Never honk at anyone. Ever. Seriously.

12. If you are in the left lane, and only going 70 in a 55-65 zone ... you are considered a road hazard, and will be told to move slow lane immediately.

13. Ground clearance of at least 12 inches is recommended for city driving.

14. If it's 110 degrees, Thanksgiving must be next weekend.

15. If it's 10-20 degrees and sleeting/snowing, then watch out, Birmingham residence consider this "demolition derby" day and will be all over the roads (front ways, back ways, etc). Please proceed with caution as you could be their next target.

Are You a Repeater Cop? (from the ARRL Web Site)

There's one on every repeater. We've all heard the know-it-alls, the former class monitors, the self-appointed repeater cops. You know the type: The person who's made ham radio his life instead of his hobby, and--in the process--has made everyone else on the repeater miserable. Here's a simple quiz to determine if you're a repeater cop. If you are, don't panic--there's a cure. But first, take the quiz. For each question, circle A or B:

1. Someone on the repeater has a noisy signal. Do you:

A. Tell the person to get a better antenna and a more powerful rig before using this repeater again?

B. Say, "Try again, my friend; you're a bit noisy?"

2. You hear a low-level alternator whine on someone's signal. Do you:

A. Tell the person to stay off the repeater until that damn alternator whine is gone?

B. Suggest how the ham can cure the frustrating alternator-whine problem?

3. Someone new on the repeater doesn't wait for the beep before talking. Do you:

A. Tell the person in an extremely nasty way to "Wait for the darn beep?"

B. Explain the purpose of the beep--in a friendly way?

4. Someone from Fiji is visiting his sick mother in your area and gets on your local repeater. You then:

A. Tell the person to join the repeater club and pay club dues before using the machine and wasting the repeater club's electricity.

B. Welcome the visiting ham and invite him or her to enjoy the repeater while visiting the area.

5. A 10-year-old new ham gets on with an H-T. You:

A. Refuse to talk to children on the repeater.

B. Welcome the youngster and congratulate him or her on his or her great achievement, explain how wonderful ham radio is and what a friendly bunch of folks we all are on this repeater--except for that one repeater cop, of course.

Okay, now it's time to determine if you're a repeater cop. Get ready to rate yourself. For each A you've circled, give yourself two points. For each

B, subtract two points. Add up your score and rate yourself below:

(10) You are a nasty SOB and should turn in your ham ticket for a job with the DMV or the Taliban Vice and Virtue Police.

(6) You are not as friendly as most correctional officers in Attica or Sing Sing.

(2) You're bordering on sociable, but still need a few drinks to be tolerable--not during mobile hours, however.

(-2) You're passive-aggressive or aggressive-passive, i.e., you're hard to figure out. Dogs like you, but cats don't.

(-6) You're nice enough to take to a mildly violent hockey game.

(-10) You're the kind of ham who makes ham radio a really fun hobby.

(0) Er...you're cheating or believe you might, indeed, be a repeater cop; therefore, you were too afraid to take this quiz.

Finally, what if you are a repeater cop? There's a simple cure: **LIGHTEN UP ALREADY! GEEEZ, IT'S ONLY A HOBBY.**

If you have input for the newsletter or recommendations for content, please address them to:

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Support the ARRL



The Communicator



Publisher GARC

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 5

Date May 12, 2003

Volunteer Participation

The Renew Our Rivers effort by the citizens of Etowah County was a resounding success. The campaign was six days long with actual trash collection on four days. A flotilla of several boats from local volunteers, Alabama Power Company, the Gadsden Water Board and J&D Enterprises participated. An Operating Center was provided by the Emergency Management Agency through the efforts of Dave Waits, K4VMV.

Several local Amateur Operators volunteered to provide communications. As there were several different radio services available as well as cellular phones, the Amateur Radio participation was primarily as a back-up. There were several areas on the river where the other radio services as well as cellular phones was marginal to non existent. Two Meter radio through the local 147.16 repeater was functional in those areas.

The organizers of Renew Our Rivers were very appreciative of our presence and our efforts. The local Amateur Radio community is invited to participate next year.

This years collection gathered 24.5 TONS of trash from Nealy Henry Lake. Everything from tractor tires to furniture to boats to just plain garbage was in the pile at the amphitheater.

See the last page of the newsletter for pictures from Renew Our Rivers.

From ARRL Newsletter

Most big Hamvention inside exhibitors have indicated they'd prefer the world's largest annual ham radio gathering to be held in Columbus, Ohio, if Dayton's Hara Arena were no longer available. This is the last year of Hamvention's five-year contract with Hara Arena. Event organizers have begun preliminary talks with Hara's owners for a new pact, but say they want to keep all options open. Hamvention takes place May 16-18, and the show's Production Manager Garry Matthews, KB8GOL, says Hamvention 2003's fortunes have begun moving in a more positive direction in recent days.

"I think it's going to be a good year," predicted Matthews, who said he's seen a dramatic increase in interest over the past week. "I think the show may be slightly smaller this year in terms of inside exhibitors and outside vendors," Matthews conceded, "but if activity continues as it has since Monday of this week, we possibly could sell out the show. We're getting orders every day."

Earlier this spring, Matthews reported that things had been slower to come together in terms of advance sales to visitors and vendors. He said organizers have been beefing up direct-mail and other Hamvention promotional activities over the past couple of weeks, however, and results have been encouraging.

One popular Hamvention staple--the FCC forum--will be missing this year. Because of some miscommunication and scheduling problems, neither Bill Cross of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications

Bureau nor Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau will attend Dayton Hamvention this year. Last-minute efforts to find suitable substitutes for Cross and Hollingsworth did not pan out, and the forum's two-hour Saturday morning time slot remains unfilled.

Matthews and FCC sources have indicated that tentative plans are in place to schedule an FCC symposium at Hamvention 2004 featuring Cross, Hollingsworth and FCC High-Frequency Direction Finding Facility Manager Dave Larrabee.

Matthews said that while it was unlikely Hamvention would be moving to Columbus--some 60 miles from Dayton--any time soon, it remained "a very strong contingency" if Hamvention ever did have to move elsewhere. "Our option with Hamvention would be to stay at Hara for as long as we possibly could, as long as we could make it work and the show could be a good show," he said. Hamvention is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, but Hamvention has quietly dropped "Dayton" from the show's official name.

Hamvention's preference survey went to 225 of the largest inside exhibitors, and Matthews said 80 percent of those indicating a preference picked Columbus as their top choice as an alternative site, while 12 percent said "no" to Columbus. Matthews said the Columbus Fairgrounds appears to be a suitable site were Hamvention to ever consider relocating. The other two preferences were Indianapolis and Cincinnati respectively.

Matthews said Hamvention officials this year plan to survey a selection of "average hams" during the show itself. Attendance at last year's 50th anniversary event was 24,832--down about 5 percent from 2001's crowd of 26,151.
(From The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 18)

Hamfest Calendar

May 16-18 – Dayton OH
Jun 7 – Atlanta, GA
Jun 14 – Ft Payne
Jul 12 – Lanierland ARC
Aug 16-17 – Huntsville, AL
Oct 15 – Rome, GA

Laughter section

A Hokes Bluff fisherman named Bill was stopped by a game warden as he was returning to his truck with a bucket full of still-alive fish.

"Do you have a license to catch those fish?", the game warden asked.

"No, sir. These are my pet fish", the man replied.

"Pet fish"? the warden asked.

"Yes, sir. Every night I take these fish down to the lake and let them swim around for awhile. When they hear my whistle, they jump right back into the bucket and I take them back to the motor home."

"That's a bunch of baloney," the game warden said as he reached for his pad of citations.

The man looked at the game warden for a moment and then said, "If you don't believe me, then follow me back to the lake to see how it works".

Still suspicious, but curious, the game warden agreed. And so they walked to the lake. There, the man poured the fish into the lake, where they disappeared into the water.

"Okay, said the warden. "Call them back."

"Call who back?"

"The fish," replied the warden.

"What fish"? asked the man.

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden, he said out loud, "Lord, grant me one wish."

The sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want."

The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of another wish, a wish you think would honor and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing', and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four lanes on that bridge"

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Dave Waits, K4VMV handling traffic in the EOC located in the EMA Van.



Volunteer workers removing trash from the river.



Volunteers on a pontoon boat collecting trash and pollutants from the river. YES! That is a trashed boat on the deck of the pontoon. Five such boats and one steel barge was removed from the river during this effort.



Some of the tires removed during the week



The bagged smaller trash from the river.















The Communicator



Publisher GARC

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 6

Date June 9, 2003

Field Day is Coming

As you probably already know, Field day is almost upon us. The last weekend in this month, June 28th and 29th is the time. The place will be the Rainbow City park where it was held before. The park is located at the intersection of Lake St. and Dale Ave, just off Hwy 77/Grand Ave. John Bishop, KF4MKJ is the Chairman for this activity. If you have resources, equipment and/or time to offer, contact him at 492-7260. Let's go out and have fun and fellowship.

From ARRL Newsletter

The New 60 meter Band

The new five-channel 60-meter amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12:00 AM) local time on July 3. The local time designation means that amateurs in the US territory of Guam likely will be the first to get a crack at the new band.

The new band will be a secondary allocation--federal government users are primary--and the first on which the only permitted mode will be upper-sideband (USB) phone (emission type 2K8J3E). The FCC last month announced it would grant hams access to five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels instead of the 150 kHz-wide band ARRL had requested and the FCC initially proposed. The League remains optimistic, however, that Amateur Radio eventually may be able to enjoy a band segment with multiple mode privileges at 60 meters. ARRL CEO David

Sumner, K1ZZ, has said that in the meantime hams will have to be on their best behavior when taking advantage of the limited channelized allocation, open to General and higher class licensees.

The FCC has granted amateurs center-channel frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz--the last channel common to the amateur experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom

To be "on channel," users of 60 meters should set their transmitted carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel-center frequency. In terms of day-to-day operation, the new band is expected to resemble the sort of channel sharing typical on local repeaters.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, says hams need to be very careful if they're considering modifying their current transceiver or transmitter for 5 MHz. The ARRL advises that members check with the appropriate equipment manufacturers regarding specific modification information. Some modifications not only may void the warranty but could affect or alter a transmitter's operation in unpredictable ways.

"Hams need to be sure that any modifications put them right on the desired channel," Hare said. "Most hams are used to just having to think about band edges, so on other bands, if a mod were a bit 'off,' all operators would need to ensure is that they are not transmitting outside the band."

Hare recommended that on 5 MHz amateurs remain within "a few tens of Hertz" of suppressed-carrier accuracy. He also pointed out that hams have a mandate not to have any of their signal occupy spectrum outside the assigned 2.8 kHz channels.

Noting that high-frequency audio response can vary considerably from radio to radio, Hare has suggested restricting occupied channel audio bandwidth to 2600 Hz, rolling off below 200 Hz on the low end and above 2800 Hz on the high end.

Kids Day on Amateur Radio

The second Kid's Day of 2003 will be June 21, from 1800-2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, offers a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, on-the-air event. Now in its ninth year, each running of Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants.

Kid's Day is intended as an opportunity to share Amateur Radio with young people--licensed or not--in the hope that they'll enjoy the experience and possibly pursue their own license in the future.

Activity for Kid's Day takes place on 20, 15 and 10 meters and can include local 2-meter repeaters. It's an opportunity to introduce your own youngsters, neighborhood kids and nieces and nephews to participate to the magic of ham radio and perhaps spark a lifelong love for the hobby.

Kid's Day is not a contest, and patience is a must. The role of the licensee and control operator is to help with the basics, keep an eye on the technical aspects of the operation, observe third-party traffic agreements and be sure to ID at the

proper intervals. In this event, it's quality of the contacts that counts, not quantity.

The suggested exchange for Kid's Day is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station again if the operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Suggested frequencies are 14,270 to 14,300, 21,380 to 21,400 and 28,350 to 28,400 kHz, and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page or send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Originated by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, the event now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with the cooperation

(From The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 23)

(Editors note: We sometimes fail to see the potential in introducing children to Ham Radio. They are or should be the Hams of the future. Competition for the attention of children is strong from computers and video games, etc. Take this opportunity to spend a few minutes on June 21st to set the spark of interest in a young mind – Call ‘CQ Kid’s Day’.)

Hamfest Calendar

Jun 14 - Ft Payne (see attached)
Jul 12/13 - Gainesville, GA
Jul 12 - Lanierland ARC
Aug 16-17 - Huntsville, AL
Oct 18 - Rome, GA

Laughter section

Upon entering a small country store, a stranger noticed a sign saying DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG! posted on the glass door. Inside a harmless old hound dog was asleep on the floor besides the cash register.

He asked the store manager, "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him," he replied.

The amused stranger inquired, "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

The owner responded, "Because, before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

WHY GOD CREATED CHILDREN

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students...here is something to make you chuckle.

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve...we have forbidden fruit!!!!!"

"No Way!"

"Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants. A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.

2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.

3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.

4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

6. We child proofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY: Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home

Classified Ads

For Sale: Yaesu FT-410 Dual band Handy Talkie, speaker mike and 3 dud batteries, wall-wart charger and manuals. Radio works it just need a good battery. Can demo if needed. \$100 for the package. N4AQG, (205) 594-0130

For Free: Back issues of CQ, Popular Communications and Monitoring Times. No cash, just carry. N4AQG (205) 594-0130

If you have items to list in the classified, contact N4AQG at (205) 594-0130 or (256) 390-6677 at least a week before the monthly meeting.

If you have input for the newsletter or recommendations for content, please address them to:

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The Communicator



Publisher GARC

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 7

Date July 14, 2003

Field Day

Field Day came on the last weekend in June and Gadsden Amateur Radio Club participated. Attending and participating were: K4VMV, N4RAV, KF4MKJ, KG4IOI, WA4LJQ, WB4MCB, WB4NBP, N4AYP, N4AQG and Edwin Thompson.

John, KF4MKJ, operated the QRP station on a variety of antennas but found the 'pickings' slim but he seemed to be enjoying himself and he gets a large compliment for his effort.

The other station was operated by several rotating hams and made quite a few contacts. Dave, K4VMV grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for the attending crew and from the comments of all who ate, the food was delicious.

GARC's Field Day participation was shut down around 9:30PM on Saturday night due to lack of operators attending. The effort will not place GARC in the "Top Ten" in scoring but those that participated enjoyed the effort.

Now is the time to begin planning for Field Day 2004. There are several items that need to be located and prepared, as well as preparing ourselves to be available to operate. We need to remember that this is 'Disaster Practice'. In this day and time 'disaster' is just a heat beat away, and we need to be prepared.

FIELD DAY 2004-WE WILL DO MORE

From ARRL Newsletter

40 METER CHANGES

In an 11th-hour compromise, delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service.

The expanded worldwide allocation at 40 meters goes into effect on March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, but with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. The compromise cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but further changes to 7000-7200 kHz will not be considered.

The conference also dropped the international Morse code requirement, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency

requirement, and adopted a number of improvements to the other international regulations for the amateur service. The delegates also agreed to allowed a secondary allocation for satellite borne synthetic aperture radars at 70 cm and made amateur call sign assignment more flexible.

BROADBAND OVER POWER LINES

Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. In response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published May 23, the League this week filed a 120-page response--including studies. The NOI, which asked how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals, attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception.

The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even

higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 34 dB to 65 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix," the League said.

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site

(Extracted from the July 11th edition of the ARRL Web Site Newsletter)

GARC's Calendar

AUGUST

Meeting Night Aug 11th

SEPTEMBER

Meeting Night Sept 8th
Appointment of Nominating Committee

OCTOBER

Meeting Night Oct 13th
Nominating Committee Report
Nominations from the floor

NOVEMBER

Meeting Night Nov 10th
Election of officers

DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Dinner

Hamfest Calendar

Aug 16-17 – Huntsville, AL

Aug 23rd - Ellijay, GA

Oct 18 - Rome, GA

Laughter section

It was the first day of school and the teacher thought she'd get to know the kids by asking them their names and what their fathers did for a living.

The first little girl said, "My name is Mary and my daddy is a postman."

The next little boy said, "I'm Andy and my dad is a mechanic."

It was then little Johnny's turn and he said, "My name is Johnny and my father

is a striptease dancer in a cabaret for gay men."

The teacher gasped and quickly moved on, but later, in the school yard, the teacher approaches Johnny privately and asks if it was really true that his Dad dances in a gay bar.

Little Johnny blushed and said, "No, he's really a guitar player for the Dixie Chicks, but I was too embarrassed to say so."

Eddie went to a psychiatrist. "Doc," he said, "I've got trouble. Every time I get into bed, I think there's somebody under it. I get under the bed, I think there's somebody on top of it. Top, under, top, under... you gotta help me, I'm going crazy!"

"Just put yourself in my hands for two years," said the doctor. "Come to me three times a week, and I'll cure your fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"A hundred dollars per visit."

"I'll sleep on it," said Eddie.

Six months later the doctor met Eddie on the street. "Why didn't you ever come to see me again?"

"For a hundred bucks a visit? A bartender cured me for ten dollars."

"Is that so! How?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed!"

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. It was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time,

so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex." "Good morning, Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible, trembling with fear, when he asked, "Which service, the 8:15 or the 10:30?"

If you have input for the newsletter or recommendations for content, please address them to:

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Pitch in!

2 Meter Antenna From TV Twin Lead

See the attached drawing:

What you need:

About 5 feet of 300 ohm flat TV lead wire.
Soldering Iron.
Side cutters.
Hole punch.
Sharp Knife.

How to do it:

Lay the TV lead out flat and measure and cut it to 54 inches. Strip the insulation from about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the bottom. Solder these two together. In other words shorting the bottom end.

Measure up 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the bottom end and mark the wire insulation. Strip the insulation DOWN from that mark about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or so. What ever you need to solder the coax feed line to it.

Measure up 16 and $\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the bottom and mark it then measure 16 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the bottom and mark it. With you side cutters, cut the flat lead at these marks and remove a notch from it as shown on the drawing.

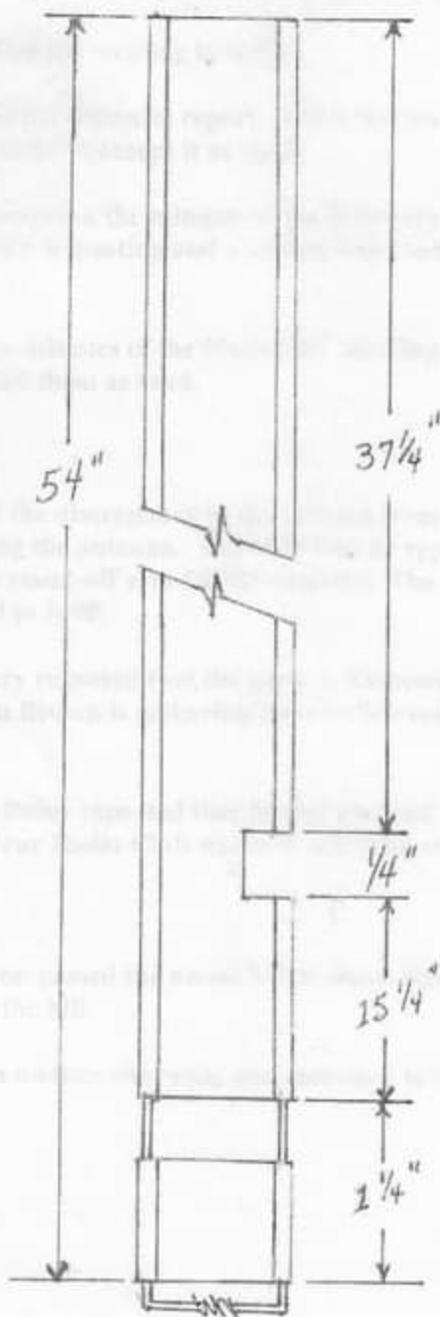
Solder the coax center conductor to the side that is NOT notched and the shield to the notched side as shown in the drawing. Punch a hole in the flat center at the top for hanging the antenna. You may need a hole at the bottom to tack or weight it down to keep it straight.

If this antenna is going to see service outside or folded and unfolded a lot, you may want to tape the coax connection with electrical tape and maybe even some coax seal.

If you get any RF coupling to your feed line, roll it into a coil of 3 or 4 turns about 2 inches in diameter and tape it hold the coil together.

IF the SWR checks too high, you may have to move the feed point up or down as needed.

2 Meter Antenna From TV Twin Lead



QUA/K4JMC

December 21, 2013

Page 1 of 5

Gadsden Amateur Radio Club, LLC
Officers for 2013

President: Adam Alterman, W4AMA
VP: Delton Hartzog, WA4JLQ
Sec: Dave Waits, K4VMV
Treas: Erin Jane Self, KK4BGC
Net Mgr. A.J. Castelli, KJ4JOA

Club Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Gadsden/Etowah County EMA located at 90 Broad St.; Gadsden, Alabama. Club mail should be sent to PO Box 392; Gadsden, AL 35902.

GARC welcomes new members. Dues are \$20.00 per year, \$30.00 for family and \$5.00 for Students. You do not have to be a ham to join, you only need to have an interest in becoming one. January 1st is the start date for dues to be collected.

QUA/K4JMC

By Dave/K4VMV

It has been a few weeks since our last news letter and I apologize. I have just been busy. So please excuse me. Now we go to the club news. At our November meeting officers for the coming year were elected. Elected president again is Adam Alterman, W4AMA. Vice president is yours truly, Dave Waits, K4VMV. Secretary and net manager (2 separate offices) is A.J. Castelli, KJ4JOA. Treasurer is Travis Cox, W4TPU. All of us look forward to the new year and hope it will be one of the best

ever for GARC. Also at the November meeting Carolyn Cox, N4QWH announced our December meeting would be held at Top of the River on Rainbow Dr. If arrangements can be made meeting will be at 5:30-8:00 Dutch Treat with the club picking up the gratuity.. As this newsletter is late, I can report this December meeting was held and all in attendance enjoyed it very much. Carlton Floyd, W4CTK, from DeKalb County joined us and we hope he also enjoyed it. If you were not there, you were missed.

Next club meeting will be January 13, 2014 at 7:00pm at the EMA offices. Your presence is needed, so we will see you there. Dues for 2014 will be due by then, so bring them if you can. Thanks.

PS:

If you have an idea for a program, Dave would be glad to hear from you. You would not be required to present the program. It would help Dave as he looks for presenters.

Some of the Upcoming Hamfests

Freezefest 2014

Locust Fork High School

January 4, 2014; 8:00am - 2:00pm

Further info: Bill Pond, 205/647-5705

HAM RADIO CLASSIFIED

If you have ham related gear you wish to buy, sell or trade, let me know at k4vmv1@charter.net and we will list it here:

Yaesu Ft-270R hand held with extra battery and charger in original box with manual. Item is used but like new. \$100.00. Also 1- Astron 20 amp power supply in good condition.\$75.00 Contact Bobby Smith at 256/390-9711.

AREA 2 METER NETS

Blount County
146.700- 91.5 tone, Sunday at 8:30pm

Calhoun County
146.780- No tone, Monday at 7:00pm

Cheaha Club Net
147.090+ 131.8 tone, Monday at 8:00pm

Cherokee County
147.075+ 100.0 tone, Thursday at 7:00pm

DeKalb County
147.270+ 100.0 tone, Monday at 7:30pm

Etowah County AENY
147.16+ 100.0 tone, Tuesday at 8:30pm

St. Clair County
145.130- 103.5 tone, Tuesday at 8:00pm

Talladega County
146.74- 131.8 tone, Thursday at 8:00pm

Southeastern D-Star Net
145.490, Tuesday at 8:30pm

AL Simplex net
146.580, Sunday at 8:00pm
Clyde, KJ 4FJN, is having a great time checking in on this simplex net. It is amazing the locations that are checking in. Talk to Clyde and get further info to join the fun.

Please remember: GARC January meeting at 7:00pm on the 13th of January at Gadsden/Etowah County EMA at Gadsden City Hall, at 90 Broad Street. Gadsden, AL. Enter the building from the southern parking lot, the lower level and we will see you there.

D-STAR

By

J. Harley Davidson, K4JHD

K4JHD

10/30/2013

Folks,

We have had an occurrence on the Dstar repeater that has brought to fore the need for this email. The repeater has a multitude of abilities and capabilities. These are available by simple programming of radio and transmitting. There are programming methods that can restrict or prohibit these capabilities. As the owner of the repeater, I feel that restriction is NOT needed. We are all licensed

Amateur Radio Operators and responsible operators, therefore courtesy and cooperation should govern our actions. In the future if you wish to link, change or program anything on the Dstar repeater, please notify either Vernon Lee, KI4FLY, the Trustee or myself prior to attempting such. There may be other actions in motion on the repeater that you are unaware of that your linking, etc would interfere with. Your cooperation in these issues would be greatly appreciated.

Remember, this repeater is provided for the use of all Hams.

Regards and 73,

J. Harley Davidson, K4JHD
(256) 390-6677



Ray Forrester, W4YTC, has been appointed as the Etowah County Emergency Coordinator and will be sending a few articles as he prepares our local hams to be proactive in assisting with emergencies in our county. Thanks to Ray for volunteering for this important job.

Ray had a heart attack during Thanksgiving in Gainesville, FL. He is at home and is doing well. He did make it to the December Club meeting. Following is the item he had prepared for what should have been the November issue of this newsletter.

Etowah County ARES News

November 2013

Etowah County conducted our Simulated Emergency Test on November 2, 2013 with great success. I am proud to report that about 1/3 of our participants were new amateurs licensed since 2009 KK4QVQ, Phillis - KJ4JOA, AJ and KK4BGC, EJ. AJ and EJ also did an excellent job being a NET Control during the event. One of our oldest hams, Richard, K4UFS, a young 85, was our communicator at Rainbow City PD/Fire. So we had a wide range of experience participating and showing of our capabilities to all the communities we engaged. With only 14 hams checking in, we were able to cover 7 communities and 12 agencies for which communications were handled. Plus, we were able to use 3 emergency-powered repeaters, 2 VHF and 1 UHF. The UHF was not really planned, but helped in our goals for the SET, but Chris, K4NQC only got one of his UHF radios to work! So, we ended using UHF to pass 2 pieces of traffic from Attalla

PD/Fire. In addition, Chris used petal power to get his location, as his motorized vehicle was out of order. Now that is dedication, thanks Chris.

I am also happy to report that Dave, K4VMV build a new homebrew HF dipole for the EMA, (we installed the last week in October. Now we have 20m, 40m and 80m to operated from the EOC. The old one had been on the roof for a long time maybe 20 years and was only good on 80m. Thanks Dave .. Next, we will have to replace the coax at the EMA, as we have TVI that is getting into the Counties Emergency Siren Alert System. We used the radio during the SET to pass traffic on 40m and establish a NTS liaison on 80m, but proudly, we did not set off any sirens in the County that we know of - WHEW!

You might not be aware but the SET is scored and we did very well! What counts is the number of participating (2 points each), new amateurs licensed since 2009 that participated(4 points each), number of formal 3rd party written traffic sent on behalf of served agencies(1 point each), length of SET(over 1 hr -20 points), number of stations on emergency power during the SET (that includes battery power)(2 points each), number of repeaters that have emergency power used(3 points each), liaison maintained during SET(10 points), digital modes utilized(10 points), number of agencies which communications were handled(5 points each), number of communities which agencies were contacted(10 points each) and if a press release was submitted(10 points). Our total score was 291 which is a great score with only 14 hams participating and a whopping 12 agencies served.

Hopeful this was a great learning experience for you as it was for me. I am hopeful this made us better prepared for when the real thing happens, God forbid.

Again, I am very proud of how things went, there are a few small things that can be improved. We will work on them. The one thing I am worried about and we did not try this SET, was simplex operation from our locations. What if we had NO repeaters, how would things work then? Are you prepared in your "jump kit" for that possibility? Could you communicate antenna to antenna?

We need to recruit more members into ARES, in Etowah County there are many agencies and communities that could need our help in an emergency. So, talk up ARES to your fellow hams. I am available to speak to anyone about Etowah ARES, including some organization you may be involved with. I have a short powerpoint presentation I can show and info flyers that can be handed out.

A special thanks goes out to our Etowah/Gadsden EMA Director Mike Bryant, KI4FLQ and Dave Waits, K4VMV for their assistance. Thanks to all that participated as check-ins and an extra thanks to our dispatched communicators. Dispatched were:

Chris, K4NCQ,	Phillis, KK4QVQ,	Richard, K4UFS,	Dave, K4VMV,
James, KJ4TND,	AJ, KJ4JOA,	EJ, KK4BGC,	Mike, KI4FLQ

**Free Amateur Radio Classes
Sponsored by
Grace Presbyterian Church &
DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club**

****TECHNICIAN CLASS Marathon****

January 10 6-9 p.m.

January 11 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church

5760 Gault Avenue North, Ft. Payne



Get Your Amateur Radio Technician License!!

Become a vital link in the emergency communications community!!!

For details or to register call 256-364-0187

Email: christy@christyhardin.com

Pre-registration recommended

Walk-ins will be accepted only if seating is available

**** Amateur Radio License Exams \$10 ****

Saturday January 11, 2014 3:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church

5760 Gault Avenue North, Fort Payne