

# Lanierland ARC



<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

July 2009

Sorry for the delay getting this issue published.

## President's Corner



Philip Loggins K4PDL

Yes, I know.....It's that time of year again. We had rather stay inside with the AC running full blast than to be out walking around in this summer heat. We know how it goes, that early Spring project got bumped up to early Summer, then something else came up, and now we're seriously thinking of waiting till early fall. We just need to hang in there, the thermometer will eventually start cooperating with us again.

Speaking of walking around and projects, did you come and check out "Relay for Life"? What a great event it was. I hope everyone had a great time. I will have filled you in by the time you read this.

I'm writing this for the July Newsletter, but as I am sitting here and typing, FIELD DAY is still a week away. Chuck Lemming is in charge of this year's FIELD DAY. He has really worked hard, and with a few recruits, is expecting a real good time. Hope everyone can come out and participate. Unfortunately, Chuck and I will not get to be there. Chuck is heading to one of my favorite places with the Scouts and spending the weekend on the USS Yorktown. I have been there 2 times and loved every minute of it. My son Zack is on a Campus Outreach Missionary Trip (9 weeks in Panama City) and mom tells me we are going for Parents Weekend to see just what they are working. When you read this, Field Day 2009 will already be history and we hope that everyone had a great time.

**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE – See my article in Newsletter  
July 4th is also just around the corner. I hope everyone has a very safe holiday, and  
don't forget to fly your FLAG!**

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

As always, email [k4pdl@bellsouth.net](mailto: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,**



## **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

As I look out my window I see our nation's flag waving on the porch, and I think about the Declaration of Independence, our freedom, and the Constitution that stands between that freedom and any person or group that would take it from us. To every child born in the United States, freedom *is* free. Freedom is free because 233 years ago a group of visionary men met in a hot room in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence.

For each man, that document was a potential death warrant. With each signature, a man's status changed from prominent citizen to outlaw. Hunted, their property confiscated, some were captured and hanged, others imprisoned, many were reduced to poverty, and some lost everything, even their families, in the succeeding struggle. For those heroes, freedom was very expensive. For us, Freedom is free because the finest Military in the world protects our shores and skies from those who would like to see this country in ruins and its citizens in chains. For our fighting men and women, the price of freedom may be dear: an eye, a leg, a disfigured face, even life itself. For others, the price may be less – perhaps months of sweltering heat, insects and the mental and physical effects of combat, or maybe just the experience of having to follow orders and regulate their lives around the requirements of a job that is usually under-appreciated. We feel our indebtedness to those who defend our country.

That's the 4th of July, Veteran's Day, and Memorial Day perspective on Freedom. Freedom is free just because we were born Americans. We didn't sign the Declaration of Independence, or fight wars to protect our freedoms, or do anything to earn what is our birthright. What about the other 362 days of the year? It is human nature to value most what we earn through our own efforts, and to place little value or thought on what is handed to us. We can do better. Let's resolve to ponder often the marvelous gift that has been handed to us, and to think of and follow through with actions that in some small way will help earn the freedoms we enjoy.

Have a wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup>.  
God Bless America

“Reprint from the January 2008 issue but still holds TRUE”

For generations, the Georgia State Tree has been the Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)  
After much discussion at the State Capitol, a new species has been chosen to have this  
honor.



## Our New State Tree Young Adult



The **Orange Construction Barrel** (*Ampulla fabricatio barrelus*) is one of several species of highly specialized plants which have adapted to be able to grow in the most extreme of conditions and is the second most common member of the sub-genus *fabricatio* -- commonly known as the "fabriforms" -- and is prized for its weather-resistance and bioluminescent fruit.



Seedling



Fully Mature

Roots are very shallow resulting in many being blown or knocked over by passing motorist.  
However, this species has the ability to pop right back up in short order with the help of  
DOT.

## **Congratulations Austin Cain: Class of 2009**

**When Doyle suggested that members of the ham club recognize graduating seniors from our families or our friends, I thought of Austin Cain.**

**I have gotten to know Austin and his family over the past few years by spending time with them at the annual Christmas Eve lunches held at Conrad's Garden Center. The thing that amazes me is how Austin has grown up and is now a representative of the Johnson High School class of 2009.**

**Austin, who just turned 18 on June 18<sup>th</sup>, attended elementary school at Chestnut Mountain and later he was one of the charter students for the newly opened Martin Elementary school.**

**Austin has shown himself to be mechanically oriented. He has already installed a car motor and his mother tells me that he has taken apart defective cell phones to put together one phone that works.**

**Austin played basketball for Park and Rec where he was one of the shortest players on the team. He has now grown to the point where he is taller than his former team mates.**

**In High School, Austin says his favorite subject was math. He hopes to attend Lanier Tech and work towards becoming an electrician. HMM! Math experience, mechanical ability and soon electrical theory? Sounds like he would make a good ham. Anybody got an extra study book?**

**Austin is the son of Cheryl and Gary Cain. He has an older brother named Andrew.**

**Congratulations Austin! Here's wishing you a bright and prosperous future.**

**Mike Hall, N4HGO**

## **Netbook Musings**

**Ed Cravey KF4HPY**

**What is a netbook? A netbook is a notebook computer that some one poured "Shrinko" over it, reducing it in size until it weighed only 2 or 3 pounds with a screen of 8-10 inches and matching overall dimensions. Many netbooks are priced under \$500 and naturally I**

chose the cheapest one at \$299; the Acer One, one of the smallest with 8.9 inch LCD display. I choose this netbook because it had it all, save for a DVD/CD player. This tiny unit came with VGA, Ethernet, 3 USB plus Phone and Mic. jacks , and SD inputs; even a WebCam. A WiFi capability is also included. My wife tried it out as a former typist and didn't like it, as the keyboard is very small. I hunt and peck so it didn't bother me. The Acer One comes in two operating systems; Linux and Windows XP. The Linux netbook comes with 512 MB of ram and 8GB in a SSD (solid state drive). I have the XP version with 1GB of RAM and 160GB of hard drive. What is this article doing in a ham newsletter? Well, I travel a bit and sometimes I am weighted down with "stuff" and need something lightweight to vacation with. For PSK there are devices tiny enough to fill the bill, but a netbook can allow net surfing, wireless networking, play music, compose documents, allow streaming movies and not least PSK operations or monitoring code transmissions with programs like CwGet. I took the plunge and on my next outing took the netbook with me.

To prepare the netbook for action you must remember no CD/DVD device is provided to install programs. So "Secret Indian Fighting Tricks" are called for. To install music I used the tunes loaded in one of my MP3 players and copied it to the Acer One via a USB port. The PSK program was available on the Digipan site and was downloaded from the Internet. My interface of choice was the West Mountain Radio Plug&Play unit. WMR provides a CD with the driver in the box with the P&P device, but remember this netbook has no CD/DVD device onboard. So going to the WMR site, I download the P&P driver and that leaves only testing on the air or into a dummy load. Everything is working well, I can work PSK, listen to music and, watch movies after adding Silverlight from the Netflix site. So, off to the

North Georgia Mountains, to relax and enjoy life in the woods.

I have erected a few antennas at the cabin but, am never satisfied. I have an Arrow 2-band J-pole at twenty feet for VHF/UHF but HF has always been a problem as I am in a valley where the sun isn't seen until 9 AM and I must look up at a 45-degree angle to see daylight. The HF antenna at this time is a compact 65-foot compact folded dipole at 16-feet off the ground. It is built for 80-10m and is supposed to be mounted 35-45 feet off the ground. So the result was great for copying DX of all types; AM, SW, PSK, SSB and FM. As to transmitting, Pennsylvania was the most distant and with the fades copy was terrible at the distant end. However the NVIS concept was working well, as it was 59 for GA and NC stations even during the daylight hours.

In summary the netbook concept works very well as a traveling companion. The proof will be in getting into Loganville on W4BLB's 3580KHz PSK net on Wednesday morning at 10 AM local. If I can do that, then I am assured of contacts besides the Franklin repeater with the outside while vacationing in the mountain cabin. By the time you read this, all will be worked out and I will be operating from the mountains with different modes and/or antennas in the warmth of a summer sun. And in general, just loafing in the mountains. Have fun on PSK-31, it is very easy to do and takes almost no new equipment.  
73, de E. Cravey KF4HPY

*More info than you want to know about the infamous 'plastic water bottle'. Looks like # 2, #4, # 5 maybe ok today! Not recommended to refill #1 bottles. The Deer Park and Dasani that the hospital is using are both #1.*

## Which plastic water bottles don't leach chemicals? by Vreni Gurd

Featured in: Nutrition & LifeChoose your water bottles very carefully in order to prevent chemicals in the plastic from leaching into your water.

Plastic water bottles are very convenient for carting water around when we are on the go, as they don't break if we drop them.

However, it is worth paying attention to the type of plastic your water bottle is made of, to ensure that the chemicals in the plastic do not leach into the water. If you taste plastic, you are drinking it, so get yourself another bottle.

To be certain that you are choosing a bottle that does not leach, check the recycling symbol on your bottle. If it is a #2 HDPE (high density polyethylene), or a #4 LDPE (low density polyethylene), or a #5 PP (polypropylene), your bottle is fine.

**The type of plastic bottle in which water is usually sold is usually a #1, and is only recommended for one time use.**

not refill it. Better to use a reusable water bottle, and fill it with your own filtered water from home and keep these single-use bottles out of the landfill.

**Unfortunately, those fabulous colourful hard plastic lexan bottles made with polycarbonate plastics and identified by the #7 recycling symbol, may leach BPA.** Bisphenol A is a xenoestrogen, a known endocrine disruptor, meaning it disturbs the hormonal messaging in our bodies. Synthetic xenoestrogens are linked to breast cancer and uterine cancer in women, decreased testosterone levels in men, and are particularly devastating to babies and young children. BPA has even been linked to insulin resistance and Type 2 Diabetes. For more of the science on the effects of BPA on our endocrine system etc. see these studies: Environmental Health Perspectives Journal. Nalgene, the company that manufactures the lexan water bottles also makes #2 HDPE bottles in the same sizes and shapes, so we have a viable alternative. Order one at Nalgene.

Unfortunately, most plastic baby bottles and drinking cups are made with plastics containing Bisphenol A. In 2006 Europe banned all products made for children under age 3 containing BPA, and as of Dec. 2006 the city of San Francisco followed suit. In March 2007 a billion-dollar class action suit was commenced against Gerber, Playtex, Evenflo, Avent, and Dr. Brown's in Los Angeles superior court for harm done to babies caused by drinking out of baby bottles and sippy cups containing BPA. So, to be certain that your baby is not exposed, use glass bottles.

**Check the recycling numbers on all your plastic food containers as well, and gradually move to storing all food in glass or ceramic.**

Store water in glass or brass if possible, and out of direct sunlight.

## Did You Know

Now, I wonder who in the world this might be. No.... surely not my ol' friend.....Naaa!  
Surely Pat would have mentioned it to me! And he is one of my best friends!!  
I told you I was gonna start a book on you two!!!!!!

Scrabble Produces Definitions

Imagine playing the word challenging game of Scrabble. The letters selected from the pile may supply more than one word. In this collection, some may prove to be humorous. In some instances there may be some dangers in the alternate word development that came from the rearranging of the available letters.

**DORMITORY:** When you rearrange the letters: **DIRTY ROOM**

**PRESBYTERIAN:** When you rearrange the letters: **BEST IN PRAYER**

**ASTRONOMER:** When you rearrange the letters: **MOON STARER**

**DESPERATION:** When you rearrange the letters: **A ROPE ENDS IT**

**THE EYES:** When you rearrange the letters: **THEY SEE**

**GEORGE BUSH:** When you rearrange the letters: **HE BUGS GORE**

**THE MORSE CODE:** When you rearrange the letters: **HERE COME DOTS**

**SLOT MACHINES:** When you rearrange the letters: **CASH LOST IN ME**

**ANIMOSITY:** When you rearrange the letters **IS NO AMITY**

**ELECTION RESULTS:** When you rearrange the letters: **LIES - LET'S RECOUNT**

**SNOOZE ALARMS:** When you rearrange the letters: **ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S**

**A DECIMAL POINT:** When you rearrange the letters: **I'M A DOT IN PLACE**

**THE EARTHQUAKES:** When you rearrange the letters: **THAT QUEER SHAKE**

**ELEVEN PLUS TWO:** When you rearrange the letters: **TWELVE PLUS ONE**

**AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE,  
one that may create a dangerous environment:**

**MOTHER-IN-LAW:** When you rearrange the letters: **WOMAN HITLER (OUCH!)**

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**Dear Ms. Barker  
Putnam Insurance Co.  
Commerce, GA 96999-0101**

**I am writing in response to your request for additional information for Block 3 of the Accident Report Form (ARF) I submitted to you on April 1, 2009. I put "poor planning" as the cause for the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully. I trust the following detail will be sufficient.**

**I am an Amateur Radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I**

had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went back to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in Block 11 of the Accident Report Form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and in spite of my pain, I was able to hold on to the rope. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight, shown in Block 11 of my submission.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope . . . . .

Sincerely,  
(Name withheld by request)

**CLUB LOGO ITEMS**  
**“SHOW YOUR TRUE CLUB COLORS”**  
(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

Ball Caps with Embroidered Logo



\$10.00

Embroidered Patches



\$3.50

**Special order golf and/or button up shirts are also available.  
Club logo, name and call sign are embroidered.**



See any club officer for more information.



## OSCAR STATUS

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

OSCAR FREQUENCIES :

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

## Satellite Prediction Software

(various platforms) <http://www.satobs.org/orbsoft.html>



### July Club Meeting

July 28

Holiday Inn / Lanier Center

400 EE Butler Parkway Gainesville, Georgia-----Dinner @18:00 with meeting following @  
19:00

**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

Hall County Nets W4ABP repeater 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz PL  
Hall County ARES Net, Wednesday @ 20:00 & LARC Net, Wednesday @ 20:30

## Quote of the Month

*We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.* ~Will Rogers

## Proverb of the Month

It is easier to fight for principles than to live up to them.

**"LID"** a term used in amateur radio to denote a poor operator; one who is inept at the practice of the art. No one really can say where the term originated but to be called a lid is generally the ultimate insult.

## How To Sound Like A Lid Part 3

See May issue for Part 1 & June issue for part 2

Neil Foster, N4FN

**Step Thirteen:** You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective with several other "would-be LIDs", each giving a different route. By the time the visiting amateur unscrambles all the street names whizzing by in his mind, he should have moved out of the range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around to help the guy get back out of town, later.

**Step Fourteen:** If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.

**Step Fifteen:** Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently moved from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

**Step Sixteen:** Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

**Step Seventeen:** Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

**Step Eighteen:** If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that

magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than twenty-five air miles from you.



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG,  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ,  
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS,  
ONE NATION UNDER GOD,  
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

**It is said that 86% of Americans believe in God.  
Therefore I have a very hard time understanding  
why there is such a problem in having  
'In God! We Trust' on our money and having  
'God' in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**I believe it's time we stand up for what we believe!**

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

**[W4DJG@bellsouth.net](mailto:W4DJG@bellsouth.net)**

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

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



Lanierland Amateur Radio Club

PO BOX 2182

Gainesville, Georgia 30503



Have a Happy and Safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July !

