



KEY KLIX

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF SAVANNAH

MARCH 2008 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2009 MEETING AND FOX HUNT

February 7, 2009 at 5:45pm, ARCS members began assembling at Barnes Restaurant for a dinner and business meeting. We ordered our meals a little after 6pm.

At the conclusion of the meal, the "Fox Hunt" commenced. Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF, volunteered to be the "fox." Kurt, N4CVF, left the restaurant, found a decent hiding place, and began to make periodic transmissions. The hunt was on. After about 40 minutes, team Guy McDonald, K4GTM and Robert Owen KJ4HAL, found the elusive "fox," first. Congratulations!!!!!! This was their first ever "fox hunt." The other teams followed shortly thereafter. Because of the late hour, it was decided not to do a second hunt.

Congratulations, Guy and Robert

Thanks go out to everyone who participated. Those that were not at the meeting and "fox hunt," missed out on a great time.

Submitted by Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY
ARCS President

THE Other Side OF AN ARCS MEMBER

~SUBMITTED BY BETH ANN BLACKBURN, KI4ZDN

This month's featured member is our own Treasurer, Kayton Smith, W4KTN.

Kayton has a lovely wife, Cecil, and a "little one" due in June. He also has 3 lovable Dalmatians: Jack, Helena, and Leo.

Kayton is the owner of *The Gun Shop*, located on Eisenhower Drive. When not talking on the radio, he enjoys rifle and pistol competition, photography, bowling, billiards, and just guns in general.

Kayton's favorite vacation spots include: Bagio, Philippines and Charleston, SC.

Kayton's favorite foods include: Japanese/Chinese "stir fry" cuisine

One of Kayton's favorite childhood memories is snow skiing in North Carolina.

Kayton has always enjoyed Field Days, but he remembers a time when they were breaking down the field day site and the next thing you know, a downpour! Although being wet was bad, the mosquitoes took the "most annoying" award for that year.

Kayton also took 24th in the 2006 IBS National Championships. In ham radio, he received the ARRL DXCC award in 2002.

NEXT ARCS MEETING:

Tuesday, March 10th

♦6: 15pm Pre-Meeting Dinner
At Costanzo's Pizza

♦7: 30pm Meeting At
Memorial Health
Hoskin's Building
Classroom 4 or 5

Castanzo's Pizza is in the Medical Arts Shopping Center across from Memorial Health University.

You can order pizza by the pie or slice and they also offer calzones, stromboli, and salads.

Grab a bite to eat and enjoy some camaraderie before the meeting.

A special video program will follow the business portion of the meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

ARCS President, Andy Blackburn, called the meeting to order.

The minutes for the January meeting, published in Key Klix, were approved.

The treasury report was given and approved.

A motion was made by Kurt, seconded, and voted on that if anyone applies for ARCS membership and pays their regular dues, they would be declared a member with privileges at the following meeting.

A annual incorporation fee will be due by April, and the ARCS liability insurance is due around the end of May.

We welcomed 2 new members to ARCS.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

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!

HAMFEST, ANNIVERSARY, AND DISNEY... OH MY!

~SUBMITTED BY ANDY AND BETH ANN BLACKBURN

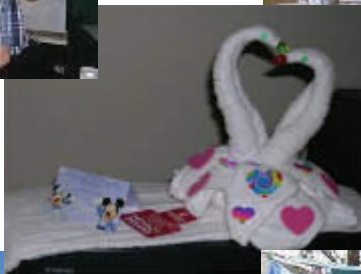
Beth Ann and I were married February 14, 2002. Each year we celebrate our anniversary on Valentines Day at Disney. This year, the added bonus was that Orlando was having a 3 day hamfest the same weekend. Beth Ann and I arrived at the hamfest around noon, Friday February 13. Wow!!! What a lot of stuff!!! We ran into several folks from Georgia who seemed to be enjoying this event as well...Guy McDonald, Dan Scott, Lester Lamhut, Steve and Susanne Jonas, and Harry and Geraldine Prince. Beth Ann and I left the hamfest and returned back to our Disney Resort to relax and prepare ourselves for the magic of Disney on Valentines Day / our anniversary.



Audio Guru Bob Heil and Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY



A Building Full of Hamfest Stuff



Disney Resort Swan Towel Critters in Our Room



Even More Stuff



More Goodies

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?

First, test your skills from last month. Then, check out A. G. Reinhold's chart below and get ready for next month!

Now's your time to shine. Match the letters to the sounds and check your answers below.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. di-di-di-dit | 6. di-dit |
| 2. dah-dah-dit | 7. di-dah |
| 3. dah-di-di-dit | 8. dah-di-dit |
| 4. di-di-dah-dit | 9. dit |
| 5. dah-di-dah-dit | |

J K L

di-dah-dah-dah dah-di-dah di-dah-di-dit

M N O

dah-dah dah-dit dah-dah-dah

P Q R

di-dah-dah-dit dah-dah-di-dah di-dah-dit

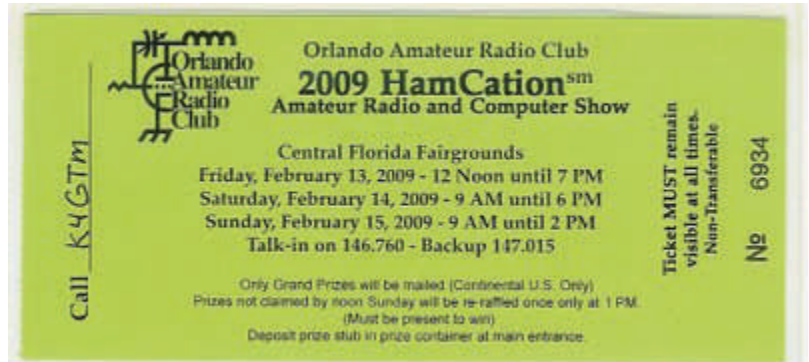
- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. H | 2. G | 3. B | 4. F |
| 5. C | 6. I | 7. A | 8. D |
| 9. E | | | |

HAMCATIONSM 2009

~ SUBMITTED BY GUY McDONALD, K4GTM

Had an awesome time at the Orlando Hamfest this year! Dan Scott (KF4MND) and I drove down together. We met at the Cracker Barrel Friday morning for some grub at about 0700. Several other local HAMs met there as well. Once we had stuffed ourselves we proceeded to transfer all of Dan's gear over to my truck. Dan brought his "go kit" which includes a laptop running Echolink. After a few electrical issues which we creatively overcame (we were both trained by the military afterall) we had the rolling Echolink node up and running. We were transmitting on the radio side on 146.520 and had the Echolink node connected to the Internet via data link on Dan's cell phone. We were able to establish a link to the newly operational Savannah Echolink node W4SGA-R which is hosted at the QTH of Jerry, W4SGA. This node runs to the CARS W4LHS repeater on the RF side. We were able to communicate with other operators on the 146.700 repeater as we traveled down I-95 on our way to Orlando. We also took the opportunity to connect to the Brunswick repeater Echolink node as we passed through.

We arrived at the Hamfest around 1500 or so and kept the node up and running in the truck as we went into the Hamfest area. We both carried handhelds and talked back to the "go kit" in the truck on 147.555 which in turn allowed us to talk to the guys back in Savannah on the 146.700. It was awesome being able to tell the guys about the things we were seeing and doing throughout the day. We were also talking with some of the other guys at the Hamfest on their "Bubba Net" on 446.625.



Well, we stayed till after 1700 or so and headed to the hotel. Got checked in and grabbed some dinner at the local Japanese Steak House right there at the hotel. After getting settled in and checking in with our respective XYLs, we called it a night. Woke up at about 0700 on Saturday morning. This is "sleeping in" for Dan. Remember, he is active duty Army! Gorged ourselves at the breakfast buffet then headed back over to the Hamfest for more fun, and to lighten our wallets a bit! Did the same drill with the Echolink Node and had a blast walking around in a Ham Operators paradise. We ran into Andy and Beth Ann, Steve and Sue, Lester, Bob, Bill, Ryan and his family, and others. Dan picked up an Arrow antenna for working satellites, an audio mixer, and some accessories for his IC-91AD. I purchased several connectors, patch cables, a G5RV with some feedline, an MFJ Wattmeter, some RF Antenna switches, a scanner antenna for the mobile, an old D-104 microphone, and a Yaesu VX-2R which will be my son Jackson's radio when he get's his license in March. Wow, what a blast! After a great day that seemed to fly by, we hooked up with Bill, Bob, and Bob's friend Jeff from Ohio out at the camping area. They set up a portable QRP rig with a BuddiPole antenna and worked some 20 meters right out in the field. Awesome stuff. After that, Dan and I hit the road and headed back to Savannah. Stopped in Daytona and gassed up and grabbed some chow. Talked to the 146.700 in Savannah via the rolling Echolink node on the way back. We pulled back into the Cracker Barrel around 2200 and transferred everything back to Dan's truck and parted ways. What a great opportunity it was to exercise the Savannah Echolink node from out of town. I had a great time playing radio with Dan and am looking forward to next year!

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

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

SWAP OR SALE / THIS AND THAT

Dave, K4DJD, has a DS450S Kenwood and a Astron Power Supply for sale. Contact him at k4djd@bellsouth.net

David, KC4MKD, has an Icom 706 Mark 2G (all bands except 60 meters) for sale. Contact him at kc4mkd@yahoo.com.

Paul, KJ4FAV, is looking for an antenna rotator. Any help would be appreciated.

Peter, KJ4FAW, is looking for anyone interested in MARS. Please contact him with any questions.



ARES NOTES

~GUY McDONALD, K4GTM, CHATHAM COUNTY ARES EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

The next Served Agency Station Testing and Familiarization Training will be at the Savannah Red Cross on Mar 21st around 8:30am. The address for the Savannah Red Cross is:

41 Park of Commerce Way
Plantation Corporate Center #200
Savannah, GA 31405

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:

We participated in the statewide Regional Coordinating Hospital Net on Sunday, Feb 1st. The net met on 60 meters channel 1 (5.332) at 3:00pm. We brought up the station at Memorial Health and checked into the net on behalf of Region J. The next net will be on Mar 1st. Anyone is welcome to join us. This net meets the 1st Sunday of each month.

STORM SPOTTER CLASSES:

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.

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.

SEVERE WEATHER NET ON FEBRUARY 18TH:

We had some bad weather across Georgia on this past Wed evening. A statewide Georgia ARES Weather Net was activated on 3975 and I checked in to let Net Control know that we were standing by here in Chatham County.

As it turns out we didn't get any significant action here in Savannah. But we did take the opportunity to pull together an informal ARES weather net for practice. We started off around 8:00pm or so and had operators check in from all over Chatham and surrounding counties. Operators reported their name, callsign, location, and spotter number if available. We had around 25 checkins which was great for a "no notice" net.

This also gave us the opportunity to leverage the newly operational Savannah Echolink node on the 146.700 repeater. We were able to monitor the Georgia Skywarn Echolink Node and even connected to it briefly to provide the information on the 146.700 repeater. We quickly tore this connection down as not to interfere with the emergency traffic. We will test this functionality again to be sure we are ready for the next event.

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ARES NOTES CONTINUED

~GUY McDONALD, K4GTM, CHATHAM COUNTY ARES EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL ON FEBRUARY 4TH:

We held a Chatham County ARES Drill this week in conjunction with the Georgia Statewide Tornado Drill. We created a simple scenario and ran a local "Resource Net" on the 146.970 repeater. We also held a "Tactical Net" on the newly re-located 147.330 repeater. I was the net control operator for the Resource Net and Mac, KF4LMT, was the net control operator for the Tactical Net. We had all stations initially check in to the Resource Net to provide information regarding location, capabilities, availability, etc. We used this info to determine how to best apply the available resources.

We practiced assigning the mobile and portable stations over to the Tactical Net where Mac logged them in and tracked them as available mobile resources. Mac and I maintained a coordination "channel" between the two net control stations initially with our newly operational Echolink node running with the 146.700 repeater. We used both voice and instant message capabilities of the Echolink program. We then simulated a loss of Internet Access and failed over to our secondary coord channel by using the 442.700 UHF repeater. After a successful test of 70cm, we simulated it's loss and failed over to our tertiary mode of simplex on 146.520. It worked well.

As local operators continued to check into the net, we assigned Tactical Call signs based on location or unique attributes. We assigned callsigns such as Candler 1, Memorial 1, HF Liason, Liberty EOC, TSA Liason, etc. We had a total of 20 check ins which was pretty good for a work day morning.

At 0910 the local weather alert sounded and we moved everyone from the Tactical Net back over to the Resource Net where we did a quick roll call and thanked everyone for participating in the exercise. We then formally closed the net and returned the frequency to normal amateur use. These drills are so important as a training tool so that we can be as prepared as possible if/when we're ever called upon to assist in an actually emergency. Thanks to the following operators for their participation:

K4GTM - Guy	W4SWJ - Sue	KF4EFP - Doug	KC4MKD - David
KF4LMT - Mac	KJ4FAW - Peter	KB4GNX - Bob	W4REQ - Ralph
AJ4MY - Ryan	KC5VCF - Alf	KJ4HEX - Matthew	W4WTO - Bob
WD0GFG - Kevin	KJ4EGZ - Ted	KF4JBQ - Lester	K4MUM - Memorial Hosp
K4SDJ - Steve	K4DJD - David	KT4RW - Heyward	W3SJC - Candler Hosp

March 2009 Net Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5pm- Georgia State ARES- 3.975 LSB	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5
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-		

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ARCS FEBRUARY 2009 2 METER NET REPORT

146.37 / 97 REPEATER

FEB 5 21 CHECK-INS FEB 12 14 CHECK-INS

FEB 19 21 CHECK-INS FEB 26 19 CHECK-INS

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

This month's news from the ARRL GA Section Manager is an excerpt from her newsletter, Georgia Section On My Mind. I'm proud to announce that we were featured in the March 2009 issue regarding our January meeting at Fort McAllister. To view the complete newsletter or to check out what other clubs are up to, please visit their website at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

ARRL Georgia Section
Section Manager: Susan K. Swiderski, AF4FO
af4fo@arrl.org

ARC OF SAVANNAH--- One advantage of living in south GA is apparent every winter, when people in most of the country are up to their knees in snow and ice. Members of this club took full advantage of their beautiful weather, and held their first meeting of the year at a pavilion in Fort McAllister Historic Park, near Richmond Hill. What better way to start the year than with an outdoor eating meeting, punctuated with good fellowship, fun radio operations, and leisurely tours of a museum and historic fort? (WARNING: Outdoor meetings in January may not be such a "hot idea" for parts of north GA.) CONGRATULATIONS to the club's recently elected slate of officers: President- ANDY BLACKBURN, WD4AFY; VP- DOUGLAS ROWLAND, KF4EFP; Secretary- BRANDY DAVIS, KI4PZW; Treasurer- KAYTON SMITH, W4KTN; Activities Manager- BETH ANN BLACKBURN, KI4ZDN; and Trustee- KURT HOFFMAN, N4CVF. Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable year. (If it makes the rest of the state feel better, the idea of having an outdoor meeting in Savannah in the middle of summer may be entirely "too hot to handle".)

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

*Comments, Questions, Ideas, or Submissions??
Email the Editor at ki4pzw@yahoo.com*

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