

Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

May 2008

President's Corner

Philip Loggins K4PDL

It's the First of May, and who has thought about starting to sow those seeds? I hope you are at least making your list. I would like to welcome our new Vice President, Mac Payne WD4MP, into the LARC hall of Officers. He will be a great asset to the team in helping us get the club up and running. Contact anyone of us for any comments, suggestions, or criticisms. Let us know what you'd like to see in the club and help us grow. This month is going to be a very busy month. Zack is in the Regional Championships, hopefully going to STATE. Graduation is just around the corner. I wish they didn't have to grow up so fast. Dayton Hamfest is almost upon us. Hope some of you are making plans to go. If so, contact our editor and give him your stories of your trip. This is one Hamfest you really need to make at some point in your life. Our Field Day is also just around the corner. Hope everyone is gearing up for this event. Let's make this the best Field Day ever!

Until next time,
73

PSK-31, The Next Step, Interfaces

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

“Few of the many interfaces on the market”

RIGblasters



BuxComm Rascal

By now I hope you have sampled the clever world of PSK-31 using one double ended stereo cable. I am going to assume you have filled out the personal data screen so that when you hit the “Call 3” button and T/R the computer starts sending words across the screen, with warbling coming out of the PC speaker. Is your “Brag File “ filled out? If yes, you are ready to go on the air. But, just a moment; what else is needed? An interface is needed. You can build your own, or buy some very versatile commercial units. My first interface was a Rascal from BUX.COM, won in a drawing. These are simple, custom built for each radio. Example, a Rascal built for a Yaesu FT-817 has data port and serial cables along with two 1/8 stereo plug cables for the sound card input/output jacks. The radio failed after a short while and I had it repaired and sold it along with the Rascal. The Rascal also comes in kit form, quite inexpensive. Since I had it so short a time, I will not say any more about it. The following steps are based upon the DigiPan program manual..

As I had two ICOM radios, an IC-706MkII G and an IC-718; I decided to go with West Mountain Radio (WMR) and bought the Nomic RIGblaster, pronounced “no-mik”. This is a very simple unit, consisting of a stout box containing a PCB and all the necessary jacks, and serial socket, and a level adjust control. Inside are jumper points which need to be connected as called for by the microphone wiring diagram for your particular radio. Once that is accomplished, put the cover back on the box. Now; for the setup of the IC-718. My desktop PC has a serial port, which I connected to the Nomic with the serial cable provided. Next attach the mike cable, one end, an RJ-45 plug entering the Nomic, the other end an 8-pin mike plug going to the radio mike jack. This leaves only the two stereo cables left in the carton. If you have been monitoring PSK, you know one cable is plugged into the earphone jack on one end; the other end into the Mike/Line In on the PC. The other cable is plugged into the computer Earphone/ Line Out jack on one end; the remaining stereo plug is inserted into the Audio In jack on the Nomic. We are now finished with the installation.

Prior to going on the air, you should have already familiarized yourself with Configure/Personal Data and entered your call; set levels with Configure/Waterfall at ONE QUARTER scale on TX & RX. Also, in Configure/Band set the waterfall scale to the Freq. in USB. In Configure/Mode, turn on BPSK. Turn off everything and check the manual one more time. Next step, IN ORDER!

Let's see, radio ON, Frequency set to a PSK sub-band, computer OFF, final check of wiring. NOW!! Turn on the computer! While the PC is booting up, watch the radio TX indicators for flashing on and off. They did flash? Friends, you have seen the handshake between radio and PC, all is well. Take note: the radio should be set at full power; the Volume and Wave settings of the sound card control the RF output which should never exceed 1/2 power on the bar-graph. In fact, most contacts are made at 10-30 watts. I keep a long and short PSK Test File with ID to test output. Mode/TUNE will do the same thing but is an unidentified signal. If no output, check to see what COMPORT you are using, the most common problem for the beginner. Check, using Control Panel/Device Manager and see what Comports are free to use.

That's about it for going on the air; the rest is up to you. Have Fun!! The Nomic RIGblasters have not had a single malfunction in the years I have used them. If you change radios, redo the jumpers to match the mike of the radio. I went from IC-718 to IC706MkIIIG in this way, using a CAT 5 cable between the radio and Nomic. If using a CAT 5 cable, DO NOT USE A CROSSOVER CABLE!! For USB cable operation, WMR recommends their IOGEAR USB to Serial cable. IOGEAR has driver updates for the different operating systems on their website. As to price, most vendors are listing the Nomic at \$60 w/RJ-45 and 8-pin mike cables, and offering the USB cable as well. This model is called "RB/NO/CUSB"; older models came with no USB cable. If you want to add USB to an older Nomic, go to the WMR site for their IOGEAR offering. One final note. DO NOT USE THE NOMIC WITH TUBE TYPE TRANSCEIVERS. There are no relays in the Nomic; examine other WMR interfaces for tube radio use. The Nomic is designed for solid-state radios only. If you have a laptop, check out the WMR Plug & Play unit, my next review. See you on the "waterfall" locally in Gainesville, GA. Wednesday's, at 10 AM EST on 3580 KHz USB. Ed Cravey KF4HPY kf4hpy@arrl.net.

There are no strangers in Ham Radio Only friends we haven't met.

Don't let your callsign get "rusty" LARC-ers, Stay active and promote the sport of ham radio!

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

Because of the increased interest of emergency and disaster preparedness in this country, greater emphasis has been placed on the role hams can and should play in communication preparedness. This has created great opportunities for amateurs to become associated even more closely with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Sheriffs' Departments, State Police, Emergency Management Associations and, most recently, the various forms of Homeland Security. As often

happens, this increased visibility has also resulted in a degree of confusion among members of organizations that typically include or are totally made up of hams. I offer a couple of comments to help get rid of just a little of the confusion. ARES: The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is the only nationwide, locally-staffed emergency communication service sponsored by an Amateur Radio organization -- the ARRL. The top of the chain of command resides at ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. From here, the chain goes to each ARRL Section. The Section Manager (SM) heads ARES (and everything else) in the Section. The Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) reports to the SM. Immediately under the SEC in the structure are the District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) who are assigned to coordinate the actions of ARES in selected smaller territories. Each of these smaller territories is headed by an Emergency Coordinator who reports to the DEC. ECs can in turn appoint Assistant ECs to assist them in organizing and directing the activities of ARES members in their locality. The rules for membership in ARES are established by ARRL.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Anyone wishing to become involved in ARES should contact our local EC, Ron Mulberry, KI4RBE. Remember, our ability to provide emergency communications support is a key to the survival of Amateur Radio.

We need your ideas and input. What activities would you like the club to participate in? We also need your help in organizing these activities as well as participating in them. How would you increase club membership? Communicate your ideas and comments to any of the board members or to the editor of the Lanierland Amateur Radio Club newsletter. Your input is very important to the continuing health of the club.

Repeater Etiquette By: Ken KB1KVL

Ken Kavaljian KB1KVL wrote the following Repeater Etiquette article for the Genesis club newsletter by summarizing a great list of Repeater Etiquette and Tips gathered by David K2DBK and published at www.10-70.org/repeater.htm

By: Ken KB1KVL First and foremost let me say ham radio is a lot of fun, however we still need to adhere to certain guidelines and that's all this is - so by all means have fun and please read on!

One of the best things a new ham could ever do is listen to the repeater for a while. What I mean by this is listen to the way people conduct themselves, get a "feel" for the way folks who've been around for a while use the repeater.

Listen Listen Listen. You have two ears and one mouth so listen twice as much as you talk.

I can't stress this point enough, when you get "scolded" for the way you use the repeater it might hurt your feelings and that is not usually the intent, it's only to help you understand how to use the repeater so if you listen for a while and learn some of the ways the "regulars" use the repeater you most likely won't get "scolded" for the way you use it.

Kerchunking

Please don't key your mike to check for a return carrier from the repeater. Observe the rules and identify yourself when you transmit. It can be as short and simple as: "This is KB1KVL, testing, no response necessary." Let's set a good example and practice good operating procedures. Besides if all you're going to do is check to see if the repeater is there, you'll find out when someone talks, besides, if the repeater is down what can you do about it... nothing, so what is the point!

Listen before transmitting

One of the most important rules is LISTEN FIRST. Nothing is more annoying than someone that "keys up" in the middle of another conversation without first checking to make sure the repeater is free or having the volume turned down and not checking, open your squelch to make sure your radio's volume is turned up. If the repeater is in use, wait for a pause in the conversation and simply announce your call sign and wait for one of the other stations to acknowledge your call.

Signal Reports

Don't break a conversation just to get a signal report, it's rude! Wait until the conversation is done then ask for a radio check. When you are looking for a signal report, the right way to do it is to say something like (obviously using your own call instead of mine) KB1KVL looking for a signal report", not "KB1KVL listening". Saying "listening" or "monitoring" implies that you're listening to the repeater and would like to chat with someone. Often, there will be others "lurking" who might be willing to jump onto the radio to give out a signal report, but won't answer a general "listening" call because they might not want to get involved in an extended conversation. Unless you have actually made some changes to your station, you may find that folks will tire of responding to you if you ask for a report day after day (or more often). If you're responding to a signal report request, make sure you're giving accurate information. If you can't hear the repeater itself well, it will be difficult to report back accurate information to the other station. Remember that the information that's useful is how the other station sounds coming into the repeater, not how the repeater itself sounds. Since the repeater itself should be more or less constant to you, you're just helping the other station figure out how well they are making it to the repeater.

Jammers or annoying users: If you hear a jammer, ignore him/her. Resist the temptation to "set the jammer straight." Don't acknowledge their presence in

any way. Anything you might say about it probably doesn't belong on the band and may contribute to the problem. If the jammer has no audience, he or she won't have any fun and will soon be gone. Besides its not your job to do this, it is the responsibility of the control operators to babysit the repeater, let them do their job.

Leave a pause

When you are using the repeater leave a couple of seconds between exchanges to allow other stations to join in or make a quick call. Most repeaters have a "Courtesy Tone" that will help in determining how long to pause. The courtesy tone serves two purposes. Repeaters have a time out function that will shut down the transmitter if the repeater is held on for a preset length of time (normally three or four minutes). This ensures that if someone's transmitter is stuck on for any reason, it won't hold the repeater's transmitter on indefinitely. When a ham is talking and releases the push-to-talk switch on their radio, the controller in the repeater detects the loss of carrier and resets the time-out timer. When the timer is reset, the repeater sends out the courtesy tone. If you wait until you hear this beep (normally a couple of seconds), before you respond, you can be sure that you are pausing a suitable length of time. After you hear the beep, the repeater's transmitter will stay on for a few more seconds before turning off. This is referred to as the "tail". The length of the tail will vary from repeater to repeater but the average is about 2 or 3 seconds. You don't have to wait for the "tail to drop" before keying up again, but you should make sure that you hear the courtesy tone before going ahead.

Note: If you don't wait for the beep, the time-out timer will not reset. If you time-out the repeater, HAMS that are listening may expect a free coffee from the offender. Limit your time on a given repeater to within reason. (This can vary a great deal and will depend upon the circumstance, but rag chewing for several hours straight is NOT recommended as a friendly practice!)

Waiting for the courtesy tone before transmitting also has another good reason. This allows time for other stations to break in, and allows the system to reset but most importantly it allows users with emergency traffic to get in. Just put yourself in their place, what if you were mobile and had an emergency but couldn't get into the repeater because everyone was "quick keying" and not allowing you to get in.

New or unfamiliar calls

Talk to strangers once in a while. (Many HAMS, all good people, sometimes slip into a habit of not talking with anyone they don't already know when operating FM repeaters. They forget that this is not what they do when on HF!) Again put yourself in their place, remember back when you were a new HAM and how intimidated you felt, then to have someone not even acknowledge you on the repeater. Let him/her know they are being heard and strike up a small conversation, it will make a huge difference.

Use of Jargon & Q-signals

One very easy habit to fall into is the use of jargon. Instead of saying "I've arrived at my destination" you'll hear folks say things like "We're destined". It seems to be a very common practice to use "we" when what you really mean is "I". This seems to be one of the hardest habits to break. A good practice is to just say, in plain English, what you mean. If someone doesn't understand, they'll ask you.

Q-signals

(QTH, QSY, QSL, QRT, QSO, etc.) were developed for use solely on CW (Morse code) where keeping things as short as possible is obviously desirable. A number of the Q-signals (the ones mentioned here in particular) have found their way into common use on phone (voice) modes. To some degree, that's ok and probably unavoidable, but when you can, try to just say what you mean. In particular though, don't start every sentence with "QSL" (or it's "plain-English" equivalent of "Roger"). Think about a telephone conversation with someone; You wouldn't say "Yes, I understand" every time it's your turn to speak, right? That's what's you're doing when you say QSL or Roger at the beginning of your transmission. Just talk like you would on the phone.

Information

If someone asks for information and you KNOW you can answer it go ahead, HOWEVER, if you don't know the answer, don't key up and say "sorry I can't help you", just listen and you might learn something.

When NOT to Use a Repeater

Use simplex channels when they make more sense. (Two cars traveling close together should NOT be using a REPEATER unless there is some compelling reason, i.e. looking for another friend to join in, or the contact is going to be brief, etc.).

UPCOMING TECH CLASS

A tech class is scheduled to begin July 19 and continuing on July 26, August 2 and final modules presented on August 9 with final exam following.

If you know someone that may be interested, please have them contact me direct at w4djg@bellsouth.net

The only cost will be for the text book (\$20) and can be purchased at the first class. Exam fee of \$10 will be due before taking the exam scheduled for August 9.

More information will be forthcoming.

Doyle, W4DJG

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

VE Testing results from April 6, 2008

William "David" Calhoun -- KJ4DDZ Tech

Shane D. Becker -- KJ4DEA Tech

William J. Konarski -- KJ4DEB Tech

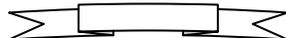
Kim T. VanHorn (from Oklahoma) -- KE5TVK General

H. Frank Woodward III -- W4HFW Extra

Congratulations to the above and special thanks to Roger WB4T and his VE team for providing the testing session. We also thank the Administration Staff at Johnson High School for the use of school property.



**Uncle Ham Wants You !
To Join the Elmer Corps**



Norm Fusaro W3IZ from the ARRL Mentor Program

Norm writes: *WHAT IS AN ELMER?*

Have you ever wondered where the term "Elmer" came from? The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams—first appeared in QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world: "Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'" Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."--Rick Lindquist, N1RL

As you can see, the term is not very old. Prior to the first use of Elmer as the one who guided and encouraged us, what were these folks called? I have received a lot of suggestions; teacher, mentor, tutor, guide, helper, sage? All are appropriate but my guess would be that first and foremost they were called friend.

NOTE: The 2008 LARC Executive Committee is in the planning stages of establishing a Mentor/Elmer core group. If your interested, please let one of our officers know.



ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE)

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

The Heartbeat of Amateur Radio

Mike Cofer/KD5OFF

I was watching a movie called Drum-line recently on TV and there is a part about the percussion section being the heartbeat of the band. It started me to thinking about the things I have heard a lot of the time since I got my ticket seven years ago. Things like how amateur radio is dying and that eliminating Morse code is the beginning of the end for ham radio. Like some data showing that between 2000 and 2006 the number of new Technician licenses being issued is down 4.4%. By these accounts amateur radio barely has a pulse, much less a heartbeat. I have always tried to keep a positive attitude about life, especially when someone is trying to convince me of the opposite (the glass is half full rather than half empty) so I decided to do some research and see what

the health of amateur radio might be. I visited the Amateur Radio Relay League's (ARRL) website recently and they have a link that shows a breakdown for the different license classes and a total for each state. I thought this might be a good start to examining the well being of our hobby. I began this examination by getting each state's population and then, using the information from the ARRL, I came up with a percentage of hams to state population (HSP). Not one state in the union could manage a full percentage value.

California, which can boast both the largest state and biggest ham population, could only muster a .25% HSP. Alaska, which ranks 48th in state population, with the highest ham rating could only produce a HSP of .48% (I guess living in an area as rugged as Alaska demonstrates the true need for communications). Oklahoma came in 15th with a .26% HSP. This didn't produce the results I had hoped for. Can I hear a nurse calling Code Blue for our hobby after all? I continued my search and found that our hobby in the U.S. is only a small portion of the big picture.

According to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_operator), there are about three million amateur operators world wide. The majority of those hams live in Japan followed by the U.S., Thailand, South Korea, and the nations of Europe.

Only the governments of Yemen and North Korea currently prohibit their citizens from becoming amateur radio operators. Three million licensed amateur operators world wide! That doesn't sound like a hobby that is on its death bed. Amateur radio is what you and I make it, how we use and enjoy it. All across America there are countless numbers of "doctors" constantly checking the pulse of amateur radio. They are the people who give classes to scout troops or to individuals to take some of the fear out of pursuing their ticket. It's the band teacher at a local school that makes the time to start a ham class and then pursues a school sponsored club. It's the young hams that operate their stations as they should, but with the enthusiasm and spirit that only people that age can. It's the ham that simply answers the question from a passerby about all the antennas on his house and car. After thinking about it, amateur radio not only has a pulse that is strong, but a healthy heartbeat. Each one of us who holds a license to operate an amateur radio is part of that heartbeat. Each time we do something positive to promote amateur radio whether by being an Elmer, volunteering for emergency communications, or just having fun on the air and being active, help to make our hobby healthy and strong. I guess it really is all in how you look at it. Do you only notice the ways and modes that you use are no longer popular and think there is no need to continue participating, or do you see how amateur radio is constantly evolving as it should? Amateur radio is alive and well. Could it be better? Yes, and it is up to each of us to be involved and have as much influence as we can. It is only through our active participation that amateur radio can continue to grow and thrive. There are a lot of problems with amateur radio but there is a lot of good too. I may be naïve and choose to overlook the bad but I think that will be the medicine that will keep this hobby and emergency lifeline going forward.

Oh, by the way nurse, you can cancel the Code Blue, this patient won't need it.

Editors note: I won't be needing the Code Blue either

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.

Quote of the Month

The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.

- Vincent T. Lombardi

Chinese Proverb

A conclusion is simply the place where someone got tired of thinking

BUY, SELL, TRADE

Non-Ham item for free

I've an older, in-op JVC camcorder (uses VHS-c tapes) with a couple extra batteries and chargers, if anyone wants them for parts or to tinker. Otherwise, it all goes into the trash. Spring cleaning, ya know.

Mac - wd4mp

Kenwood 751-A All-mode 2 meter

2nd owner. I Used this rig mobile until I purchased the IC-7000. With mic, mobile mount, power cord, tone board installed, original box, and manual (signed by original owner)

\$150 - guaranteed no issues

Mac - wd4mp

MFJ-993B auto-tuner

300 watt auto-tuner. Purchased new, used it for less than a year. Works great. Now its excess to my needs. Sells new for \$230 (plus shipping). Requires 12vdc power - not included. With power cord, original box, and manual.

\$160 - guaranteed no issues

Mac - wd4mp

Yaesu FT-840 HF rig

2nd owner. Worked good when last used. Price would be \$425, except it has a burned land on board that was repaired by soldering a hank of wire across vaporized land. Used for several months after repair. Replaced only because I got a FT-1000MP... you know how us hams can be. I think the FT-840 is arguably one of the best entry-level/backup rigs available for the money. There are many who still use this radio as their primary. With mic, mobile mount, power cord, original box, and manual. Also, includes the technical manual.
\$320 - guaranteed no issues (other than mentioned above)
Mac - wd4mp

Samlex SEC1223 power supply

Original owner. 12vdc 23 amp. Purchased from HRO for \$100. Used to power FT-840 and MFJ 993-B tuner. Excess to needs. Worked fine when last used.
\$75 - guaranteed no issues- Mac wd4mp

May Club Meeting

May 27 at Curt's in Oakwood.
Dinner at 5:30pm with meeting at 6:30pm

Meeting Programs

May (in planning stage)

LARC dates for 2008 (mark your calendars)

Field Day June 28 & 29

LARC Hamfest July 12

LARC Family Picnic October 25

LARC Christmas Breakfast December 6

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 224.840 (-) open 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”

Upcoming HAMFEST May-August

June 7	Georgia Section Convention Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) Marietta, GA Jim Miller Park http://www.atlantahamfest.com
July 12	Lanierland ARC http://www.lanierlandarc.org Gainesville, GA
August 9	Ellijay Ham Fest 2008 Ellijay Lions Club Ellijay Amateur Radio Society (W4HHH) http://www.qsl.net/w4hhh/

Things My Mother Taught Me (Part 1)

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL.

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

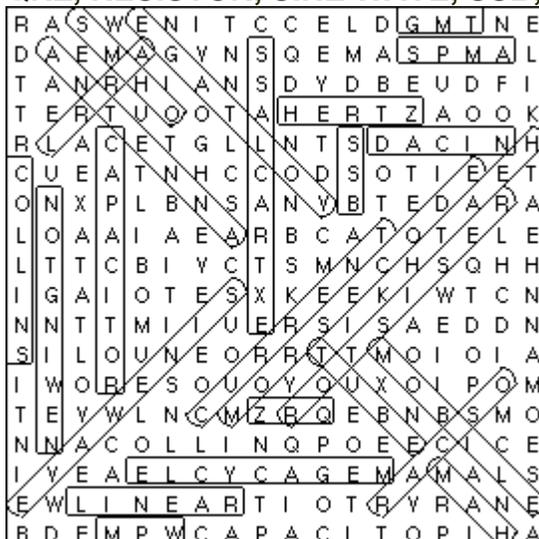
4. My mother taught me LOGIC.

" Because I said so, that's why."

Answers to last months Word Search

List of Words:

**AMPS, ANTENNA, ARRL, CAPACITOR, COLLINS, CURRENT, EXTRA CLASS, GMT,
HAM, HEATHKIT, HERTZ, LINEAR, MEGACYCLE, MOBILE, MORSE CODE, NEWINGTON,
NICAD, OHMS, OSCAR, QRZ, RESISTOR, SINE WAVE, SSB, TUBE, VOLTAGE, WPM.**





FCC levies \$6 million in fines over DTV Concerns

By Justin Mann, TechSpot.com

Published: April 12, 2008, 1:35 PM EST

The exciting part of the 700MHz auction we have heard so much about has caused some people to forget where that spectrum is coming from. Early next year, analog television signals over the air in the U.S. are expected to disappear, rendering older equipment obsolete. In particular, televisions with only an analog input will no longer receive any channels, assuming the owner relies on an antenna to pick up analog TV. To encourage education, the FCC required companies to begin labeling equipment they sell as being outdated, letting customers know that without a DTV converter of some sort that would find themselves with useless equipment.

The FCC has made good on their warnings to those companies who didn't comply, and has issued over [\\$6 million in fines](#) to companies and retailers who have not labeled their equipment. Some of the companies fined include Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Circuit City, Target and Sears. But how much impact this lack of education will have remains to be seen, though I'm sure it will be pretty obvious come February 2009.

Be getting ready for:



More Info in June Newsletter

On May 8, 2008 the local chapter of the American Red Cross will be gathering information on available resources via drill. 4-6 Hams will be needed for a check in only net around mid morning (0900) on the above date.

If you can, please check in when the net is called. This will give the local chapter an idea of EmComm resources.

***** ATTENTION: *****

PRESS RELEASE: 4/20/2008

**The 2008 Shelby Hamfest has NOT been cancelled
Please read below.**

The Shelby Amateur Radio Club will hold their 52nd Annual Shelby Hamfest at Dallas Park in Dallas, NC. The Hamfest was first held at Shelby City Park and began as a one-day event attended by less than 100 people. The Hamfest eventually outgrew the City Park and moved to Brackett's Cedar Park in Casar, NC. In 1979, we outgrew Brackett's and moved to the Fairgrounds. We have grown from less than 100 in attendance to 8000 to 12000 over the Labor Day weekend.

The Shelby Hamfest has the distinction of being called "The Granddaddy of Them All" due to being one of the oldest and largest in the United States. According to amateur radio operators who have attended the Shelby Hamfest since it's beginning, one of the major reasons for its growth and continued success has been the small town friendly feeling that visitors enjoy.

This year we have been forced to find a new location for our Hamfest. We want the citizens of Cleveland County to know that we are still going to be there for them during any emergency. An example of our willingness to help was demonstrated as recently as April 19, 2008. The Cleveland County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) / SKYWARN group which is sponsored by the Shelby Amateur Radio Club, was notified by Emergency Management of Cleveland County that a tornado had touched down near Fallston. The ARES group immediately activated a net and manned their emergency radios ready to assist and spring into action if needed.

The Hamfest is our only support for keeping our emergency equipment up to date and operational. Since we can't say no to our 10,000 friends who love to attend our Hamfest, we will be moving our Hamfest to Gaston County. Our move is necessary to be able to continue our ability to "donate" to local charities and to keep up our equipment for service to Cleveland County. We

hope to enjoy a long and pleasant relationship with the Gaston County Department of Tourism who has been very gracious to us and our decision to continue our Hamfest over Labor Day weekend.

We, The Shelby Amateur Radio Club, would like to apologize to the many businesses of Cleveland County who will be the real LOSERS in this move. They had no voice in our fight to keep the Hamfest in Cleveland County so we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for 51 great years of their hospitality.

[Robby Hamrick, WA4RH](#)
Hamfest Chairman

Other Shelby Hamfest Comments

Thanks to Diana C White KB4SNU for sharing this info

After much angst, I have in my hand an official word on the Shelby, NC hamfest! There WILL BE a Shelby Hamfest after all! It just won't be at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. As some of you know, the Cleveland County Fair Association has given the Shelby SARClub quite a bit of bother of late. This almost caused the hamfest to be cancelled LAST year, and due to the lateness of the year, I'm told by members, the club acquiesced to the Association's demands for the most part. It would appear that the so-called "association" figured to hold up the club for ransom thinking they had no options. WRONG!!!! HeeHee! Them Shelby Club fellers weren't born yesterday! LOL! This could put a huge POOCHY lip on the fairgrounds bunch!
(Pout!)

TA DA!!! According to the brochure I was handed at the Catawba Valley Hamfest (Morganton, NC) today, the annual "Granddaddy of them all" will be held at BIGGERSTAFF PARK, in Dallas, NC on Labor DAY weekend!!! It's ON, folks!!!

Biggerstaff Park is an over 100 acre park facility with PLENTY of tailgating space, buildings for dealers, camping facilities, nearby parking, a chapel building for religious services AND it is a BEAUTIFUL facility, perhaps even more pleasing in atmosphere than the fairgrounds were!. And it is about 25 miles east of Shelby, 3 miles from Interstate 85 and just off US 321 north of Gastonia. Exits are easily found and well-marked. Your trip to the "NEW" Shelby Hamfest site will be easy and no more difficult than finding the old fairgrounds the first time. The 2008 Hamfest is sure to be an exciting time for the SARClub and sure to be a pleasant experience for the attendees.

Gaston County Tourism Board is being very helpful in making this event a reality and also KEEPING it in Gaston County. According to the Club members I spoke with today, they are quite excited at finding this site and exuberant at the possibilities that this location presents! Whatever things this park may lack-- and I assure you they are FEW---I'll betcha they will be addressed pronto as this park is quite a beautiful place as I mentioned. For example, there are TWO lakes onsite, picnic shelters scattered all over----a really neat place for this event.

Motels are scattered thru out the area, and there are plenty of restaurants nearby just outside the event. They include Arby's, KFC, McDonalds, Waffle House, and Bojangles (currently being built). There is a Northstar Fish House right on 321 and two shopping centers, again, very nearby! Of course, many of your friends and vendors who have served us over the years will be invited to come serve us onsite---the famous Barbeque being one of the expected fares!

In October, about a month after the Hamfest, there is an event that has been held for YEARS called "Cotton Ginning Days" that can draw people back for THIS event as well. I have often remarked, seeing all the exhibitors and tailgaters showing various antiques and old putt-putt engine parts, "This park is just BEGGING for a Hamfest!!"

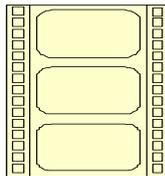
So I am excited. I am hoping that this will become the new permanent home for the Shelby Hamfest as it IS a perfect fit!!!! Even though it is only 15 minutes from my home, and I know and support all the good things that this event will bring to my home area, I am still sad to see it leave the fairgrounds. I think it is a BIG mistake, and caused by the short sightness of a few people. It works an unfair hardship on the merchants that have depended on this event for FIFTY years. If I were a merchant, a motel owner, a food vendor, I would be raising H E DOUBLE HOCKEY STICKS at the Fair Association and demanding that those people be run out of town on a rail!

Make your plans!!!! Get ready! Join ME at the 2008 Shelby Hamfest at Biggerstaff Park in Dallas, NC on Labor Day Weekend!!!!!!!!!!
73 Jerry

(Just a relieved and excited patron of SARClub and a 42 year attendee of the Shelby Hamfest starting at Cedar Park in 1966)

Click link to see a short movie on how to use Google
Directory Assistance

1 800 466-4411



Free service from Google.....

1 800 Goog 411

<http://www.google.com/goog411/>

“FREE” is good



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

REGULATORY ISSUES: "I MISS THE FCC"

Amateur Radio Newsline

"I Miss The FCC" is an in-depth look at the current state of the Federal Communications Commission in the April issue of C-Q Magazine that's certain to raise some eyebrows in the nation capital as well within the ham radio community. Penned by Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, who is also a contributor to Newsline, the article traces the agency from its days as the enforcer of technical standards to the FCC of today which seems to be bending over backward to the whim and will of those it is supposed to regulate.

One of the cases cited by Reinhardt was the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which revamped the original 1934 legislation. Reinhardt notes that much of it was written by industry lobbyists which resulted in the nations airwaves being delivered to commercial interests.

The bottom line: Jeff Reinhardt's "I Miss The FCC" is a must read for hams, G-M-R-S, CB'ers and any small entity that uses radio spectrum. It sheds a whole new light on what is really happening in the halls and offices of the FCC. It begins on page 66 of the April issue of CQ Magazine.

SK

I received the announcement today (4-22-08). I am saddened to hear of this silent key report. I met L.B. Cebik at a hamfest in Lebanon, TN about 12 years ago. He was a real nice person and truly enjoyed Amateur Radio. I enjoyed meeting him briefly and have collected several of his fine books. Amateur Radio has lost a good steward. In addition to his many books and articles, he wrote a regular column in the "10-10" club newsletter.

73, Alfred, KT4VP

----- Original Message -----

This is the saddest announcement we have had to make:

It was discovered this morning that LB Cebik, W4RNL had passed away.

He was a friend to us all and will leave behind a great void. His beloved wife, Jean passed several years before and he missed her greatly.

He was my friend and associate for 10+ years and I shall always remember him for his warmth and kindness.

A tribute to this "kind and gentle giant" shall appear in my column in the next issue of antenneX.

Jack L. Stone, Publisher
AntenneX Online Magazine

Final Thought

Once again the Federal Reserve has modified the "New" Five Dollar Bill. Here is the updated version to be released just in time for the 2008 vacation season.



This edition is the largest one I've seen to date. If this continues, we may need to think about a LARC magazine.

Now wouldn't that be great !!

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