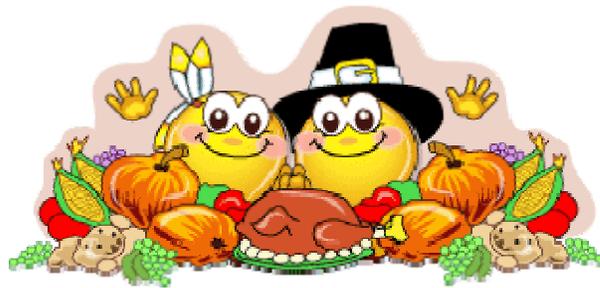


Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

November 2008



Happy Thanksgiving

President's Corner



Philip Loggins K4PDL

Gee Whiz..... Here it is the end of October. Fall is upon us, and the leaves are changing. I was thinking about getting our community involved in ham radio. What could we do to make this CHANGE?

We often hear hams lament that their communities show little interest in amateur radio. While this may be true, hams have to realize that community involvement is a two-way street. To get communities involved in Amateur Radio, Amateur Radio needs to be involved with the community.

Maybe if we instill "different" ideas into our club, like the idea of a Special Event Station for a community event, etc., we can start that change. The work has to start with us.

JOTA was a success with more than 150 scouts coming through to experience what Amateur Radio was all about. There are so many possibilities if we just put forth a little effort. The club will reap what we sow.

Thanks to all who came out to share some good eats at LARC dinner. I think a great time was had by all. A special thanks to all the ladies who stayed to help Susan clean up and secure the building. I appreciate each and everyone. There will be more get togethers

planned for next year, so stay tuned. But there is one special one left for this year. This is our Christmas Breakfast being held at Ryan's, Dec. 6th. at 8 AM. Please make plans to attend for this will be our December meeting.

Get out and enjoy this great hobby. Be RADIO – ACTIVE!

As always, email (k4pdl@bellsouth.net) me with your thoughts, ideas, and /or criticisms. This is YOU'RE CLUB, be an active part of it.

Help us preserve the good and build for tomorrow. Start today.

Until next time,
73

Correction: Last month John Vaughn's call sign was incorrectly listed as one of the contributors of the "Sunspot" article. His correct call is WA4ZQP.

Sorry for the mistake John. My fingers are faster than my brain.

Congratulations

New "HAMS" and upgrades from October 5 session

New Hams

[Welcome to the hobby](#)

Scott Wilbanks-KJ4HAT (LARC Tech class)

Cheryl Locke-KJ4HAU

Kimberly D Shockley-KJ4HAV (Wife of Marc KJ4EZQ)

Scott Monahan-KJ4HAW

Upgrades

Marc Shockley-KJ4EZQ upgraded to Extra

Congratulations

New "HAMS" and upgrades from October 18 special session

New Hams

[Welcome to the hobby](#)

Beth Weaver - KJ4HHU (LARC Tech Class)

Tina Farr - KJ4HHV (LARC Tech Class)

William Lee – KJ4HHW

Matthew Shockley – KJ4HHX (Brother of Marc KJ4EZQ)

Upgrades

Mark Murray-KD4PEO upgraded to Extra

Many thanks to Roger WB4T and the LARC VE team for making our testing sessions possible. Special thanks to Norman Harrill N4NH, our extraordinary VEC.

Antenna Mast Stands

Ed Cravey KF4HPY

How many of you wonder how my PVC antenna stands ever got started? I have to admit it was the high cost of the stands available for sale on the market. Also, my inability to weld prevented me from fabricating my own. "Just have one welded by a shop," someone said! "Not me", I retorted, "I'll make my own using something else!" So began Ed's antenna stands. Having just retired on a small pension and being new to ham radio, it had to be cheap. The material had to be easily worked also. I had noticed that PVC pipe almost never broke at the joint; therefore the joint must be the stronger. I saw that the pipe arranged coaxially would be stronger than one by itself. If you follow my tale you can make one for yourself.

I located scrap 2x10 planks and cut them to 30-inch lengths. Use either, treated or plain wood. Next I selected either a black ABS or a white PVC closet flange depending on colors desired. The size of the flanges and outer pipe will depend on the diameter you want, 3-inch or 4-inches. The outer pipe is the main support and is usually cut to 30 inches. For a shorter more compact stand, pick a 4-inch pipe to store in say, a trunk of a small car. Next I determined the size the mast I wanted to use. I use TV masts of 1-1/4 inch in diameter: therefore I must buy 1-1/2 inch PVC pipe for the inner pipe. I can shim the excess if needed. Another piece to buy is a cone-shaped reducer, generally 3x1 1/2 - inches for the majority of stands. Let's check: we have a flange and reducer in matching color to match in size the inner and outer pipes, the plank base (I favor treated wood), add to these an outer pipe and a longer inner pipe in PVC. For hardware I use lag bolts in 5/6-inch x 2 inches long and washers in 5/6-inch. If you are using ABS and PVC in your stand buy the All-purpose cement, otherwise use PVC cement. Ready for the assembly?

Start by laying out the lengthwise centerline of the plank, now locate a point 7 inches inboard from one end and mark it with a center punch, this the spot for the mandrel bit for the 2-inch hole-saw. This 2-inch hole is the outside size of a 1-1/2-inch PVC pipe and the secret of my stands success; support top and bottom. While we are into the layout, center the flange on the mandrel point and mark the bolt holes in the wood plank. Check to see that the 5/6 lag-bolts will pass easily through the flange holes, if not drill out to 5/16. Next, do the 2-inch hole through the plank, followed by piloting the flange holes. Pilot holes relieve the stress of inserting the lag-bolts and prevent splitting the wood. Use a 5/32 or 1/8-inch drill bit to pilot. If desired you can bisect the 90-degree corners and drill a 3/8 hole at 2 inches inboard of the corner to accept a 3/8x12-inch spike to anchor the stand in the ground when concrete blocks or a vehicle is not available. Now would be good time to use a router, sander, or just paint the wood base and set it aside.

It's assembly time! The pipe cement is All-Purpose for PVC and ABS plastics (ABS the black material); use PVC cement for all-PVC stands (white material). Start by setting out your 3-inch pipe cut to 30 inches or whatever you need. Next saw the 1-1/2-inch pipe to a length 6-inches longer than the 3-inch pipe. Next step is to remove the shoulder inside the reducer with a file; you will be inserting the 1-1/2 inch pipe backwards into the reducer. When the reducer is ready (the pipe is a friction fit all the way through the reducer) apply cement to both pipe and reducer and push and twist the pipe into the reducer from the rear until it is flush with the small end of the reducer. This may require a bit of tapping with a mallet. The result will be a pipe with a cone hat. Next is the mating of

the 3-inch pipe with the reducer. Apply pipe cement to both joint surfaces, and with a push and a fourth of a turn of the parts the reducer/outer pipe joint is made. Now it is starting to look like a coaxial unit with the pipes forming concentric circles. Next is the mating of the 3-inch pipe to flange joint using the now familiar cement, push and twist until the pipes are fully seated technique. Finally we get to the wood and plastic joint; pass the 1-1/2 inch pipe through the 2-inch hole in the plank, and align the flange holes with the piloted holes in the wood base, insert the lag bolts and washers, tighten the bolts until snug. This may be made easier by using blocks under the base or by using a table with an opening to receive the pipe below the base. Taking a saw, remove the excess protruding through the base. If a 1-1/4 inch TV mast is used and the 1-1/2 inch pipe is too loose, make a pair of bushings. The bushings are made out of 1-1/4 PVC pipe about 6-inches long, and have a 3/8-inch section sawn out lengthwise. The 6-inch section is sawed in two and inserted into the top and the bottom of the 1-1/2 inch pipe for a press fit or cemented in place as desired. Voila! Messieurs, Mesdames; we are finished!!

Care, of the stands? Not much. Store out of the sun. If used in constant sun, painting will help to preserve and conceal the stand. Check the torque of the bolts, as the wood will shrink over the years. The nail holes will shrink and the zinc plating on the spikes will make for a snug fit. To remove the zinc-plated spikes, lift the stand enough to grip the shank with a pair of Vise-Grips; pull straight up with a twisting motion and the spikes will come up easily. These stands are, to be driven upon, held to the earth by concrete blocks or even spiked down. These will support a pair of 10-foot TV masts without guys. My personal stands are at least a decade old and have accompanied me on disasters with no problems, plus joining me on vacations. As I operate portable, I use three 5-foot sections as a normal thing. Twenty feet plus antenna can be taxing without help or special techniques. So enjoy your stand and practice safety at all times.

73, Ed

Bottom View of Antenna Stand



PVC Antenna Stands



CLUB LOGO ITEMS

(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

Ball Caps Embroidered Logo



\$10.00

T-Shirts (Silk Screen LOGO)



\$10.00

Embroidered Patches



\$3.50



ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE)

Visit <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> for more info

FEMA Independent Study Program (ISP)

For those of us who are emergency responders, it is a prerequisite to have taken and passed independent Study courses IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) and IS-700 (National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction) as a minimum. All ISP courses are designed to allow you to learn at your own pace and at your leisure and are FREE.

All it will cost you is a little time.

A list of all FEMA ISP courses and links for each course can be found at

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

When you have completed the required courses (and/or other ISP courses) and have your course completion certificate in hand,, please let Ron Mulberry, KI4RBE or one of his assistants know so we can get your training logged. Take as many of the courses as you wish but REMEMBER IS-100 and IS-700 are required.

BUY, SELL, TRADE

[List your gear here](#)



OSCAR STATUS :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>

OSCAR FREQUENCIES :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/frequencies.php>

November Club Meeting

November 25 at Curt's in Oakwood.

Dinner at 5:30pm with meeting at 6:30pm

LARC dates for 2008 (mark your calendars)

LARC Christmas Breakfast December 6

Hamfest

Nov 1-2	Georgia State Convention (Stone Mountain Hamfest & Computer Expo) Alford Memorial Radio Club http://www.totr-radio.org THIS HAMFEST IS ALWAYS ONE OF THE BEST AROUND: HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!
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Lunch Bunch Every Friday at 11:30 there is a lunch get-together at a local restaurant. The location is announced on the Wednesday night net, our web site under the activities tab and under the calendar icon as well as announced on the 146.67 repeater. ALL are welcome

Repeater Info: 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz 444.950 (+) 131.8 Hz

Hall County Nets W4ABP repeater 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz
Hall County ARES Net, Wednesday @ 20:00 & LARC Net Wednesday @20:30
“Everyone is welcome to check in”

Quote of the Month:

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

Chinese Proverb of the Month

Never insult an alligator until after you have crossed the river.

My Uncle, My Mentor and My Friend.

When I think of ham radio, I can remember many mentors, those folks who offered help and guidance along the way. But when I consider my first love of radio and where it all started, I always see my uncle, Lonnie Hall.

After declining health, my Uncle Lonnie died on October 11th in Walhalla South Carolina. He ran his own radio/TV repair shop and his work was well known in South Carolina and surrounding states. As a tribute to him, I would like to attempt to describe how he encouraged my love of radio.

It was Lonnie who gave me my first radio. It was a small, red tube type little box that mostly picked up local stations. I would place it in my toy chest at night and it was the first thing I pulled out in the morning. There was a lot of music and a good bit of local news coming from Walhalla's WGOG.

Lonnie upgraded that radio with a larger one that had plenty of knobs and a small red light that I could still see then. As a 5 year old, I would go to his shop and turn any knob I could find. He said he gave me a radio with plenty of knobs to turn. (only two of them actually did anything.)

It was Lonnie who gave me my first FM radio. (Yes I'm old enough to remember when very few people had an FM radio.) Lonnie didn't exactly introduce me to short wave listening, but he encouraged it by showing me a radio he had in his shop that would let me "hear music from Russia." He gave me my first CB radio which eventually lead me into ham radio. Lonnie never became a ham but I think he appreciated the fact that I did.

I love to hang out at my uncle's shop, listening to him trouble shoot problems with radios and TV's. While I didn't know much about capacitors, resistors or all those funny numbers on tubes, I was pleased when Lonnie got the set working again. Even now when I'm with hams who talk about their equipment or tinker with it, I can picture Lonnie and his work.

Lonnie was more than an uncle. He was a mentor. He took the time to answer my childish questions. He was a friend. As an adult, when we would go for a visit, he would sit and talk to me while Sunday dinner was cooking. He would even walk with me to the table.

Here's to a great mentor, friend and uncle. May we all attempt to follow in his foot steps.

Mike Hall, N4HGO

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RICHARD GARRIOTT W5KWQ OPERATES ON-ORBIT

Amateur Radio Newsline

The son of famed ham radio space pioneer Owen Garriott, W5LFL, is now on the International Space Station and on the air. A Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, arrived at the space station at 08:26 UTC on October 14th and was soon heard on the air.

Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the details:

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, has made it to the International Space Station high above the Earth. Since his Oct. 14, arrival, he has been busy making amateur radio contacts across the globe.

Some say the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding this mission almost rivals that of his father, Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, the first ham who made contacts from space as an astronaut. Well, it didn't take long for Garriott to jump onto the radio after a welcome aboard from cosmonaut Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS.

Stan Vandiver, W4SV, in Hanna, Indiana, had his recorder going as Garriott conducted his first QSO with Randal De Priest, N4AC, in Cumming, Georgia.

Garriott stayed on for more than one stateside QSO. Within hours of climbing aboard, W5KWQ began sending slow scan amateur television pictures to stations on the ground. All of the photos were transmitted on 145.800 MHz FM and can be viewed at the ARISS Slow Scan gallery. That URL is simply www.amsat.com/ARISS_SSTV/ And yes that is a dot com rather than the usual AMSAT dot org.

By way of background, Garriott, is a computer game developer who paid \$35 million dollars for his trip to space. Traveling with him to the space outpost were U.S. astronaut Michael Fincke, KE5AIT, and Russian cosmonaut Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT. Fincke will serve as commander of the six-month Expedition 18 mission which will focus on preparing the station to house six crew members on longer-duration missions.

W5KWQ returned to Earth on Friday October 24th with the space station's outgoing crew aboard a Soyuz re-entry vehicle.

As an aside, once the hatches between the Soyuz capsule and the I-S-S were opened Sergi Volkov, whose cosmonaut father was orbiting the earth when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, welcomed Garriott with a hug. NASA says that they are first children of previous space adventurers to meet in orbit. (ARNewsline from various sources)

RADIO WAVES

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

A NEW CYCLE 24 SUNSPOT APPEARS

Some encouraging news for DX'ers and any ham who hopes to one day work some distant contacts. What's being called a 'new-cycle' sunspot belonging to Solar Cycle 24 has shown itself near the stars northeastern limb. The new spot, now designated as SSN 1005 was reported over the weekend of the 12th and 13th making this the third time in as many weeks that a new-cycle sunspot has interrupted the year's run of blank solar activity.

The accelerating pace of new-cycle sunspots is viewed an encouraging sign by astronomers and hams alike. For radio amateurs, it seems to be saying that while solar activity remains very low, the sunspot cycle is unfolding more or less normally. In other words, we are not stuck in a prolonged solar minimum. At least we hope its not.

More about this new sunspot and overall solar activity is on line at [www dot spaceweather dot com](http://www.dot.spaceweather.com). And remember that Spaceweather is spelled as one word. (Southgate, Spaceweather)

RESCUE RADIO: HAM TO HAM CONTACT LEADS TO SEA RESCUE

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

A Coast Guard crew rescued an unnamed boater who ran out of fuel as he sailed from Hawaii to California. Early on Tuesday, October 7th the crew aboard the cutter Halibut out of in Marina del Rey, California, found the sailor about 100 miles off the coast.

According to the Daily Breeze newspaper, the mariner was traveling on his 44-foot boat when he ran out of fuel. He reportedly used his

amateur radio gear to contact another radio amateur in Florida, who in turn contacted the Coast Guard in California. It in turn dispatched the Halibut.

The cutter located the marooned vessel and towed it closer to shore. It was then transferred to a 47-foot motor lifeboat crew from the Channel Islands station.. The names and calls of the hams involved in the rescue were not reported. (Daily Breeze)

Adcock misses his students

Anxious to get back to normal and work
Jessica Jordan-The Gainesville Times

Katie Collier, a senior at Johnson High School, recalls the visit Mike Adcock, assistant principal at Johnson High School, made to her class on the first day of school this year.

"Coach Adcock is one of those administrators that when he walked in any classroom, it wasn't, 'Who's in trouble?' He was there to tell us that he loved us and ... to make sure everybody was having a great first day," Collier said. "Everybody was smiling when he left. That was just the effect he has on everybody in the school."

At 6 a.m. the following day, Aug. 8, Adcock was en route to Johnson High School when he lost control of his black Ford Explorer. He traveled 202 feet before the driver's side of his vehicle struck a tree on Poplar Springs Road, according to a report from the Georgia State Patrol.

After enduring 18 surgeries and 11 weeks in the hospital, Adcock finally made it back to his Flowery Branch home Saturday. In the Atlanta rehabilitation center, he left behind a room filled with cards, banners and a poster that described Adcock as "equipped to endure," which was reminiscent of his days as a graduation coach at Flowery Branch High School.

Adcock has been an educator for nearly 30 years, several of which he spent as the boys' head basketball coach at Flowery Branch High School before he became the assistant principal at Johnson High School last year.

On his return home, Adcock was accompanied by his wife, Linda Adcock, who teaches at Spout Springs Elementary, his son, David Adcock, who is a special education teacher at Johnson High School, and his daughter, Beth Adcock, who is a senior at Piedmont College.

Adcock's two bulldogs greeted him as he came home. His wife, Linda, had already planned out his first meal back. At his request, she made him two eggs, ham and oatmeal.

"It's all getting better every day," Mike Adcock said. "It's just been a long ordeal. ... I want to try to get back (to work) before the (school) year's out. ... I love those kids. I just enjoy being around them. I enjoy the high school age better than you'd think."

Adcock said although he's come a long way since Aug. 8, he still has a long way left to go.

Damon Gibbs, principal of Johnson High School, said Adcock's accident happened just one-third of a mile from the school. Gibbs said he arrived to school that morning to find a helicopter landing in the school parking lot, ready to rush Adcock to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

"I didn't know how bad it was until I got here," Gibbs said.

As a former neighbor and seven-year co-worker of Adcock's, Gibbs said he and the rest of the students, faculty and staff of Johnson High School were devastated by the severe one-car wreck that nearly took Adcock's life.

Adcock sustained broken bones in both legs, an ankle, his pelvis and a rib, which contributed to a collapsed lung. He had a tracheotomy to prevent long term damage to his vocal cords. In late August, doctors had to amputate Adcock's lower left leg, just below the knee, to save the limb. Three weeks ago, Adcock had yet another surgery, this time on his stomach. And he's lost a lot of weight during his recovery.

"He's probably been as close to death as you can come without being gone," Gibbs said.

"I don't remember not one thing about it — that's what's so sad about the whole situation," Mike Adcock said of the wreck. "I just remember waking up at Grady about six weeks after the wreck. I was just asleep, in and out."

Adcock said he still has a lifetime of rehabilitation ahead of him and now looks forward to being able to walk using a prosthetic leg. He said although it's been a painful three months, the support of family, friends and the students at Johnson High School have carried him through those 18 surgeries.

He said his wife has been the glue that's held it all together.

As she sat beside her husband during those dark six weeks while he was incoherent, Linda Adcock said the communication she had with family and friends on www.carepages.com, a Web site that allows people to track a loved one's progress in the hospital, helped her to manage.

"Just knowing how many people we had praying for us ... it was an overwhelming peace and strength," she said.

The Johnson High School volleyball team held a tournament in September in which all proceeds were donated to the Adcock family to help defray traveling and medical expenses. In addition, Collier led students in the school's National Honor Society program in a fundraising effort to sell \$1 blue and white ribbons, symbolic of the Johnson High School Knights' school colors, that earned \$450 for the Adcock family.

Friends of Adcock also established a Mike Adcock benefit fund for contributions at Regions bank locations.

"It's hard to put into words the impact he's had on the kids here at the school," Gibbs said. "He's touched a lot of people."

Collier said she's looking forward to the day when the whole school can welcome Adcock back.

"His presence is definitely something we miss," she said.

Adcock said the support from friends, family and students has made the long recovery bearable. He said the cosmetology teacher at Johnson High School even visited him in the hospital to give him a hair cut.

"If you was laying up here by yourself, you wouldn't have a chance," he said. "I'm just a fortunate person to have that kind of support.

"It's been painful every day I wake up. It's been painful to get through all this. But I sure do miss those kids at Johnson High School."

Editors note: Mike has worked closely with our VE team providing access into the school facility for license exams. We wish for him all the very best in the days to come. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. We wish for him continued success in his recovery and hope he is able to return to work soon.

AN AMATEUR

Over the years there are similar common questions asked by new amateur radio operators. In the 2006 reprinted edition of the [ARRL 1926 Radio Amateur's Handbook](#), Chapter 1, What Is An Amateur ?, are two paragraphs that may provide some answers and some history.

O

"In many places it is possible to join a radio club and to enjoy active membership. The exchange of information between club members is valuable. By talks and demonstrations the club provides interesting winter activities. Through code classes, beginners are helped in getting started as "good" operators. A club library containing the books best suited to the members is an additional asset to the radio enthusiast who does not have too much money to spend on his hobby. In the summer, social activities of a different nature keep the members together for some enjoyable times. Picnics, demonstrations with portable equipment, and athletic contests keep up the interest then. Many such clubs are affiliated with the League and receive monthly bulletins from the League. On request, information on organizing a club and becoming affiliated is supplied from League Headquarters."

"Amateur radio offers the only means of free communication with our fellows who are outside the range of the human voice. When we have become familiar with some of the simple facts about this fascinating hobby we will want to get on the air and talk by wireless with other men who have stations similar to ours. This we can do just as soon as our station is in actual operation. Cards will be received from many places where our signals have been heard. Correspondence with folks we have met by radio will result. New friendships will be made. We will take pride in our station and its records."



My radio is sick. Who do I call?

We recommend "The Radio Doctor" Milton Lord, N4DA

Visit his web site at <http://www.n4da.com/>

Or give him a call at 770-966-1166

While your on his site, check out his Home Brew AMP

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LARC's Michael Crowder K9VR

Many thanks go to those who submitted news, information and articles for this edition. Send you newsletter contributions to

W4DJG@bellsouth.net

As a reminder, the newsletters are archived within our web-site. Each issue is listed with the most recent edition first.

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org/newsletters.html>

73 to all