



KEY KLIX

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

December 2007

Volume 3

Issue 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah will be held, Tuesday, December 11, 7:30pm, at Memorial Health University Center, in the Hoskins Center, Classroom "5" which is located on the south side of the hospital. Elections will be held for the 2008 slate of officers and a vote will also be held for the "Amateur of the Year." The location for the January Annual Banquet will also be announced. A short program will most likely follow.

FCC's HOLLINGSWORTH ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RETIRE... ERRRRRR!!! HOLLINGSWORTH DECIDES NOT TO RETIRE

Hollingsworth to Stay Put at FCC -- Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has decided not to retire. He had announced around the end of October that he would leave the FCC in January 2008. "After spending some time thinking about the decision [to retire], it became clear to him that it just wasn't the right decision for him to make right now. There were several issues on the table that he wanted to continue to work through with the amateur community." The Enforcement Bureau is the primary organizational unit within the Federal Communications Commission that is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, Commission orders and terms and conditions of station authorizations, as well as enforcement of Amateur Radio rules (Part 97).

Hollingsworth has been a great asset to the Amateur Radio Community. His decision to stay-on is good news to most hams.

--Info gleaned from ARRL newsletter

YEAR END ODDS AND ENDS

Mac McCormick, KF4LMT

Unfortunately I didn't have time this month to come up with a coherent article on one topic, so I decided to pick some items out of the file folders of my "radio mind" as some year-end odds and ends. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

General Class Upgrade

I've finally decided to upgrade my license to general class. I have chosen two methods of studying for the exam: good old fashioned book studying and "pod classes." I ordered

the ARRL's General Class License Manual from Amazon.com and saved eight dollars. The ARRL's online store sells the most recent General Class manual for \$24.95, Amazon offers the same book for \$16.47. I also found the Ham Radio Podclass for the General Class exam online at: www.hamradioclass.org. The website offers classes for the Technician and General class exams in .mp3 audio format that can be played on iPods, MP3 players, and computers. After I take the General Class test I'll let everyone know how useful I've found the "pod classes" in my studying efforts.

PSR-500 Scanner

A few issues back, I mentioned the GRE PSR-500 as an option for monitoring the digital talkgroups on the Chatham-Effingham TRS; it is now available. It can be found at Radio Shacks as a Radio Shack model or it can be found through various vendors online as a GRE model. Grove Enterprises (www.grove-ent.com) is offering them at \$499.95. Some readers may not be familiar with GRE. If you are familiar with the venerable Radio Shack Pro-2004/2005/2006 series of scanners, you know GRE products. GRE manufactured those as well as other Radio Shack scanners.

The PSR-500 has so far garnered excellent reviews. In his review of the scanner, Larry Van Horn, N5FPW gave the PSR-500 4 and 3/4 out of 5 stars. For the full review, see the November 2007 issue of Monitoring Times magazine, pages 66-68. The PSR-500s memory sounds like it works in a fashion similar to the Radio Shack (GRE) Pro-96, although I can't state this for certain because I haven't used a Pro-96. The PSR-500 has many of the features of the Radio Shack (GRE) Pro-96 and the Uniden 396 plus more. One of the more interesting features is the PSR-500's ability to read Network Access Codes (NACs). NACs function on P25 conventional frequencies much as CTCSS and DCS functions on analog conventional frequencies. On the negative side, I've heard and read that the PSR-500's receiver is overly sensitive and overloads easily when connected to an antenna more effective than a duck antenna.

Hunter Army Airfield

Hunter Army Airfield's VHF control tower frequency recently changed. Hunter Tower was on 133.550 for as long as I've been monitoring aviation activity. At the end of November, the VHF control tower frequency changed to 124.975.

Georgia DOT Aeronautical Chart

For those who enjoy monitoring civilian and/or military aviation, aeronautical charts are wonderful resources. The Georgia Department of Transportation offers one for free. It can be ordered from the Georgia DOT website at:

I recently ordered one and received the 2007-2008 Georgia Aeronautical Chart in just over a week. It is essentially a sectional chart of the state of Georgia, a road map of the air. Airport locations, Navigational Aid locations, VFR routes, military operating areas, tower and ATIS frequencies, and Flight Safety Service frequencies are displayed on the chart. Relative to our area, the recently changed Coastal MOAs (Military Operating Areas) are shown.

W4MMQ's STATION



This month's featured station belongs to Ed Bigbie, W4MMQ

EQUIPMENT FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Two Balanced Antenna Matching Units
Two Linear Amplifiers:
TOP AMPLIFIER: Icom IC-PW1
BOTTOM AMPLIFIER: AL-811H
Icom IC-756PROIII
Array Solutions Power Master
Alpha Power 4510 Power/SWR Meter
You can see the Alpha Interfaced on the Dell Laptop
Also an Icom IC-756PORII, as standby unit

OUTSIDE:

Antenna 135ft with 150ft 450-ohm line from US Tower MA-550 55ft tower to
50ft mast mounted on dock on river.
Antenna 102ft with 150ft 450-ohm line from tower to oak tree

GROUND SYSTEM:

8ft Copper Ground Buss Bar on standoff insulators, all equipment connected to Ground Bar
#4 copper wire from Ground-Bar through PVC in wall Cad-Welded to 8ft 5/8 ground rod
2nd & 3rd 8ft rods 8ft apart and then every 16ft to tower and to Power Co Ground rod at
Service Entrance
#6 copper wire from each rod all cad-welded.

VERY NICE STATION ...ED!!!!!!

SPACE SHUTTLE SET TO GO DECEMBER 6th

Atlantis and its seven-astronaut crew are poised to launch toward the International Space Station with the European Space Agency's (ESA) Columbus laboratory on Thursday, December 6th, at 4:31 p.m. EST (2131 GMT) to mark NASA's fourth shuttle flight of the year. More amateur radios and antennas will be part of the ISS.

STRAYS - SOME MORE HAM RADIO ETIQUETTE AND PROTOCOL

The term 73, is pronounced seven three. It is a Morse Code term that has found its way into the voice community. The term means "best regards" so saying "seven threes" or "seventy-threes" is a bit like says "Best Regardses". The term 88 is pronounced "eight eight" and means "hugs and kisses" so be careful who you send 88 to.

It is illegal to "ker-chunk" a repeater. That is to key your radio and transmit for just a moment so that the repeater transmits, usually you hear the "courtesy beep" afterwards. This is also annoying to the repeater owners and control operators. If you want to make sure you are transmitting okay, make sure you give your callsign.

"Q" codes or signals are not needed or not usually used on a VHF/UHF repeater. Use plain language.

Do NOT use profanity ('swear' words or anything else of that nature) sexually explicit or suggestive language - it is not wanted or welcomed by the ham community. Remember, some hams are quite young. Any language that is considered 'obscene' is against FCC Rules and Regulations and is therefore illegal. The results of disobeying these rules can be serious, a lot of embarrassment and even monetary fines and loss of license for those involved.

Above all, please be courteous and polite. Amateur radio is self-policing, and the FCC does not get involved unless absolutely necessary. That "raises the bar", so to speak, in terms of our conduct. Always treat others on the air as you want to be treated.

That's it for this month's Key Klix. Thanks go to everyone who submitted material for this issue of Key Klix. If you have any articles, items for swap or sale, etc., to submit for the next issue, please send them to andy@g-net.net Deadline for articles is January 1.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, and a safe and Happy New Year.

73,

Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY



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.