



KEY KLIX

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah

September 2008

Volume 4

Issue 9

ARCS is planning HF, VHF/UHF, and other fun oriented activities. The idea is to make ARCS more than just an organization that supports repeaters. If you have other ideas, we would love to hear them. The best place to present your idea is a club meeting! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Net participation seems to be up. On August 28, 2008 we had 25 check-ins including net control! The net lasted almost an hour; it was secured at 9:50 PM after starting at 9:00 PM. The Thursday Night Net is a great way of keeping up with what is going on with the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah and 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.

ARCS Annual Banquet

At the August Meeting, a motion was made to consider moving the ARCS Annual Banquet from January to December. Due to low meeting attendance, it was decided to poll the membership via the Key Klix and the Thursday Night Net to determine a preference. Please contact Mac McCormick, KF4LMT by email at kf4lmt@comcast.net or check in to one of the Thursday Night Nets prior to the September meeting and make your preference known. The results of the poll will be presented at the September meeting and a decision will be made during that meeting.

New Members

The Amateur Radio Club of Savannah welcomes 3 new members who joined at the August Meeting:

Edward Derst III, KI4DZD
Andrew Kramer, KD4LUG
Guy McDonald, K4GTM

Summer E-Skip Fun

Mac McCormick III, KF4LMT, kf4lmt@comcast.net

I have enjoyed working the 6 meter band since my first Field Day. Out of all of the bands I witnessed being worked that day, something about 6 caught my attention. It's probably because of what you can do with an antenna just a bit longer than your arm span and 100 watts when the conditions are right. This year, at last, I bought the equipment to have my own 6 meter station and enjoy the summer E-skip throughout the season, not just on Field Day.

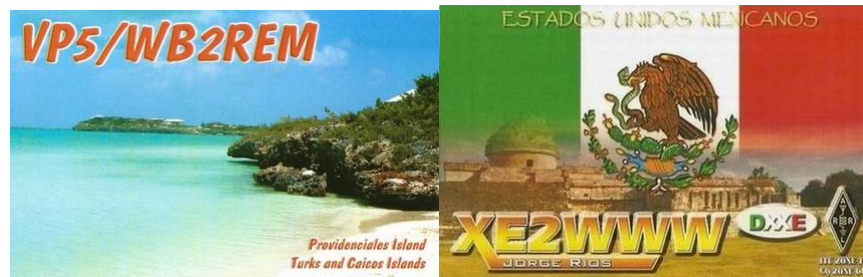
With the help of sporadic E propagation, my small station was very productive this summer. I bought a Yaesu FT-897D and a Jetstream JTB4 vertical antenna earlier in the year and began trying it out on 6 meters in early June. I have also, tried out an MFJ-1764 dipole antenna, but found that while the dipole works better for horizontally polarized groundwave, the JTB4 works better for DX. Almost immediately, I was working into Louisiana and Texas. Only days after starting to try 6 meters, I made my first DX contact with CO8LY, Eduardo in Santiago de Cuba. The very next day I made what is probably my longest 6 meter contact to date, working Paul, VE1DX in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



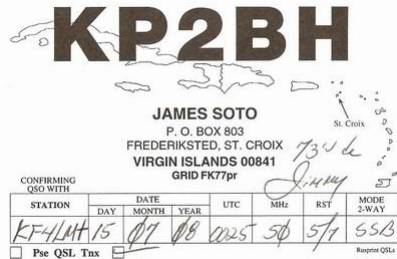
On June 15, I had the chance to work the June VHF QSO Party that Sunday morning before going to work that afternoon. I worked twenty stations in an hour's time. Those twenty contacts encompassed 11 states, mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. I didn't turn in a score for the contest, but it was a great opportunity to collect grid squares and put stations in the logbook.

Sunday morning during Field Day deserves mention; it saw an excellent 6 meter opening. Using a 6 meter quarterwave vertical and my FT-897D we worked well over 100 stations, all beginning with a maritime mobile station in Canada. At one point while I was averaging a station a minute!

More DX was to come. On June 23, I worked Ted, HI3TEJ in the Dominican Republic. I went on to work Ted several other times during the E-skip season. I also worked Eduardo, CO8LY several more times throughout the summer. On July 1, I worked Mexico for the first time, working Jorge, XE2WWW after several unsuccessful attempts during the previous week. On July 3, I made a contact in the Turks and Caicos Islands, working Jim, VP5/WB2REM.



July 14 was an even better 6 meter DX day, with great E-skip into the Caribbean. It started when I worked Ed, KP4YI in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. A few hours later, I worked Alexsandr, HI3/LY3UM in the Dominican Republic. Quickly following Alexsandr, I worked Jose, WP4AZT and Pedro, NP4A in Puerto Rico. Shortly thereafter, I worked Ted, HI3TEJ again. The evening ended after I worked Jimmy, KP2BH in the US Virgin Islands.



Considering that I was only using a vertical antenna and 100 watts compared to the amplifiers and beams of other stations, I was very pleased with what I was able to do on 6 meters this summer. I was able to work from the east coast west to Nebraska and from Nova Scotia south to the Virgin Islands. Some of the big gun stations were heard working multi-hop E Skip to the west coast and one Florida Station worked Japan this year! I am looking forward to having a Yagi antenna up before next year's E Skip season so I can work more stations and even try to catch some multi-hop E skip.

Announcements

ARCS September Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

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. If you need directions prior to the meeting, contact Mac McCormick, KF4LMT at kf4lmt@comcast.net

ARCS Thursday Night Net

Thursday Nights at 9:00 PM, 146.970- repeater

Note: 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

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

Technician Class License Classes

A technician license class will be offered on Thursday nights in late September and early October. The classes will be on September 18, 25, and October 2 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. at

Memorial Hospital in the Hoskins Building, Classroom 2. The testing session will be on Saturday, October 4 at 9:00 A.M. at Southside Fire Station 1. For more information, contact Steve Jonas, K4SDJ at k4sdj@comcast.net or 355-6522.

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

James Brummet - The Passing of a Friend of the ARCS

On August 19, 2008 we sadly lost a long time member of the Savannah radio hobby community. James Brummett, better known as the Scanner Man or Frequency Man passed away. James was one of the most knowledgeable of Savannah's radio monitoring enthusiasts. He was well versed in many of the scanners available on the market and was undoubtedly the foremost expert on Savannah frequencies. James was well known amongst the Savannah amateur radio community and was a friend of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah.

James was always on the hunt for new information and was always eager to share what he had discovered with the rest of us. He seemed to have an endless number of sources within the public safety and local government. I will truly miss his periodic stops by the house to pass on his latest scoops or discoveries. Many of those who monitored off duty had radios that were programmed by James. Likewise, many in the Savannah media owe their monitoring capabilities to James; they not only got their frequency and monitoring information from James, he also programmed their radios and suggested which radios they should buy. Many casual scanner listeners in Savannah had their radios programmed by him as well.

He kept up with scanning technology as it changed. As Savannah area public safety communications changed from conventional to trunked systems, James learned about trunking and was part of a group of us who figured out how to monitor the new systems and figured out who was using what. As some things started to go digital, he kept up with who was going digital and who was staying analog.

FCC Vanity Callsign Fees to Increase September 25

ARRL Website

On August 11, the FCC [announced](#) that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the [Federal Register](#), the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.

The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934, As Amended*, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 26, 2008 *Federal Register*, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008," includes regulatory fees expected to recover a total of \$312,000,000 during FY2008, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, [FCC to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees](#).

At the time of publication, Tropical Storm Hanna is in the Atlantic with a forecast track bringing it towards the Savannah area. Please keep an eye on this storm and be prepared. Monitor local nets and frequencies for possible ARES activity.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF SAVANNAH

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.

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