



# KEY KLIX

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF SAVANNAH

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 9

## AUGUST DINNER & FOX HUNT



*Congratulations to our Fox Hunt Winners!*

*Round One: Ted, KG4EGV & Matthew, KJ4HEX*

*Round Two: Ryan, AJ4MY & Robert, KJ4HAL*

Around a dozen people turned out for dinner at the Texas Road House Restaurant (at the Savannah Mall) and Fox Hunt August 14th. After a scrumptious meal, the Fox Hunt began. Doug, KF4EFP, and Gerry Rowland were the first to hide. After a half hour, they were found by Ted, KG4EGV and his son, Matthew, KJ4HEX, on the top area of the Oglethorpe Mall Parking Garage. Andy and Beth Ann Blackburn came in a very close second.

Ted and Matthew then left the mall to go hide. The second Fox Hunt began about 15 minutes later. About 25 minutes later, the “fox” was found at the Scouting Center on Abercorn by team Ryan, AJ4MY and Robert, KJ4HAL. Others followed shortly thereafter. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

This also serves as the informal meeting minutes.

~SUBMITTED BY ANDY BLACKBURN, WD4AFY, ARCS PRESIDENT

### SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 MEETING

Beginning around 5:45pm, we will have a pre-meeting dinner at Salsarita's Restaurant, located at 5205 Waters Avenue, which is right around 67th Street. Grab a bite to eat and enjoy some camaraderie before the meeting.

The ARCS meeting will be held at Memorial Health University's Hoskins Building, Classroom 4 or 5, at 7:30pm. A short program will follow the meeting.

See you all there!

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## THE **Other Side** OF AN ARCS MEMBER

~SUBMITTED BY BETH ANN BLACKBURN, KI4ZDN, ARCS ACTIVITIES MANAGER

This month's featured member is ARCS President, **Andy Blackburn**, WD4AFY. Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, is Andy's wife. (See the August 2009 article of *The Other Side of ARCS Member* to read how Andy and Beth Ann met.)

Andy and Beth Ann have two lovable kitty cats: Tiger and Buttercup.

Andy was born in 1956 and has lived in Savannah all of his life. He attended local public schools and graduated from college with a B.S. Degree in Math.

He became a locksmith in 1975, and worked at a shop that was owned by Pete Lakakis.

Andy received his ham ticket, WD4AFY, in 1976, and met a lot of new friends.

Andy met Ed Bigbie, W4MMQ, via ham radio. In 1980, Ed asked Andy if he wanted to come work for Savannah Communications. Andy accepted the job and is currently approaching his 30<sup>th</sup> year there. Andy is the Portable Products Repair Supervisor.

Besides being the President/Webmaster of the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah, Andy is President/Webmaster of the Olin Heights Neighborhood Association, a member and Webmaster of the Oglethorpe Astronomical Association, and Vice President of the Citizens Advisory Committee in the Metro Police Central Precinct.

Andy's favorite childhood memories include summer vacation visits in west Georgia, out at his father's birthplace, and the ole farm.

Most of Andy's favorite food comes from Beth Ann's kitchen. "Low Country Boil" is one of his most favorite dishes. He also enjoys going to Rita's for gelatis or custards.

Andy spends a lot of time maintaining his lawn and gardening.



Andy and Beth Ann enjoy camping. To see their camping adventures, go to...

<http://home.comcast.net/~andyblackburn3/blackburncamping>

Andy's most favorite vacation spots are the mountains, Disney, and the Shelby Hamfest.

Andy has attended quite a few Field Days...He remembered his first Field Day, back in the '70s, using a huge generator and tube-type radios. Today's equipment is much more compact and easier to set up.

*Awesome lawn, Andy! Thanks for answering our **Other Side** questions.*

*~ Now we want to hear from you ~*

*Contact Beth Ann (bethann@g-net.net), fill out our one page questionnaire, and tell us about the other side of you!*

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THE TUBE IS DEAD. LONG LIVE THE TUBE.

~BY MARK WOLVERTON

~SUBMITTED BY PHILIP NEIDLINGER, KA4KOE

*This is a continuation of Mark Wolverson's article from the July 2009 Key Klix*

So vacuum-tube guitar amplifiers never went the way of tube TVs or radios. In part it's a matter of sheer practicality. "You can get these sound effects with very simple circuits with tubes that are very difficult to do with transistors," says David Rich. Transistors can make even-numbered overtones, but it's much harder: "It takes many, many transistors to do what one tube can do." A historical imperative is also involved. In 1998 Eric Barbour, then an engineer with the tube maker Svetlana Electron Devices, explained in the engineering journal IEEE Spectrum that "the use of tubed amplifiers in the early rock of the 1950s and '60s caused their distinctive distortions to become the standard tonal effect for the electric guitarist." Rich concurs: "Music exists in a time period, and the technology for that time period is read into it. If you want to perform Bach, you'd better wheel out a harpsichord. A guitar amplifier is a similar thing. A certain capability was created around this technology, and you need to preserve it for the artist."

When the aim isn't the creation of music but its reproduction, however, matters are much more contentious. The distortion qualities so prized by musicians, who create new sounds, are a defect for audiophiles, who seek to reproduce an ideal of aural perfection. While average music listeners, and even most audiophiles, are generally content with today's extremely sophisticated digital solid-state stereo systems, and engineers contend that modern designs have eliminated the troublesome aspects of older solid state models, a small but passionate group of tube enthusiasts begs to differ. A tubes-versus-transistors debate has raged within audio circles ever since the first transistor stereo amplifier came on the market 40 years ago. It can be nearly religious in its intensity.

"It is not an intellectually respectable debate nowadays any more than is typewriting versus word processing," writes Peter Aczel, editor and publisher of The Audio Critic. "Anything that vacuum tubes can do, solid-state devices can do better, more reliably, and at lower cost. Even the deficiencies of vacuum tubes, such as relatively high second-harmonic distortion, can be mimicked by solid-state circuitry if the designer happens to like the euphonious coloration that results." David Rich agrees: "When double-blind listening experiments are performed, any perceived differences between well-designed tube equipment- equipment that measures well in test—and modern transistor amplifiers can be shown to be unverifiable, if an experiment is run with enough trials to be statistically valid." From a scientific standpoint, if the amplifiers' specifications match, no audible differences should exist.

Still, as Charlie Kittleson explains, "To many music lovers, tube amps add more realism, excitement, and dimension to prerecorded sound. Solidstate amps can sound two-dimensional and are typically harsh and less musical." According to tube loyalists, Kittleson says, "tubes color the sound warm; solid-state colors it cold and brittle. People buy these huge 500-watt solid-state amps, and they wind up pacing around their apartments or their New York townhouses, feeling something is missing in the music. Then they go over to somebody's house and listen to a little tube amp, and they're sold. And it's not just because tubes glow in the dark or look cool, although that's part of it too."

**“As transistors began to replace tubes in guitar amplifiers, rock musicians refused to get with the program.”**

In other words, their response is a curious mix of the objective and the subjective. Almost nobody would seriously argue that tube systems and transistor audio systems are exactly the same; there are obvious physical differences in what they do and how they do it. The question is just how much those differences matter and to what degree they affect the sound produced. Terms such as warm and cold or brittle and flat are hardly scientific and are impossible to define precisely, yet they have definite meaning to many people, although that meaning can vary widely from individual to individual.

One problem is that aural perception is a highly subjective and personal phenomenon with a wide range of variation. Consider fingernails scraping across a blackboard, for example; one person simply shrugs the noise off, while another endures it as torture. Exactly the same sound reaches both sets of ears, but it produces two very different psychological and physiological responses. Even a single individual reacts to the same sound differently at different times, depending on such various factors as his or her emotional state. Another difficulty is that it's impossible to compare two sound sources separately yet at the same time. David Rich elaborates: "If you have two pictures right next to each other, you can physically look at both pictures and see differences. You can't do that with sound. There's a perception problem in that every time you hear something, you hear something different. You hear different things simply by having the event occur again and knowing in advance a little more about what the event is. And aural memory is pretty lousy for short-term events. Humans are not capable of accurate short-term memory of an acoustic event, so it is easy to believe one has perceived a difference that doesn't exist."

*But wait...there's more! Check back in October for the next installment of Mark Wolverson's article.*

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## NEWS FROM THE GEORGIA SECTION ARRL AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER:

ATTENTION STORM SPOTTERS!!

**MIKE COREY, W5MPC**, is compiling a new Storm Spotter Handbook for the ARRL, and this handbook is expected to cover such topics as the history of storm spotting, the SKYWARN program, storm spotter safety, equipment, training, software, types of severe weather, what to do before/during/after a spotter activation, and an appendix of useful material. Sounds pretty terrific, doesn't it? Well, some of you seasoned storm spotters out there may be able to help the author with this book. What he needs in particular are some original PHOTOGRAPHS of storm spotters in action, of severe weather or aftermath damage from severe weather, and ham station set-ups in NWS offices. Also needed are some FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS of severe weather experiences from storm spotters, regarding sighted and reported tornadoes, hail, damaging wind, flooding, etc. And finally, the author is interested in hearing from SkyWarn groups that successfully incorporate the use of some of the NEWER TECHNOLOGIES like D-Star, APRS, and Echolink. If you can help Mike with any of these items, please contact him at [w5mpc@arrl.net](mailto:w5mpc@arrl.net) asap. His deadline is October 1.

### SEPTEMBER HAMFESTS:

SEPTEMBER 5-6 --- SHELBY HAMFEST. We haven't been since the fest moved to its new location in Dallas, NC, but from all reports, this fest is still DEFINITELY worth the trip. <http://www.shelbyhamfest.com/>

SEPTEMBER 12 --- PRATER'S MILL HAMFEST. Sponsored by the Dalton ARC, this one is always a tailgater's delight, and if you're planning to go, plan on getting there EARLY. "Officially" starts at 7AM, but last time we were there, the wheeling and dealing started well before the sun woke up. FREE

SEPTEMBER 19 --- PAULDING ARC HAMFEST. Dallas, GA. At the Paulding Meadows Park, 8AM- 4PM.

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**52<sup>nd</sup> On the Air**  
**Sur les Ondes**  
**JAMBOREE On the**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sur Internet**  
17-18 October / Octobre, 2009

 **ARRL**  
The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

**52<sup>nd</sup> SCOUTING JAMBOREE ON THE AIR**  
*October 17, 2009, 1000-1800,*  
*Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.*  
*Awards, Patches, Scouting Fun!*  
*Philip Neidlinger, [ka4koe@arrl.net](mailto:ka4koe@arrl.net)*



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## BOY SCOUTING ACTIVITIES, FALL 2009 THRU SUMMER 2010

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Guy McDonald K4GTM, and I met with representatives from the Coastal Empire Council, Boy Scouts of America. We originally attended in order to promote JOTA (Jamboree on the Air), but during the meeting it became clear that the council leadership wants the local Amateur Radio community to step up and provide a presence at several key events in Fall 2009 thru Summer 2010.

As you may be aware, in early October 2009, Camp Blue Heron, located in Riceboro, Georgia, will be vacated. Land for a new camp has been obtained near Sylvania, GA. The property is completely undeveloped at this time. Development of the land plat will take a couple of years. In the meantime, the Council is heavily promoting key events in the coming year that coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boy Scouts. Note the following:

### JOTA (JAMBOREE ON THE AIR): OCTOBER 17, 2009 MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM, POOLER, GA.

We are well into the planning for this event, which is being promoted by the council. The website is located at <http://www.bsasavannah.org/JOTA/JOTA%20Page.htm>. The venue has been secured. All that is required at this point, is for people to step up and volunteer.

Please see this URL for events after JOTA:  
<http://www.bsasavannah.org/100%20Year%20Anniversary/Scout%20Expo.htm>

### SCOUT EXPO: OCTOBER 23-25, 2009 THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY ON EISENHOWER AVENUE IN SAVANNAH

The dates are correct; one week after JOTA. We need to have a presence at this event, probably on Saturday, October 24, 2009.

### UPCOMING SCOUTING EVENTS:

- SCOUT FEST: March 19-21, 2010, at a site to be determined in Hinesville
- SCOUT JAMBORAMA: April 30-May 3, 2010, at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds on Rte. 67 in Statesboro
- SCOUT REUNION: August 13-15, 2010, at the Memorial Stadium in Savannah

Guy and I are in agreement that our participation will have several benefits. One, we will promote Amateur Radio. The lack of a developed camp area in the foreseeable future will boost attendance, and we may get more young people turned on to Amateur Radio. Two, activities such as these are essentially "mini-Field Days", and help us tweak our emergency communications response capabilities. One Field Day a year is simply not adequate.

Please consider devoting your time to one or more of the aforementioned activities. The primary areas of concern at this time are JOTA and the EXPO. The amateur community in this area has demonstrated time and time again that it is proactive and keenly interested in public service.

Yours in Scouting,  
Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE

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## ARES NOTES

~GUY McDONALD, K4GTM, CHATHAM COUNTY ARES EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

First of all I want to thank everyone in Chatham and surrounding counties who regularly participate in our ARES program. It's your participation in the program that makes it a success and a benefit to our community. We've had an active month and we have lots of upcoming activities to help us be as prepared as possible to support our served agencies and our community at large. Here is a summary:

### TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

The Georgia ARES statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be held this October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details on exactly how we plan to participate here in Chatham and surrounding counties. Here's a hint: A primary theme will be Emergency Power!

### QUARTERLY ARES MEETING:

The next quarterly ARES meeting will be held in November. More details will be provided as they become available.

### CHATHAM COUNTY ARES 2 METER NET:

Weekly Chatham County ARES Net is held at 8:00pm each Thursday evening on the 146.970 repeater. We need some additional Net Control Operators.

### SAVANNAH AREA SIMPLEX NET:

Weekly Savannah Area Simplex Net follows the ARES Net each Thursday evening on 146.520 simplex. This net gives us some great practice in working a net without the benefit of our local repeater system. Look for an upcoming frequency change to take effect in October.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

1. CEMA has asked us to design a new HF antenna for the EOC. We've made a recommendation and are waiting for the go ahead to purchase, install, and test.
2. We had a successful test of the new dual band radio and antenna at Candler Hospital in August and look forward to doing the same at St. Joseph's soon. Thanks to Kevin-KW4B for his leadership there.
3. We performed our monthly test of the K3SRC Savannah Red Cross station as well as the satellite internet and voice over IP system.
4. Ted Moore-KJ4EGZ and I attended the CEMA EOC training on Aug 5-6. This training is for anyone who is likely to work in the EOC during and activation. Since we have a radio station there, that includes us. The next scheduled class in Sept 30-Oct 1. If you're available to attend let me know and I'll get you registered.
5. While we were at the EOC, Ted and I took the opportunity to test the N4CEM amateur radio station. This station needs to be tested monthly during hurricane season. If you'd like to help let me know.
6. We tested the K4MUM radio station at Memorial Medical Center on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look for the next test sometime in Sept. We hope to install, configure, and test the 1.2 Ghz D-Star radio.
7. Stay up to speed with what's going on in the Georgia Section ARES at [www.gaares.org](http://www.gaares.org).

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## STEVE JONAS, K4SDJ, RECOVERY UPDATE

Guy McDonald, K4GTM, visited Steve on Saturday, August 29, 2009 and posted this update on his blog:

I got to visit Steve-K4SDJ for about an hour today. Sure was good to see him and spend some time catching up on things. He's in the rehab center and is making good progress. The doc says he should go home on Sept 6th.

*This is great news! And we hope everyone will continue to keep Steve and his family in your thoughts and prayers. To follow his recovery, please visit their blog at: <http://k4sdj.blogspot.com>.*

## HELP EARN FREE MONEY FOR ARCS:

### FOOD LION SHOP AND SAVE PROGRAM

This reward program is free to all non-profit organizations and free for you to register. Food Lion will donate a percentage of what you purchase to the club. However, we must have **at least 25 people** sign up. Even if the quotas are not met for the quarter, Food Lion will still donate a minimum amount to us. So we urge you to take less than five minutes and sign up, even if you don't shop there regularly. Ready to help us get free money? Follow these quick steps:

Visit <http://www.foodlion.com> and click *MVP Card*. Then click *Lion Shop and Save* and select *Register MVP Card*. Click *Select Your Organization* and enter Savannah, GA. The Amateur Radio Club is the first on the list. Select *Add Your MVP Card* and enter *all* of the numbers on the back of your card (there are 2 smaller numbers outside of the barcode).  
And that's it! We appreciate your support!

## 2009 ARCS ELECTED OFFICIALS:

President: Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY, (912) 238-4676, [andy@g-net.net](mailto:andy@g-net.net)  
Vice President: Douglas Rowland, KF4EFP, (912) 826-7199, [jdrowland@windstream.net](mailto:jdrowland@windstream.net)  
Secretary: Brandy Davis, KI4PZW, (912) 313-7546, [ki4pzw@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4pzw@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Kayton Smith, W4KTN, (912) 238-3030, [kayton3@comcast.net](mailto:kayton3@comcast.net)  
Activities Manager: Beth Ann Blackburn, KI4ZDN, (912) 238-4676, [bethann@g-net.net](mailto:bethann@g-net.net)  
Trustee: Kurt Hoffman, N4CVF, (912) 356-8581, [n4cvf@arrl.net](mailto:n4cvf@arrl.net)

## SWAP OR SALE

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 \$80.  
Andy Blackburn, WD4AFY

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## ARCS AUGUST 2009 2 METER NET REPORT

### 146.37 / 97 REPEATER

August 06 ~- 15 check-ins      August 13 ~- 13 check-ins  
 August 20 ~- 18 check-ins      August 27 ~- 18 check-ins

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

### 37/97 Thursday Night Net Controls

September 03, 2009    Robert Owen, KJ4HAL  
 September 10, 2009    Ryan Thomas, AJ4MY  
 September 17, 2009    Doug Rowland, KF4EFP  
 September 24, 2009    Brandy Davis, KI4PZW

*\*\*Note: If there is a "no-show" net control for the ARCS 2 Meter Net, any ARCS NCS or ARCS member please feel free to pick up the net (allowing around 5 minutes). A Net Script can be found on the ARCS Webpage at: [http://www.qsl.net/arcs/net\\_script.txt](http://www.qsl.net/arcs/net_script.txt) \*\**

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## September 2009 Net Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5pm- Georgia State ARES- 3.975 LSB  9pm- Coastal Amateur Radio Society- 147.330 (CTCSS 203.5)	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5  9pm- Southeast GA 6-Meter Ragchew- 50.200 USB	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5  8pm- Statesboro Amateur Radio Society- 147.105+	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5  8pm- Chatham County ARES 146.970-  8:45pm- Savannah Simplex Net- 146.520  9pm- Amateur Radio Club of Savannah- 146.970-	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5	1pm- GA Traffic Net- 3987.5

*Comments, Questions, Ideas, or Submissions??  
 Email the Editor at [ki4pzw@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4pzw@yahoo.com)*