



KEY KLIX

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

January 2009

Volume 5

Issue 1

The next meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah will be a fun activity meeting to be held, Saturday, January 3, 2009, beginning around 11:30am, at Ft. McAllister State Park, "day use" pavilion. ARCS members and friends are being asked to bring a covered dish, desserts, or non-alcoholic beverages to share. Beth Ann will provide hamburger bar-b-que also known as Sloppy Joe's. Plates, utensils, cups and napkins will be provided. All that we ask is for those attending to please RSVP so that we can plan the food accordingly. For any additional information or to RSVP for this event, please contact Andy or Beth Ann Blackburn @ (912) 238-4676 or email andy@g-net.net or bethann@g-net.net

After lunch, members of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah will demonstrate Ham Radio for the public at Ft. McAllister State Park, January 3, 2009, from 1pm to 5pm under a Pavilion in the day use area. We will also make contacts and offer a QSL depicting Ft. McAllister. Rest rooms and a playground are nearby. Make this a family outing and bring everyone.

NOTE: (The activity at Ft. McAllister will be the January ARCS meeting. There will **NOT** be an ARCS meeting at Memorial Medical Health University on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.)

Beth Ann and I will be camping at Ft. McAllister from the evening of Wednesday, December 31, 2008 to Sunday, January 4th, 2009. If interested in camping, join us. We could have some social/camping activities together in the park. If interested, make reservations to camp soon as sites are going fast. Call the State Park Reservation Line @ 1-800-864-7275 or go www.georgiastateparks.org to check availability.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!!! Happy New Year!!!

73,
Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY
ARCS President

ARCS December Dinner

I want to thank everyone who attended the ARCS December Dinner at Skyler's Restaurant. We had great time, a delicious meal, and a nice setting to dine. There was a very good attendance despite the inclement weather. Entertainment was provided by Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE and his Thereman. Thanks very much... Philip!!





Election of officers was held at the dinner. The new Slate of Officers for 2009 is:

President: Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY
 Vice President: Doug Rowland, KF4EFP
 Secretary: Brandy Davis, KI4PZW
 Treasurer: Kayton Smith, W4KTN
 Activities Manager: Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN
 Trustee: Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF

Brandy Davis, KI4PZW is our new, enthusiastic KEY KLIX Editor beginning with the February issue.... Please send Brandy articles to brandylee8633@yahoo.com Thanks Brandy!!!!

-- Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

Getting "High" on Amateur Radio

Jack Norris, W4TWX, is a very good friend of mine. He is a semi-retired minister, and also a retired police radio dispatcher. He lives in the small town of Six Mile, SC. He is very active in ham radio, but his addiction to the hobby, drove him to do crazy things. He literally got "high" on ham radio. It's hard to describe this in words, so I will try to express his behavior with pictures.





Yep! That person on the ball going up is Jack Norris. The finished 150 ft tower has a multiband h.f. antenna, a 6 meter beam, a horizontally polarized 2 meter beam, and a vertically polarized 2 meter beam. Jack is able to work the ARCS 37/97 2 meter repeater almost anytime with 10 watts. The straight line distance between Jack's location and the 37/97 repeater, is about 250 miles.

I met Jack Norris in the early 1980's, when he lived in Pineville, NC. Jack and I met on the 37/97 repeater after he read the ARCS article in QST titled, *A-Bomb Proof Repeater* by Andy Blackburn. He was intrigued about the repeater being in the atomic bunker located at the WJCL-TV tower. He was surprised to work the 37/97 from his Pineville, NC location. Besides knowing the author of this article, Jack knows my wife Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE and David Rosenthal, WD4FIH.

Disclaimer: Don't try this at home. Leave the tower work to professionals.

-- Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

Are you tired of the same old activities and programs? If so, speak out and let us know what you want to do or learn about. Offer to do a program relating to amateur radio, antennas, or electronics. Changes are being made to make our meetings and activities more interesting, enjoyable, fun, educational, and interactive.

FREQUENCY CHANGE FOR CANADIAN TIME STATION CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from the fixed service to the broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. "CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "We have heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment."

Pelletier noted that a leap second http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/faq_time_e.html will be added at the end of December 2008; this will be indicated in the digital code until the time of the leap second. DUT1 will go from -0.6 to +0.4 seconds and will be indicated by double tones near the start of the minute and in the broadcast code http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/chu_e.html

--The ARRL Letter, Vol. 27 No. 50

Items for Swap or Sale

FOR SALE: MFJ-1798 10 band vertical (80 Meters – 2 Meters). Antenna never assembled / still in original box. MSRP Price: \$289.95 I am asking for: \$60.00

FOR SALE: Vintage early 70's tube type CB Radios.....Several 23 channel Courier tube type CB Radios: Courier 23, Courier 23+, Courier Royal. Radios are in good cosmetic condition, but operational status is not guaranteed. Great for nostalgia buffs. Asking price each unit \$90

GIVE AWAY: I have a partial Ringo Ranger Antenna for 2 Meters that I will give away for free. You can get the parts from Laird Antennas. Laird bought out Cushcraft. Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, Phone (912) 238-4676



ARES Notes

Guy McDonald, K4GTM, Chatham County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Training Activities:

The next Served Agency station testing and familiarization training will be on Jan 10th. Stay tuned for details.

The Chatham County ARES 2 Meter Net meets each Thursday evening at 8:00pm on 146.37/97. 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. The weekly statewide Georgia Section ARES Net is held each Sunday at 5:00pm on 3.975.

Served Agency Activity:

We had the opportunity to meet with Assistant Chief Futrell of the Southside Fire Department last month to discuss how Chatham County ARES can support the SSFD in the event of emergency or disaster. We have a long standing relationship with SSFD and of course have a radio station at the White Bluff Road facility. We'll be working on a plan to support them and may participate in some drills with them in the coming year. We also plan to meet one Saturday at the White Bluff Road station and clean up the radio room and do some work on the antennas.

Statewide ARES Meeting:

There will be a statewide Georgia Section meeting at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsythe on Jan 24, 2009. Session begins at 1:00pm. See the Georgia ARES website for details and agenda. www.gaares.org

ARCS Dues Being Accepted for 2009

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah dues for 2009 are now being accepted. Individual Membership is \$30. Family Membership is \$40.

ARCS Elected Officers for 2009:

President: Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, (912) 238-4676, andy@g-net.net or andyblackburn3@comcast.net

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

Secretary: Brandy Davis, KI4DZW, brandylee8633@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Kayton Smith, W4KTN, kayton3@comcast.net

Activities Manager: Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, (912) 238-4676, bethannblackburn@comcast.net

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