



KEY KLIX

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

November 2007

Volume 3

Issue 11

The next meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah will be held, Tuesday, November 13, 7:30pm, at Memorial Health University Center, in the Hoskins Center, Classroom "4" which is on the south side of the hospital. Nominations will be solicited for the 2008 slate of officers. A short program will most likely follow.

THE 37/97 REPEATER ANTENNA COMES DOWN.... SOME

--Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

After years of being around the 500-foot level on the WJCL 1500 foot tower, the 146.37/97 repeater antenna had to be relocated at around the 350-foot level. The move was necessary to jockey tower wind-load specifications to allow the addition of a new digital television broadcast antenna per FCC mandate. The change to a lower elevation on the tower allowed ARCS to keep its repeater on the air. Currently, there is a temporary small digital TV test broadcast antenna about the same height at the ARCS repeater antenna. A much larger, heavier, permanent digital broadcast antenna, which will be located nearer the top of the tower, will soon replace the test broadcast antenna.

Here's the short story of what happened...

Back in May, Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF, and myself, WD4AFY, were asked to meet with the WJCL tower owners/management. ARCS was informed that changes needed to be made to accommodate a new broadcast antenna on the tower. Initially, it looked like ARCS was going to have to remove its antenna from the WJCL tower.

Ed Bigbie, W4MMQ, ARCS "Life Member," voluntarily stepped in and offered to assist. Ed was a broadcast engineer at WJCL in its infancy, and knew the tower specifications quite well. Ed met with the tower owners, and after assurances, a compromise was reached to remove excess hardware, extra feed-line(s), and lower the repeater antenna, to be able to keep it on the tower.

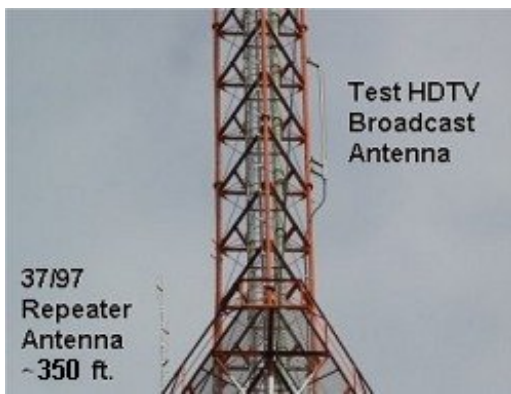
On October 12-13, a tower crew from Twin City worked diligently to relocate the 37/97 antenna to its lower height. Kurt, N4CVF, assisted, and directed the tower crew. Ed Bigbie also was there supervising the project.

After 2 days the project was completed and the W4HBB repeater was still on the air.

Many, many, thanks go to Ed Bigbie for his part of saving the ARCS repeater site. Ed has been a member of ARCS since the 40's, and has contributed a lot to ARCS over the years.

Many thanks also go to Randy Scott and his tower crew of Ogeechee Wireless for their services.

Many thanks also go to Kurt Hoffman who has put countless hours into the 37/97 repeater system in the past as well as this latest circumstance. Many local hams that use the repeater have no clue how much of your time and dedication you have given to the club repeaters.



JOTA ROUNDUP

--Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE

By all accounts, JOTA at the Mighty 8th was a big success. No aircraft were destroyed, no structures toppled, no electrocutions, etc. The museum staff has invited us back for next year. We had an attendance of approximately 50. Although down from our estimates, it is nonetheless, the best that Jim and I have seen as part our third JOTA.

Jim and I would like to thank all of you that showed up to help. We even had a couple of volunteers show up and stay all day that we didn't even know about beforehand.

A special thanks goes out to the two clubs that lent their assistance to the effort.

73,
Philip and Jim

SUGGESTED REPEATER GUIDELINES...

To make ham radio communications more enjoyable and efficient for all:

1. Try not to use 11-meter lingo when talking on the local repeaters.
2. Speak normally as if you were talking on the telephone or in person. Some examples: Don't say, "The first personal here is ___"(use your name). Don't say, "Thanks for the comeback" (use thanks for the call/answer), Don't say, "I've destinated" (use I've arrived)" Don't repeatedly say, "I hear that" or "roger that" in response to every transmission/comment. Don't say your, or the other person's, call sign every transmission (only your call is required once every 10 minutes).
3. Don't just kerchunk the repeater without saying your call (at least on the second kerchunk).
4. Don't shout into your mike. Key the mike at least for one second before talking.
5. Don't give one-word answers or comments.
6. Don't break into an ongoing conversation unless you know who all is in it, and/or you have something meaningful to contribute.
7. When in a QSO with more than two people involved, turn it over to someone by name (i.e. go ahead Jim). When you sign clear, turn it over to someone by name or call (don't just sign clear because no one would know who should pick it up.)
8. Use a mike hanger in your vehicle to avoid sitting on the mike, and inadvertently keying up a repeater with people all over the repeater coverage area listening in.

AGENCY MONITORING PROFILE: CHATHAM COUNTY WESTSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENTS

--Mac McCormick, KF4LMT

Bloomington Fire Department, Garden City Fire Department, Pooler Fire Department, and Port Wentworth Fire Department are the four municipal fire departments on the west side of Chatham County. All four departments are dispatched by Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department.

All of the westside fire departments are dispatched using the Chatham-Effingham Trunked Repeater System and VHF repeaters. Garden City FD and Port Wentworth FD are dispatched using Metro Fire Dispatch talkgroup (3568) on the Trunked System and on the 154.385 Metro Fire Dispatch Repeater (Isle of Hope Fire Department and Thunderbolt Fire Department are also dispatched using this talkgroup and repeater combination). Pooler FD and Bloomington FD are dispatched using the Pooler FD talkgroup (5424) and the 154.145 Pooler/Bloomington FD repeater.

The westside Fire Departments use callsign structures that indicate which department the personnel are from. Likewise, the apparatus and units of each department are numbered to indicate which unit they belong to. The callsigns and unit numbers correspond to the

callsigns of the respective city Police Departments, making identification easier for everyone involved. 1000 is added to the PD callsign group to get the FD callsigns; for instance Garden City PD uses 2## callsigns and Garden City FD uses 12## callsigns. Apparatus and Unit numbers are two digit numbers that begin with the first digit of the PD callsign/second digit of the fire department callsign; for example Garden City's apparatus/unit numbers are 2# units.

Department Personnel Callsigns

- 12## Garden City Fire Department
- 14## Port Wentworth Fire Department
- 16## Pooler Fire Department
- 18## Bloomingdale Fire Department

Apparatus Unit Numbering

- 2# Garden City Fire Department
- 4# Port Wentworth Fire Department
- 6# Pooler Fire Department
- 8# Bloomingdale Fire Department

In addition to the Dispatch talkgroups, each department also has their own talkgroups on the Chatham-Effingham Trunked System.

- 5008 Garden City FD Fireground 1
- 5040 Garden City FD Fireground 2

- 4592 Port Wentworth FD
- 4624 Port Wentworth FD

5424 Pooler FD

5456 Pooler FD Admin

4400 Bloomingdale FD

GUY's "OLD SHACK"

--Guy, KI4TKI

Here are a few pictures of my "old shack". I guess you could call this a mobile station.....very mobile!

This is the EC-135 Worldwide Airborne Command Post (WWABNCP) and our mission was to provide post attack command and control of nuclear forces. My job specifically was as a communications engineer charged with maintaining all the comm gear onboard and to provide tech control for all air-to-air and air-to-ground links. Would love to present an overview at an upcoming club meeting.



MOTOROLA BUYS YAESU

Motorola USA has announced its intention to launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co, Ltd. Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard; Tokogiken, a privately held Japanese company, controlled by current president and CEO of Vertex Standard Jun Hasegawa, will retain 20 percent, forming a joint venture. The total purchase price for 80 percent of the outstanding shares on a fully diluted basis will be approximately US \$108 million. Motorola Board Members are saying they want to continue with Yaesu full line, Commercial, Aircraft, Marine and Amateur. Time will tell.

LAWRENCEVILLE HAMFEST - NOVEMBER 3-4, 2007

-- Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

Beth Ann and I had the opportunity to attend the Lawrenceville Hamfest on November 3, 2007. It is currently the largest hamfest held in Georgia. There was decent attendance, and plenty of goodies. Below are a few pictures of the hamfest.



That's it for this month's Key Klix. Please submit articles for the next issue....
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.