



# KEY KLIX

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Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

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ARCS is planning HF, VHF/UHF, fox hunts, hidden transmitter hunts, new programs, and other fun oriented activities in the near future. One such proposal will be made at the October ARCS meeting. The idea is to make ARCS meetings more enjoyable, while reducing administrative business. It's time for CHANGE!!! We need input from all of our ARCS Members. If you can present a program or have any ideas for programs, we would love to hear from you. The best place to present your idea is a club meeting! We look forward to seeing you soon! However, any idea can be submitted at anytime to one of the officers.

The ARCS Net participation is up. Recently we have had 20 + checkins the past several weeks. The Thursday Night Net is a great way of keeping up with what is going on with the Amateur Community and the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah. It is also another way of making your interests in the club known. The ragchew portion of the net is a great opportunity to mention what you would like to see us do.

The ARCS 2 Meter Net is a training tool. Everyone should gain experience as a Net Control Station (NCS.)

If you are thinking about becoming a Net Control Operator, just do it. It's not difficult and it will make your hamming experience more enjoyable. You never know when an emergency circumstance may arise. You could be the only person available to conduct a net. Recent local examples were the Sugar Refinery Disaster and the Southside tornado. Training and experience are key to being an effective Net Control Operator.

Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, has had her amateur radio license for just over a year. She had 3 brief QSO's on 2 meters in that time frame. A day before the net, she asked if she could conduct the 2 meter net on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. I was happy to have a volunteer, and gave her the script for the net. She did an excellent job conducting her first net, and was successful in requesting a new NCS for the following week. Good job Beth Ann. Beth Ann stated she would be happy to conduct future nets should the need arise.

Anyone that is on the road and hears other VHF/UHF nets, please partake of the net, and share your experience and the contents of the net at the next ARCS meeting. If you are going out of town, and have spare time, check in advance with the out-of-town club and see if you can visit with them. Bring that experience back to Savannah and share that visit with the ARCS. It is always good to share ideas from other organizations.

--Andy Blackburn

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## ARCS ANNUAL DINNER

Plans for the ARCS Annual Dinner will be announced in the near future. Any suggestions are greatly welcomed.

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## **GARRIOTT GEARS FOR SPACE JOURNEY**

On Sunday, October 12, Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, is scheduled to begin his journey to the International Space Station as he blasts off into space via a Russian Soyuz and docks with the ISS two days later; he is due to return to Earth on Thursday, October 23. Richard, the sixth private citizen to be accepted by the Russian Federal Space Agency for a short-term mission on the ISS, is the son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL. In 1983, Owen was the first ham to make QSOs from space. Richard said he plans to build on his father's legacy by also making QSOs from the ISS: He plans to perform several school contacts and downlink slow scan television images during his flight, as well as contact the general ham community in his free time and perform random scout contacts during Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>

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## **HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHINA TO LAUNCH HAMSAT**

China is planning to launch its first-ever ham radio satellite.

First off, this satellite was originally named CAS-1 but its is now known as XW-1. And XW-1 will carry a beacon and three cross band transponders into space. One is for FM, another is linear, and the last is designed for digital operation.

Plans call for it to be launched into a sun synchronous orbit in June 2009. This will be, by a CZ-2C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China.

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## **2008 ORIONIDS SHOWER EXPECTED TO BE BIG**

If you are a ham who chases rocks flaring across the sky, there's some good news. After the successful 2006 and 2007 outbursts, predictions say that this years Orionids Meteor activity will again be much higher than normal.

The "traditional" peak for this shower is expected on October 21st. However, another maximum, related to the encounter with an ancient dust trail rich in bright meteors is expected to occur on October 19th, between 02:13 and 08:08 UTC.

For those not aware, hams involved in Meteor Scatter communications make contacts by bouncing their signals off the ionized trails of meteors as the burn up in the Earth's atmosphere.

Note from Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY: Working meteor scatter on 2 meters requires experience and a lot of patience. Thanks to meteor scatter and other methods of propagation, I have worked 40 states on 2 meters. (No repeaters used.)

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## **RADIO LAW: PA GETS PRB-1 LIKE LAW**

Pennsylvania now has its own PRB - 1 like law of its own. On October 7th, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a measure designed to assure hams in the Keystone state that they will be reasonably accommodated in their quest to install towers and antennas.

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## **Announcements**

### **ARCS October Meeting**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. The program for this evening will be an Encore Presentation Video and a round table discussion of future plans/activities for ARCS. We have several activities in the works and look forward to expanding with member ideas. The meeting will be in classroom 4 or 5 in the Hoskins Building at Memorial Hospital. The Hoskins Building is next to Parking Garage C at the Ranger St. entrance. Talk-In is on the 146.970- Repeater

### **ARCS Thursday Night Net**

Thursday Nights at 9:00 PM, 146.970- repeater

### **Simplex 2 Meter Net**

There is an informal simplex net on 146.520 at 8:45 PM, just prior to the ARCS Net; affiliated with no particular group, it is an effort by local hams to ascertain coverage areas and ranges for 2-meter simplex in the Savannah area.

### **Effingham ARES/Skywarn Net**

Tuesday Nights at 9:00 PM, 146.745- (CTCSS 97.4)

First/Third Tuesdays are Skywarn Nets

Second/Fourth Tuesdays are ARES Nets

When Fifth Tuesdays occur, they will be ARES Nets

For further information on Effingham ARES or Skywarn contact NT6H at [nt6h@arrl.net](mailto:nt6h@arrl.net)

### **Southeast Georgia 6 Meter Ragchew Net**

Monday Nights at 9:00 PM

50.130 USB Primary, 50.200 USB Secondary

For more information contact [kf4lmt@comcast.net](mailto:kf4lmt@comcast.net)

### **Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air**

Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19, 2008

Approximately 10:00 AM on Saturday and 8:00 AM on Sunday

Oglethorpe Speedway in Pooler, GA

For more information or to volunteer, contact Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE at 912-355-0235 or [ka4koe@comcast.net](mailto:ka4koe@comcast.net)