



Splatter

Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 1785

Gulfport, MS 39502

<http://www.ms cara.org>

Winter 2003

Repeater News

Club Appointments

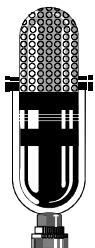
New Meeting Location

Club Holds Cookout

Dues Increase Announced

New Officers Elected

VE Testing results



The Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association (MCARA) meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the conference room at the American Red Cross building on DeBuys Road in Biloxi. All radio amateurs and persons interested in becoming an amateur are invited to attend and learn more about our organization.

The club also calls the MCARA 2 meter net each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM on the Biloxi repeater at 146.73 MHz.

Jamboree On The Air - 2003



Members of the Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association (MCARA) joined forces for a two-pronged approach to introduce Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to the wonderful world of amateur radio. On Saturday, October 18, club members met at the Scout Hut in Long Beach and at Camp Tiak near Wiggins, MS. The objective was to set up two station locations where scouts could witness firsthand the operation of ham radio and talk to each other and other stations around the state and beyond.

Jeff Smith, N9OKV, setup his amateur satellite system at the Long Beach site and demonstrated that exciting facet of our hobby to nearly 50 Scouts who attended the event. In addition, PSK-31 was demonstrated and resulted in nearly 100 contacts, all made by the Scouts. HF operations and VHF repeater operations rounded out the day's activities. Overall, the Scouts received a comprehensive exposure to equipment, operating techniques, antenna fundamentals and just how much fun our hobby can be. All participating Scouts received a most impressive certificate designed and produced by **Cynthia Smith, KD5WTK**, Jeff's XYL.

The Camp Tiak contingent set up stations for HF and VHF to demonstrate ham radio to Cub Scouts from around the surrounding area. The team, headed by **Clay McClendon, W5ACS**, and other club members, conducted operations from the First Aid Shelter and hosted nearly 200 Cubs who got the opportunity to talk on the radio. Echolink contacts were made and included one contact with a station located on Alaska's North Slope. [I'll bet that got their attention! *Ed.*] The Camp Tiak station activities lasted from 11 AM until 5 PM and offered many Cubs their first exposure to ham radio. All Cubs who operated the equipment were given certificates to recognize their participation in the event. TNX to all club members who participated. [Great job, guys! *Ed.*]

Repeater News ...

Tom Hammack, W4WLF, has become the new net control for the MCARA Emergency and Practice Net, held each Tuesday night on the Biloxi repeater. In addition, it was decided to reopen the autopatch.

On September 15 the club presented a special certificate of appreciation to **"EJ", KD5CLH**. "EJ" served as primary net control operator for **five years**. He was recognized for his outstanding service and dedication to keeping the net on schedule each Tuesday evening.

Club Appointments ...

Three members were appointed as Emergency Coordinators at the September 15 general membership meeting. They are:

Bob Kilroy, WB8BIE

Butch Horning, KA2KMU

Jeff Smith, N9OKV

Congratulations to each of them for their appointments to these important positions.

New Club Location ...

The location for our monthly meetings and Saturday morning VE testing sessions was changed in October. The move was made necessary because the Harrison County Sheriff's Department communications center was moved out of the Harrison County courthouse. Then in October, new security measures were implemented throughout the courthouse which made our continued use of the facility impractical.

Fortunately, the American Red Cross graciously came to our "rescue" and made their West Biloxi facility available for our use when we needed to find a new home. We have enjoyed a long standing relationship with the Red Cross whereby amateurs have provided vital emergency communication support when called upon. So, from now on, we will gather for our meetings and testing at their fine facility located at the corner of DeBuys Road and Fernwood Road in Biloxi. Adequate parking is adjacent to the building and is accessible from both DeBuys Road and Fernwood Road.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Biloxi chapter of the American Red Cross for their generosity, assistance and continued support of our mission to provide emergency communications whenever and wherever we are called upon to do so.

Club Holds Cookout ...

Club members and their families were treated to a cookout at the home of **Clyde Ready, W5CR** and his lovely **XYL Carol, KB5VBX** on Saturday, November 15. The event took place at the Readys' home located on Hoot Owl Hill up Highway 67 North.

Club members each brought a covered dish and enjoyed sampling each other's special recipes and cooking expertise. The meat was cooked outdoors on a new grill donated to the club for just such occasions and it has now joined our inventory of "emergency" gear.

In addition to much fine visiting, there ensued a "heated" session of horseshoes which attracted much expert advice from the sidelines. [You know what an "expert" is, don't you? That's someone over 10 miles from home who nobody knows. *Ed.*] Maybe a little "bull" was thrown in for good measure, also. Well, needless to say, some big appetites were generated as a result of the competition. Anyway, it was a fun time for all 19 who attended.

We all extend our sincere thanks to Clyde and Carol for a great afternoon at their place and to all who brought the delicious covered dishes.



The Masked Rider of the Range

(Gas cooking range, that is)

Clyde, our host at the November cookout.

Dues Increase For 2004 ..

An increase in annual dues for 2004 was approved by the membership present at the November 17 meeting. The new dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a couple. Dues are due and payable now.

New Officers Elected ...

The annual election of officers was held at our monthly meeting on November 17. At the October meeting it was decided to suspend (for this year) a provision of the bylaws limiting elected terms to two years. As a result, some present officers graciously agreed to run for an additional term. The results of the election are as follows:

President - **Dave Turgeon, WY5S**, Vice President - **Clyde Ready, W5CR**, Secretary - **Carol Ready, KB5VBX**, Treasurer - **Barry Wilhelm, WB5WB**. The following appointments were made: Activities Manager - **Clay McClendon, W5ACS**, Fellowship Director - **Gail Horning, KC5KMU**, Field Day Chairman - **Jeff Smith, N9OKV**. Congratulations to each of our new officers and appointees for 2004.

VE Testing Results ...



August Maggiore, Sr.
(General)
October 4, 2003



Dale LeFrance, Sr.
KD5UVV (General)
November 1, 2003



Patricia Miller
(General)
November 1, 2003



Charles D. Roberts
(Technician)
November 1, 2003

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1st Class
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The *Splatter* is published quarterly for members and friends of the **Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association (MCARA)**. It aims to broaden their awareness and understanding of issues and events relevant to radio amateurs in this area.

MCARA Officers for 2004:

President: David Turgeon, WY5S

Vice President: Clyde Ready, W5CR

Secretary: Carol Ready, KC5VBX

Treasurer: Barry Wilhelm, WB5WB

Splatter Editor: Joe Littlepage, WE5Y

MCARA Calendar:

- 1st Saturday of each month: VE testing in the conference room of the American Red Cross building located at the corner of DeBuys Road and Fernwood Road in West Biloxi

- 3rd Monday of each month: Monthly general membership meeting at the same location

- Every Thursday night at 7:00 pm: Coffee Break and fellowship get together at McAllister's located in the Popp's Ferry shopping center (west) located at Popp's Ferry Road and Pass Road in West Biloxi