



Splatter

Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association

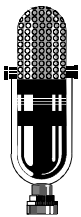
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Spring 2007

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The Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association (MCARA) meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at the American Medical Response (AMR) building at 12020 Intraplex Parkway in Gulfport. 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 Emergency and Training net each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM on the Biloxi repeater at 146.73 MHz.

Putting D-Star On The Air



Barry (WB5WB), Ray Luke, chief engineer for WXXV-TV, and Tom (W4WLF) prepare to move a spool of heliax cable to prepare it for going up the 1,478 foot WXXV-TV tower

The date was Monday, March 12, 2007. The morning was clear as four members of the Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association (MCARA) pointed their vehicles north toward McHenry in Stone County. Their destination was the transmitter site for **WXXV-TV (FOX 25)**. Their mission was to assist the station's chief engineer, **Ray Luke**, in preparing and raising five hugh cables to the 500 level of the 1,478 foot tower. MCARA team members consisted of **Tom Hammack (W4WLF)**, **Barry Wilhelm (WB5WB)**, **Jim McReynolds (KE5ELT)** and **Joe Littlepage (WE5Y)** who photo-documented the day's activities.

Plans called for five cables to be installed but the project moved slower than anticipated and only two were in place by the end of the first day. Team members assisted in supporting the unrolled cables (to prevent kinks or twists) while special weather-proof coax fittings were installed. Following preparation, the cable spools were loaded into a two-man cage which was wenched up the tower to the 500 foot level. The connection was then made to the appropriate antenna and the cage slowly lowered to ground level where the team carefully unwound the remainder of the cable from the spool and fed it into the building which houses the transmitters.

The day proved to be fun, interesting and educational. The new D-Star repeater for south Mississippi is now on the air!

D-Star Repeater News ...

The D-Star for South Mississippi is now on the air! The repeater location is at McHenry located about 20 miles north of Gulfport at the WXXV (FOX channel 25) transmitter tower site. The D-Star equipment is all digital and the only transceivers at this time are made by Icom. However, the D-Star transceivers will work normal FW analog and do data and voice, which is very clear. The price is higher than analog equipment so don't be discouraged when you go shopping.

Repeater callsign - KI4TMJ

145.170 - C

444.475 + B

1284.000 - 12 MHz A, DV

Data frequency - 1250.000 A

This information is current as of March 31, 2007.

Tropical Weather Watch

Charles Aldridge, KD5ZSM, has been a part of MCARA for the past four years or so and is now a student at University of South Alabama in Mobile. He and a group of fellow students are very interested in weather and related matters. They have developed a very interesting website and invite you can visit them at www.tropicalweatherwatch.com.

Charles is the Tropical Weather Watch Administrator for the group. This group of students played a key role in reporting recent violent weather that ripped through south Alabama causing extensive damage to property. The local TV station did a report on their valuable contribution to the local communities. If you wish to view the report go to <http://www.fox10tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6165597>.

We extend our congratulations to Charles and his fellow students for a job well done.

Our Vice President, **Barry Wilhelm (WB5WB)**, has scheduled some guest speakers with interesting topics to present at our monthly meetings. Plan to attend and enjoy our speakers.

160 Meter Contest ...

Club members gathered at the home of **Clay McClendon (W5ACS)** in late February to participate in the annual **160 meter contest** and **Mississippi QSO Party**. The around-the-clock operation was a challenge for all and provided a great opportunity to enjoy some great "hamming" and comradship.

The highlight of the event was the successful operation of the improved 160 meter antenna that Cley and **John Moore (W5EG)** homebrewed for last field day. With some coil modification the antenna certainly proved its worth.

March Guest Speaker ...

Joe Littlepage (WE5Y) made a Power Point presentation at the March meeting. He covered basic QRP operation, solar power for the amateur station and a brief review of safe battery handling procedures.

He also presented a slide show documenting the activities at the WXXV tower site when club members assisted in putting cables up the 1470 foot tower to get the D-Star repeater and other operations on the air. See article on front page for complete details.

Fellow Ham Needs Help

Hello everyone on the coast. I have a good friend who is 90 years old in need of some help putting his dipole back up since the hurricane. I know most of you are having the same problems as I lived in New Orleans all my life until I retired seven years ago.

Jack, KB5FC is a wonderful man who has twenty children, yes that's right, and all live away from him for the most part. Jack is very active and a very prideful man, so if any members can help him out, don't say you received my email. Do this for the fun of Amateur Radio, hams helping hams.

After meeting Jack, you will feel very blessed to meet such a wonderful person. He has quite a history in ham radio, you may want him to give a little speech at your club meeting. He is sharp as a tack, and quite humorous.

If your club can help Jack out in anyway, please let me know. I would also like to invite your club members to look for our Special Event Station coming up in April. Please view our website at www.wzeros.com, click on any picture for more information. Thank you all if you can help. DE **WA0SAP**

Spring VE Testing Program Results

The Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association's volunteer testing program has had another great quarter resulting in several new amateurs being licensed as well as several upgrades throughout the period. Out of fifteen (15) applicants, nine persons were successful in passing tests for the license classes they sought. This speaks well for their determination to pass the FCC tests designed to ensure adequate knowledge of the nine specific areas of amateur radio operations required before going on the air. Our sincere congratulations go out to each of them and our best wishes for a long and rewarding association with our great hobby.



Fr. Charles Nutter (KE5IAU)
Extra Class - January 6, 2007



Steve Walling (KF9ED)
Extra Class - January 6, 2007

There were no successful candidates testing in February.

The month of March saw four applicants successfully pass the test for General Class. They were: **Gerald Byrd (N5UCF)**; **Stephen Byrd (N5WGE)**; **Billy Heldt (KD5WDM)**; and **James Montgomery (KE5MTV)**. We regret that no photographs were taken to mark the event but we extend our hearty congratulations to each of them and wish them many years of success and fun in our hobby.

The month of April saw nine applicants turn out for testing. Of that number, five were successful. They were: **Betty Byrd (KB5CSQ)** who upgaded to Extra Class; **James McReynolds (KE5ELT)** who upgraded to General Class; **Tim Wisenhunt**, **Matthew Fasler** and **Robert Frey** each of whom successfully passed the test for Technician Class. Again, we have no photographs to bring to our readers but extend our sincerest congratulations to each of these hams.

Note: If you are reading our club newsletter for the first time and would like more information about how to become a ham operator or upgrade your present license class, contact any one of our club officers listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Important Dates In Radio History - Part 3

1922 - The two grades of Amateur license required examination on adjusting and operating equipment, knowledge of International Conventions and U.S. laws, ability to transmit and receive in the Continental Morse at least 10 words per minute and recognize important signal usage of the day. Amateur stations were restricted to operating on frequencies of 200 meters and below with input power of 1,000 watts or less.

1923 - A patent was granted for **single side band**.

1923 - Radio station **WWV** began broadcasting time and frequency information.

1923 - On November 27 amateur operator **Leon Deloy (8AB)**, of Nice, France operating CW on 110 meters worked the USA stations of **Fred H. Schnell (1MO in Connecticut)** and **John L. Reinartz (1QP/1XAL, later W3RB)**. This DX contact of 4,000 miles was quite an accomplishment for that day!

1924 - **H.S. Shaw** introduced quartz crystal control of radio transmitters to the amateur radio community. Also, Hams began to build some of the first superheterodyne receivers.

1924 - On October 18 an amateur in England, **Cecil Goyder (G2SZ)**, worked the New Zealand amateur station of **Frank Bell (Z4AA)**, a distance of almost 12,000 miles.

1924 - Amateurs received new bands at **80, 40, 20, and 5 meters**. Spark transmission was prohibited on the new bands. By 1926, all spark transmission was prohibited for use by Amateurs.

1925 - Heater type vacuum tubes made possible the first all electric receivers and dynamic loudspeakers appeared.

1925 - The **International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)** was founded to organize and represent the interests of Amateur Radio, nationally and internationally.

1926 - **Hidetsugu Yagi** and **Shintaro Uda** invented the “yagi” or “beam” type antenna array.

MCARA Officers for 2006

President: Dave Turgeon, WY5S

Vice President: Barry Wilhelm, WB5WB

Secretary: Carol Ready, KC5VBX

Treasurer: Ernie Orman, W5OXA

Splatter Editor: Joe Littlepage, WE5Y

MCARA Calendar for 2007

- **1st Saturday of each month: VE testing** in the meeting room of the American Medical Response, Inc. (AMR) building located at **12020 Intraplex Parkway** off of Cowan-Lorraine Roads in Gulfport.

Directions: Traveling North on Cowan-Lorraine Road from Pass Road, Intraplex Parkway is the first light AFTER the Seaway Road traffic light. Turn LEFT onto Intraplex parkway (across from the Mississippi Power plant). AMR is the first building on the RIGHT (north) side of the road. The entrance is the door on the right (east) side of the building. **Traveling South** from I-10 exit 38, take the first right (at traffic light) onto Intraplex Parkway.

- **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 **O'Neals II Restaurant** located at **2330 East Pass Road in Gulfport across from the Fernwood school.**