



KEY KLIX

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

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The next Amateur Radio Club Of Savannah Meeting will be held Tuesday August 14th, at 7:00pm at WTOC in the Garage/Bay Area. There will be a cookout, great fellowship, and a station tour. If you wish to stay late, you may get to view the 11pm WTOC newscast live.

WTOC is located at
11 The News Place
which is just off Chatham Pky near I-16

After the meal, (there will possibly be a brief tour outside if there is adequate daylight,) then there will be a tour through the studios and engineering areas.

TV Dxing With Mark Zeigler

Gotta decent TV and a inside or outside TV antenna? That's all you need to pick up both local and DX TV signals.



Mark Zeigler, KD4PDX, not only enjoys amateur radio, he also chases DX on the television frequencies. Mark has decent antennas to pick up regular VHF/UHF TV and also HD television stations. He also has a low noise preamp to help receive weak signals. He also has a converter to view the new HD channels that have hit the airwaves lately.



Mark has logged many stations that are within several hundred miles, i.e. Wilmington, Charlotte, New Bern, Florence, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, Atlanta, Macon, Augusta, Waycross, Jacksonville, Orlando, etc. to name a few. Mark has also received numerous new HD stations as well.

During extreme band openings, Mark has reported seeing DX TV stations in NY, Canada, Texas and other more distant states. He's even picked up Texas TV on his small handheld television receiver.



Mark states that cable companies limits what free broadcast stations that they want you to receive. Mark also mentioned that having a decent TV receiver and antenna, and lot's of patience, can occasionally reward you with receiving that rare DX of watching a TV station 500 miles or more away...

Editor's Note: My father was the first person to own a TV in our neighborhood in the early 1950's. Before 1954, there were no Savannah TV stations. He erected a 60 ft. pipe mast on the side of the house so that he could watch TV stations in Jacksonville and Charleston. He told me that he occasionally received stations in Texas and Oklahoma (as well as other DX stations closer to home.) The city made him take the pipe mast down in the early 60's, deeming it unsafe. An outdoor TV antenna was then mounted to the chimney. Up until the time that I subscribed to cable, I have always had an outside TV antenna, and logged in around 120 TV stations that I had watched and identified.

Being an avid VHF/UHF SSB amateur operator, I also have used the band openings on TV to alert me to band openings on the upper ham bands. – Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

FOR SALE

ClearSpeech Speaker DSP noise reduction speaker. Almost new (paid \$119) Little used, Works well
\$75 OBO

2 x Motorola T5950 GMRS/FRS HT's
Includes charger, belt clips, and batteries
Like new. Little used. Paid \$99 new
\$30 OBO

Schumacher Battery Charger/Starter
2/10/50 Amp / Good condition
\$25 OBO

Lakeview 12M Mobile Antenna
New in wrapper. Standard screw-down mount to base (not included)
\$15 OBO

2 x Motorola Communications
Speakers, Mobile mount, used
3 NIB Motorola replacement speakers,
1 Midland mobile communications
speaker, used
\$5 each OBO

Radio Shack Universal Power Adapter
(wall wart) 1.5, 3, 4.5, 6, 7.5, 9, & 12v /
300ma, Includes adapter plugs
Almost new \$8

Advanced Battery Systems "Periphex"
Universal Charger/Conditioner
HT Batter charger. All factory acc.
included. Used, condition unknown
(worked last time I tried it) \$5

Suction-Cup HT Antenna Window
Mount, New \$5

Other items for sale also.
Call Kurt (N4CVF) at 912-713-2133
or e-mail at khof1@yahoo.com

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Complex Radio System

--Mac McCormick, KF4LMT

This month, I'm covering a recently discovered federal radio system in the Savannah and coastal Georgia and South Carolina area. The Savannah Coastal National Wildlife Refuges Complex, operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, uses a linked conventional repeater system that operates in both analog and digital mode. When it is used in analog mode, the system is easily monitored with most amateur radio two meter equipment. In digital mode, of course, a digital scanner is necessary (it is not encrypted).

The Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex is comprised of seven National Wildlife Refuges that stretch from Hilton Head, South Carolina to Darien, Georgia: Pinckney Island NWR, Savannah NWR, Tybee NWR, Wassaw NWR, Harris Neck NWR, Blackbeard Island NWR, and Wolf Island NWR. The Coastal Refuges Complex is located within the city of Savannah. This linked radio system allows communications within and between the various NWRs and the Complex Headquarters.

So far, 5 repeater outputs have been identified. Two of these have been identified by location. PL tones have also been identified for 3 of them in analog mode. Programming in the PL (CTCSS) tone in a non-digital radio will enable you to monitor or scan for analog traffic without hearing the raw digital signals.

169.825	PL 118.8	
171.650		
171.750		
172.450	PL 167.9	Skidaway
172.650	PL 110.9	Savannah NWR

Prior to last week, I had always heard his system being used in digital mode. During the recent fire fighting operations

on Wassaw Island, the repeater system saw extremely heavy use in analog mode. Monitoring also seems to indicate that the repeater outputs may also be programmed into the radios as simplex channels.

If anyone is able to identify the location of 169.825, 171.650, or 171.750 or is able to identify the PL tones for 171.650 and 171.750, please let me know. It is also quite possible that there are more repeater outputs to be found, especially for the more southern NWRs such as Blackbeard Island and Wolf Island.



STRAYS

WANTED: Articles for the Key Klix and ARCS 2 Meter Net Control Operators

Educator Astronaut Barbara Morgan, KD5VNP, Launches into Space

On Wednesday, August 8, the space shuttle Endeavour (STS-118) launched yet again on an 11-day mission into space. One member of the seven-member crew is Mission Specialist Barbara Morgan, KD5VNP. The astronauts assigned to the mission include a Canadian doctor, a chemist who knows sign language and is a former competitive sprinter and long jumper, as well as a commander whose identical twin brother is also a shuttle pilot.

Morgan is the mission's Educator Astronaut. She was selected for the astronaut corps 22 years after first being selected as Christa McAuliffe's backup in the Teacher in Space Project. McAuliffe and the rest of the seven-member crew on board the space shuttle Challenger (STS-51-L) perished on January 28, 1986, a mere 73 seconds after launch.

While in space, Morgan plans to answer questions from school children. She received her Amateur Radio license in March 2003.

Like all shuttle missions, STS-118 is about the future: putting the International Space Station (ISS) a step closer to completion and gathering experience that will help people return to the moon and go onto Mars. There's a little bit of assembly; some resupply; some repairs and some high-visibility education and public affairs events. It's a little bit of everything.

Morgan trained side by side with McAuliffe and witnessed the 1986 Challenger accident in which McAuliffe and her six fellow crew members died. The Teacher in Space Project was suspended then, but Morgan held on to her NASA ties. In the months following that tragedy, she went on the visits McAuliffe would have made, talking to children and teachers all over the country. When she was selected in 1998 to become a full-fledged astronaut, she jumped at the opportunity.

In 2002, Morgan was chosen as the first educator to become a mission specialist astronaut. The Educator Astronaut Project evolved from the Teacher in Space Project. Both aimed to engage and attract students to explore the excitement and wonder of spaceflight and to inspire and support educators. Morgan's primary duty is the same as it is for the entire crew - to accomplish the planned objectives of the station assembly mission, as well as taking part in several education-related activities. "The educator astronaut is also a fully trained astronaut who does the jobs, does the duties that an astronaut does. Astronauts and teachers learn and share; they explore; they discover and then they go learn and share some more. That's what this is all about." More about Endeavor's mission can be found at the NASA Web site -

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts118/index

--Gleaned from the ARRL Letter

That's it for this month. Please keep those articles coming for the next Key Klix.

73, de Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, Key Klix Editor

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF SAVANNAH



ARCS Elected Officers for 2007:

President: Doug Rowland, KF4EFP, (912) 826-7199, jdrowland@windstream.net

Vice President: Mac McCormick III, KF4LMT, kf4lmt@comcast.net

Secretary: Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, (912) 238-4676, andy@g-net.net

Treasurer: David Delamater, K4DJD, k4djd@comcast.net

Activities Manager: Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE, ka4koe@arrl.net

Trustee: Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF, n4cvf@arrl.net

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

- (a) 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.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.