



# Key Klix

The Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

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Volume 2 Issue 4

## Club Announcement

**The Tuesday, April 11, 2006 meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah will be held @ 7:30pm at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Conference Room "D"**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Dead Electrical Dudes #17
- 3 Funny Callsigns
- 3 Swap & Sell
- 3 Member's Corner
- 5 Ham It Up!
- 6 Mac's Corner!
- 7 ARCS Information

## The Tower: A Letter to an Insurance Company

By Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

*"This is not my creation, but it's a humorous article that has been passed around over the years."*

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my insurance claim. In block #3 on the accident reporting form I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following details will be sufficient: I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools.

You will note in block #11 of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 lbs. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20-lbs. I refer you again to my weight in block #11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. This encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools; and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80-feet above me -- I again lost presence of mind. I let go of the rope.



“Big Compass Needle, Ain't it?”

## Dead Electrical Dudes No. 17

By Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE

This Month's Stiff:

### Hans Christian Oersted

Entered Mortal Coil:

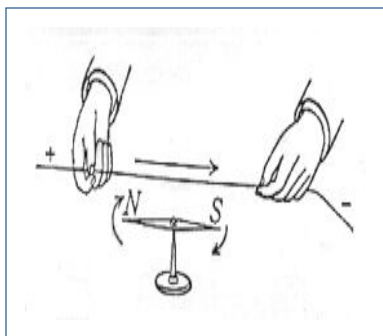
**14 August 1777**

Assumed Room Temperature:

**9 March 1851**

The fundamental relationship between magnetism and electricity is sometimes taken for granted. The steps to electrical understanding were incremental. Our current state of electronic technology is built upon the shoulders of many men---yes, men. If someone can find me a dudette who was instrumental in the history of electricity or electronics, I would gladly write a short treatise on the lass. Note, however, that the young lady (or ladies) who kept Ben Franklin or Marconi company, for instance, would not count in this context. Merely assisting the great mind in his work is not proof enough. So now that we've ruffled a few liberated feathers by being blatantly sexist in this opening paragraph, lets get on to the business of telling you kind readers a little about Hans.

Hans was born on the Island of Langeland. His father, Soren Christian, was a pharmacist. The old man was fairly well to do, apparently, and had the funds necessary to send young Hans and his brother Anders to Copenhagen in 1793 in order to take an entrance examination for the university. Both passed. In deference and in honor of his father, Hans took up the study of pharmacology. By 1800, with pharmacology degree in hand and a thorough understanding of drugs in his mind, Hans turned his energies to the new science of electricity. If there was ever a more dramatic change in interests, this particular instance fits the bill! He dabbled with it off and on for the better part of 20 years, and in the process made quite a name for himself in learned circles for other endeavors. So industrious was Hans that he was appointed Secretary to the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters in 1815.



Oersted's Experiment

The experiment that put Oersted's name in the history books was fiendishly simple by today's standards, and can be reproduced with ease. Scientists of the era had an inkling that electricity and magnetism were inexorably linked together, but no one had devised a means to prove the hypothesis. Actually, Hans' discovery was serendipitous, as he was playing around with electrical currents in the laboratory by using a Voltaic Pile when he noticed that a nearby compass needle deflected. He repeated the exercise, and noted a compass needle deflection each time. By reversing the current direction, the compass needle would deflect in the opposite direction. Hans also noted that no deflection took place when the wire was held at approximately right angles to the needle.

It was left to the work of Ampere and other scientists to quantify the relationship between electrical current and magnetism mathematically. In his honor, the CGS unit of magnetic field strength, the Oersted, denoted by the symbol Oe, was named after him.

## Callsigns You Might Hear On April 1st

By Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

- YU/FØ0L or UFØ0L
- ST1NK
- PHØNY
- RG8AU
- UR2/WE1RD
- AL1EN
- UBØZO
- SL1ME
- L1D
- BRØOM

Note: I actually heard a couple of these (PHØNY) calls on April Fool's Day a number of years back.



## Swap & Sell

Astron RS-35M and Kenwood TM-731A 2m/70cm dual band  
 Contact Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE  
 ka4koe@comcast.net

## Member's Corner

Submitted by Edgar Bigbie, W4MMQ

NEW GROUND SYSTEM INSTALLED ON C. A. R. S. NEW 100 W (R. F. TECHNOLOGY) 146.700 REPEATER, AT GEORGIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING BUILDING AT WSAV TV TOWER.

### OUTSIDE:

- Two (2) 8Ft ground rods 8ft apart with #4 wire connecting.
- 1/2" PVC through wall to inside.

### INSIDE:

- New Andrew Coax Grounding Kit on 1" Coax Cable
- New PolyPhaser Type N Coaxial Protector On 1" Coax all grounded to R. F. Technology Repeater
- TXRX Duplexers to #4 Ground wire to Outside Ground
- Tripp-Lite Isobar Surge Suppressor
- New APC 1500VA U P S Unit.



## Hamming It Up In Your Home Away From Home

By Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

When Beth Ann and I purchased a camper 2 years ago, we found a new way to enjoy traveling, seeing the sights, and relaxing. We tried to pack just about every conceivable item that was needed to make our camping experience close to the comforts of home. We had a color TV, AM-FM-CD radio, a gas range, a refrigerator/freezer, plenty of groceries, A/C, 2 queen size beds, bathroom facilities...but something was missing. There was no Amateur Radio in the camper. That was about to change!!!

In October of 2005, Beth Ann and I went camping at Skidaway Island during the weekend of my birthday. I brought along my trusty ole Kenwood TS-680S, which covers the HF bands and 6 Meters. I also had a Spiro Electronics trap dipole for 80-40-20-15 and 10 meter bands. As luck would have it, the Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) was scheduled for this same weekend. After setting up camp, I then proceeded to get the WD4AFY/4 station on the air. I threw a weight tied to a string over high limb in a nearby tree and pulled up the center of my trap dipole (inverted-V) to a height of about 35 feet. I tied off the ends, and then connected the coax attached to the antenna to my radio. I turned on the Kenwood and tested the antenna on each band. I had low SWR on all phone bands but 10 meters. It was time to try the station on the air.

I tuned across the 40-meter band and soon heard some familiar voices. Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE, and other area hams were set up at Coast Guard Station near Tybee working the Scout JOTA. I enjoyed working the locals, the scouts, and even some DX. Jack, WB4TWX, (a friend of mine) in Six Mile, SC heard me yapping on the air, and gave my station a good signal report.

The ham station is now part of my camper inventory. If the campsite has no trees to support the dipole, I have a Hustler 5BTV vertical antenna that I can ground mount. I will be adding VHF/UHF capabilities soon.



Our Camper (1)



Our Camper (2)



Kenwood TS-680S Transceiver and Astron 30A Switching Power Supply



Spiro Multi-band Dipole

*Continued on Page 6*

*Continued from page 5*



Hustler 5BTV 5-band antenna

## Forestry and Brush Fire Monitoring

By Mac McCormick, KF4LMT

Before going into this month's topic, I would like to make a correction to last month's article. One of the system frequencies for the Effingham site of the Chatham-Effingham TRS was listed as 8602.375; it should have been listed as 860.2375. I apologize for any confusion that typographical error may have caused.

In the last few weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of brush fires that I've heard local fire departments and state forestry units fighting. With that in mind, I thought it would be useful to provide some forestry monitoring information because the problem will only continue as we move into the warmer months and then into the summer.

Georgia Forestry in particular uses frequencies that are easily monitored by a 2-meter radio with extended receive capability; they operate in the lower and upper 150 MHz ranges. They use repeater, semi-duplex, and simplex channels for various uses.

Forestry helicopters also use a VHF aviation frequency to coordinate air operations. Savannah is in Georgia Forestry District 10. Each county within District 10 has a county office; these offices can be heard communicating with the District 10 office in Statesboro on the District Admin channel. Forestry Units working fires can be heard on the District repeater communicating with the District Office. They also communicate with County Offices on a semi-duplex channel with separate mobile to base and base to mobile frequencies. There are other simplex channels that operations can be heard on as well.

159.225	District 10 Repeater
159.255	Mobile to Base (Statewide)
159.390	Base to Mobile (Statewide), also Mobile to Mobile
151.370	District 10 Admin
159.285	Southeastern Compact
154.280	Mutual Aid

Georgia Forestry conducts regular air patrols to spot fires. These patrols are usually conducted on the Southeastern Compact frequency, but are also heard on the semi-duplex statewide channel as well as the Admin Channel. The callsigns for the two aircraft that operate in the Savannah area are "Zero X-Ray" and "Zero Zulu." When more than one aircraft is up or helicopters are being used to fight the fires, activity can be heard on 122.925 as the aircraft coordinate the airspace over the fire.

*Continued on Page 7*

*Continued From Page 6*

Georgia Forestry can also be heard on local fire department channels, especially when those departments are using VHF. For those in Chatham County, it is interesting to note that Georgia Forestry's Chatham units have access to the Chatham-Effingham system; they have been heard using some local fire department talk groups. The US Forestry Service can also be heard using a 2-meter radio with extended receive capability. In the Savannah area, there is a US Fish and Wildlife Repeater and a US Forestry Service simplex frequency that are used by ground assets, aerial assets and the Savannah Office. The Savannah Office uses the callsign "SAVANNAH DISPATCH."

166.325	US Fish and Wildlife Repeater
168.200	US Forestry Simplex

Fort Stewart Forestry can be monitored using a P25 digital capable scanner. They operate on the Fort Stewart/Hunter AAF TRS. Controlled burn coordination can be regularly heard on the following talk groups, as well as observation towers and occasional fire fighting traffic:

TG 2480 Forestry  
TG 2512 Fish and Wildlife 1

## Club Information

**Amateur Radio Club of Savannah**  
PO Box 13342  
Savannah, GA 31416

The Amateur Radio Club of Savannah, was founded in 1938, and is a non-profit 501(c)(3)(a) organization dedicated to:

- Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

### **Contact Information:**

President:

Doug Rowland, KF4EFP, [jdrowland@comcast.net](mailto:jdrowland@comcast.net)

Vice President:

Kayton Smith, W4KTN, [kayton\\_smith@savannahga.gov](mailto:kayton_smith@savannahga.gov)

Secretary:

Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, [andyblackburn3@comcast.net](mailto:andyblackburn3@comcast.net)

Treasurer:

David Delamater, K4DJD, [k4djd@comcast.net](mailto:k4djd@comcast.net)

Activities Manager:

Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE, [ka4koe@comcast.net](mailto:ka4koe@comcast.net)

Trustee:

Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF, [n4cvf@arrl.net](mailto:n4cvf@arrl.net)

Key Klix Editor:

Brian Cave, KI4LSH, [ki4lsh@arrl.net](mailto:ki4lsh@arrl.net)