



KEY KLIX

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF SAVANNAH

FEBRUARY 2008 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2009 MEETING AT FORT McALLISTER



The first meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah in 2009 was a fun adventure to Ft. McAllister State Historic Park near Richmond Hill, GA. On January 3, members began gathering at one of the Pavilions near the park office.

Doug Rowland, KF4EFP, and Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, began assembling the antennas and the radio operator positions, while Beth Ann, KI4ZDN, began setting up the food and listening to the 146.970 for talk-in.

Around 12:40pm, everyone gathered for grace, then they helped themselves to some good "cookin." Lunch was followed by a brief meeting to bring everyone up to date.

Around 1:30pm, several people took part in the fort/museum tour while others began operating the ham radios.

We had an excellent turnout with more than 17 licensed HAMS and numerous spouses, children, parents, and friends of ARCS members. Even man's best friend was available for fun by means of "Dollar" owned by Brandy, KI4PZW. Through out the day, we had over 28 participants in attendance.

We also had the opportunity to meet a regular Net check in, Ron Rose, KJ4ESG, who was also camping with his family at the park. Andrew had already met Ron the previous evening when they were working out a ham radio/transmission issue.

The park brought back memories for Gerry Rowland, XYL of KF4EFT, who taught at Richmond Hill and who would take the children to the fort on field trips. She was able to see Daniel Brown, the Park Manager who happened to be the manager when Gerry was teaching in the area.

Several of those assembled had been at this park in the past, but numerous improvements have taken place since their last visit. It was fun to hear the stories others had of this wonderful park. We saw many with cameras enjoying the sights of friends gathering and having a good time.

If there is interest, this could become an activity that bears repeating. I want to thank all those that supported and made this Special Event/Meeting/Gathering a success. We have received several requests for QSL's cards which are in the process of being sent out.

We also had a new member join our ranks! KF4MND joined at the event with a family membership. We want to welcome Dan and his family into the club. Now here's a goal- lets get a new member at every meeting!!! That would be 12 new members for 2009 and 6 before Field Day. (We can always use more hands for field day) Several members also took this time to pay their 2009 dues, which are due.

Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, Activities Manager

NEXT ARCS MEETING:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

5:45PM DINNER AT BARNES RESTAURANT, 5320 WATERS AVE, WITH FOX HUNT TO FOLLOW

AFTER DINNER, THERE WILL BE A BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING AND THEN A HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT WHICH WILL START AROUND 7PM.

NOTE: THE FEBRUARY 7TH DINNER MEETING / FOX HUNT WILL BE THE ONLY ARCS MEETING HELD DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



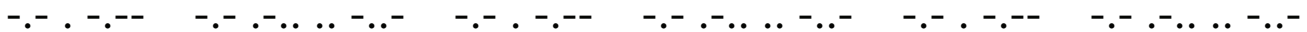
Antenna Setup



ARCS Banner



Dan, KF4MND, and Daughter



JANUARY 2009 MEETING PICTURES



JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:

"NEW HAM" MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PASSED

ARCS IS NOW OFFERING A SPECIAL "NEW MEMBERSHIP" INCENTIVE. IF YOU RECEIVED YOUR FIRST EVER AMATEUR LICENSE WITHIN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, YOU MAY OPT TO JOIN ARCS AT HALF PRICE FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP, WHICH WOULD CURRENTLY BE \$15. AFTER 3 SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, THE NEW MEMBER WILL HAVE FULL VOTING PRIVILEGES.

A NEW HAM MAY ALSO ELECT TO PAY REGULAR MEMBERSHIP DUES, CURRENTLY \$30. ALL PRIVILEGES OF NEW REGULAR MEMBERS WILL GO INTO EFFECT AT THE MEETING AFTER BEING VOTED IN.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ARCS MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again...time to renew your membership and support the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah.

Dues are \$30 for individual membership and \$40 for family membership. Your support goes towards paying for the upkeep of the repeaters, insurance premiums, P.O. Box rental, postage, and other miscellaneous items during the year. Please give your check to Treasurer Kayton Smith, W4KTN, or mail it to:

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah
P.O. Box 13342
Savannah, GA 31416

Deadline for dues is March 31, 2009. We thank you in advance for your much appreciated support!

ARCS 2009 ELECTED OFFICIALS

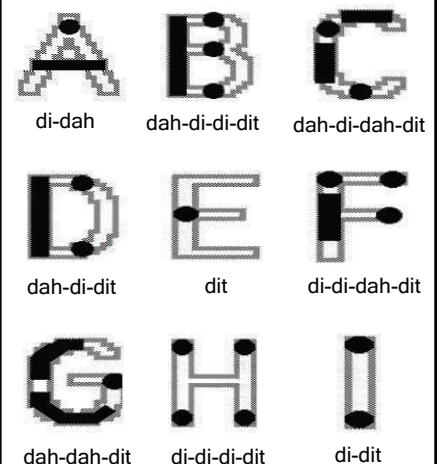
President: Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, (912) 238-4676, andy@g-net.net
Vice President: Douglas Rowland, KF4EFP, (912) 826-7199, jdrowland@windstream.net
Secretary: Brandy Davis, KI4PZW, (912) 313-7546, ki4pzw@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Kayton Smith, W4KTN, (912) 238-3030, kayton3@comcast.net
Activities Manager: Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, (912) 238-4676, bethann@g-net.net
Trustee: Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF, (912) 356-8581, n4cvf@arrl.net

Monthly Morse Code

Have you always wanted to learn Morse Code, but didn't have the time?

Do you need to freshen up on your once glorious skills?

Check out A. G. Reinhold's chart below and test your skills in the next issue!

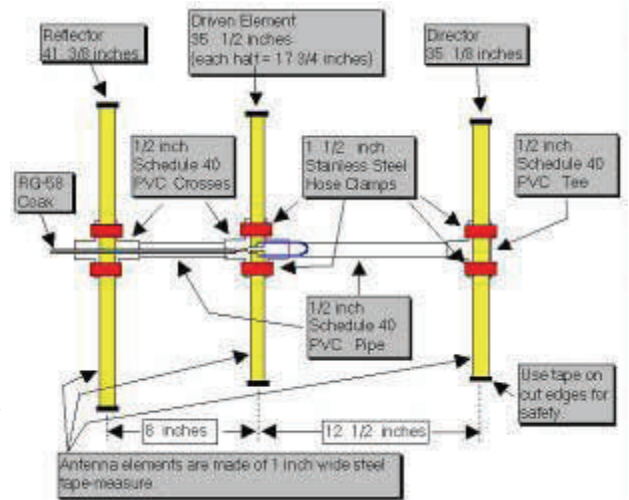


Tape Measure Beam Optimized For Radio Direction Finding

By: Joe Leggio WB2HOL

Summary:

This beam has been used on Fox-Hunts, on mountain tops, at local public service events, outdoors, indoors in attics, just about everywhere. The SWR is typically very close to 1:1 once adjusted. Front to back performance is exactly as predicted. The null in the rear of the pattern is perfect for transmitter hunts. When tested using a sensitive field strength meter and a low powered fox transmitter, full scale readings were seen from a distance of ten feet. With the same field strength meter I was able to point the antenna away from the transmitter and move the Reflector element to within a few inches of the transmitter antenna and still not see a reading. I don't have the facilities to verify a 50 db notch as predicted by the Yagi-Cad software but it sure seems close. The flexible elements have taken a lot of abuse. My antenna has seen a lot of use and has held up quite well. Best of all, when on a fox-hunt, this beam is a breeze to get in or out of the car.



Construction:

Cut a length of tape measure to 41 3/8 inches. It will be the Reflector element. Cut two lengths of tape measure to 17 3/4 inches. These will be used for the Driven element. Cut one length of tape measure to 35 1/8 inches. It will be used for the Director. Once you have cut the tape measure to length, put vinyl tape on the cut ends to protect yourself from the sharp edges. You will want to scrape or sand off the paint from one end of each of the Driven element halves so you can make a good electrical connection to the feedline.

If you are planning to solder the feedline to the Driven elements, it is best to tin the elements first before attaching them to the PVC cross. If you don't, the PVC will melt as you apply heat to the element. It would be a good idea to also take the time to form the wire used for the hairpin match into a "U" shape with the two legs of the "U" about 3/4 inch apart. Tin the ends of the hairpin if you plan on soldering it to the Driven element. If you tin 1/4 inch of each end of the hairpin, it will leave 4 1/2 inches to shape into the "U".



You will need to cut two lengths of PVC pipe to use as the boom. One should be cut to 11 1/2 inches. It is used to form the boom between the Director and the Driven element. The other piece of PVC should be cut to 7 inches. It will be used between the Reflector and the Driven element. Just about any saw will cut through the soft PVC pipe. I used a hacksaw. When we mass produced this antenna as a club project, we marked the pipe and used a portable jig saw to cut the lengths in assembly line fashion. It took longer to measure the pipe than to actually make the cuts. Since the pipe is available in ten foot lengths, you can make a few beams from a single 10 foot length. In any case, you might want to cut a few extras lengths for your friends. They will want to duplicate this once they see your completed antenna.

At this time you can pre-assemble the PVC boom, crosses, and tee which will support the tape measure elements. I did not use any cement or glue when I assembled mine. The PVC pipe is secured in the fittings with a friction fit.

The hose clamps I used are stainless steel and have a worm-drive screw which is used to tighten them. They are about 1/2 inch wide and are adjustable from 11/16 inch to 1 1/2 inch diameter. Attach the tape measure elements to the PVC fittings as shown in the accompanying drawing. It is normal for the Reflector and Director elements to buckle a bit as it is tightened to the PVC Tee and Cross. You can eliminate this buckle if you use the washers and self tapping screws to attach these elements instead of the hose clamps. I do not think the beam will withstand as rough a treatment as when hose clamps are used.

For more info on this antenna, check out his website at: http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm



ARES NOTES

Guy McDonald, K4GTM, Chatham County ARES Emergency Coordinator

TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

We had a successful Served Agency station testing and familiarization training at Memorial Health on Jan 10th. We tested HF, UHF and VHF. Even had a band opening and tested simplex to Waycross. The next Served Agency station testing and familiarization training will be on March 21st. Stay tuned for details.

There will be a statewide Tornado Drill on Feb 4th. The GA ARES Net will activate and begin taking checkins on 3.975 Mhz around 9:00am local. We will also activate a local Chatham County ARES Net at the same time on 146.970. Participation is encouraged.

CHATHAM COUNTY ARES 2 METER NET:

The Chatham County ARES 2 Meter Net meets each Thursday evening at 8:00pm. We could use more Net Control Operators. If you'd like to give it a whirl, let me know. If we are ever called upon to activate, we could need quite a few operators to support an emergency net as well as our served agencies. Now is the time to practice and prepare. Also, remember that the 1st net of each month is "Emergency Power Net". If you can run on emergency or battery power, please plan to do so.

GEORGIA SECTION ARES NET:

The weekly statewide Georgia Section ARES Net is held each Sunday at 5:00pm on 3.975.

SERVED AGENCY ACTIVITY:

On Jan 10th, Steve, K4SDJ and myself went over to the Savannah Red Cross and tested the HAM station as well as the SATCOM Terminal.

There will be a statewide Regional Coordinating Hospital Net on Sunday, Feb 1st. The net will meet on 60 meters channel 1 (5.332) at 3:00pm. We will bring up the station at Memorial Health. Anyone is welcome to join us. This net will meet the 1st Sunday of each month.

STATEWIDE ARES MEETING:

On Jan 24th, several of us traveled to the GPSTC in Forsyth to attend the annual statewide ARES meeting. We received an update from Barry Kanne, W4TGA, regarding the GA ARES support of the Regional Coordinating Hospitals, an update from Lans Rothfusz, KD5EJN, from the National Weather Service, and an update on GPB and the D-STAR project from John Davis, WB4QDX. Those attending were Guy McDonald, K4GTM, Mac McCormick, KF4LMT, Lester Lamhut, KF4JBQ, and Steve Jonas, K4SDJ.

STORM SPOTTER CLASSES:

CEMA is sponsoring some storm spotter classes in Feb and Mar. The classes are free and are delivered by the National Weather Service in Charleston. Here are the details:

Basic Storm Spotter: Feb 5, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Basic Storm Spotter: Feb 19, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Advanced Storm Spotter: Mar 5, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

The storm spotter serves a community by participating in an organized effort to watch for storms approaching the community and warn of the formation of tornadoes or other threatening severe weather. An NWS meteorologist will visit and use nationally-prepared slide and film materials to help the spotters learn what to look for and how to remain safe in their operation.

All classes will meet at the Chatham County Annex Building on Police Memorial Drive. Contact Dustin Hetzel at 912-201-4500 or djhetzel@chathamcounty.org to register.

Come connect with us! Visit the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah's Website:

<http://www.qsl.net/arcs>

**February 2009
Net Schedule**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fr | Sat |
|--|---|---|-----|---|----|-----|
| 5pm- Georgia State ARES- 3.975 LSB 9pm- Coastal Amateur Radio Society- 147.330 (CTCSS 203.5) | 9pm- Southeast GA 6-Meter Ragchew- 50.200 USB | 8pm- Statesboro Amateur Radio Society- 147.105+ | | 8pm- Chatham County ARES 146.970- 8:45pm- Savannah Simplex Net- 146.520 9pm- Amateur Radio Club of Savannah- 146.970- | | |

Thanks to all of you who checked into the nets! We look forward to hearing from you next Thursday!

ARCS JANUARY 2009 NET RECORD

JAN 1 16 CHECK-INS JAN 15 19 CHECK-INS
JAN 8 22 CHECK-INS JAN 22 24 CHECK-INS
JAN 29 23 CHECK-INS

FROM THE ARRL GA SECTION MANAGER

Greetings, All.

Uh oh. The GA legislators are back in session, and there are a couple of bills that bear watching by the amateur radio community. The primary targets of these bills are mobile cell phone users, but HB19, introduced by Mary Margaret Oliver, paints amateur radio operators with the same broad brush, and that's under the the label of "driving while distracted- use of wireless communications device". No problem with being held accountable for actually contributing to an accident, for WHATEVER reason, but there is some concern that, in the unlikely event that this bill should pass as written, that over-zealous interpretation of it could jeopardize our right to even have a radio in our vehicle. Her bill is very similar to the one she introduced a few years back, and if you remember, because of the letters you fine folks wrote to your legislators the last time around, she amended the wording of her bill such that amateur radio operators and emergency responders were excluded. Some of you are one step ahead of me and have already contacted your legislator about this bill's most recent incarnation, and I thank you, but for those of you who haven't, I'd suggest that you take a look at how it is currently worded. You can find it at http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hb19.htm. The other bill, HB23, does a better job of focusing on the proper target, and even has an exclusion that covers us. http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hb23.htm But, as you all know, these bills have a way of changing, so it wouldn't hurt to keep an eye on that one, as well. If you aren't sure who your state legislator is or how to contact him, you can find that info by entering your full zip code at <http://www.votesmart.org>. The very savvy RICK BLACK, K4RAB, suggests that, since both of these bills have now been referred to the Motor Vehicle Committee, that it might be an even better idea to target your letter-writing specifically towards the members of this committee: Chairman- TOM RICE; (whoalso happens to be a sponsor of HB 23) Vice Chairman- MATT DOLLAR; Secretary- TIM BEARDON; Members- RICK AUSTIN; PAUL BATTLES; ROGER BRUCE; MICHAEL HARDEN; TERRY JOHNSON; BOBBY PARHAM; ALAN POWELL; and JOHN YATES.

Tell us what you think! Email the Editor at ki4pzw@yahoo.com.