

Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

June 2008

President's Corner



Philip Loggins K4PDL

Greetings!

Graduation has come and gone. We are already feeling those HOT days of Summer, which makes it officially here. Field Day is just around the corner. We have reserved the site of Jackson EMC Field Operations location for this year's 2008 Field Day. It is located on Old Oakwood Road, between Mundy Mill Rd. and the Oakwood Post Office. I hope to see everyone come out and take part. It is easy access, and everyone's help can be made use of. We ARE GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP!! Please set aside the weekend of June 28 – 29 to come out and operate with us. You do not need to worry about what class License you have, or even if you don't have one yet. The GOTA station can help you out if you are willing to get your feet WET! So come and enjoy the fun!

I also would like to thank all the VE's who are working so hard to put on the testing that is helping to keep turning out the new hams, and the ones who are upgrading. Why a go Roger and your team! Also Doyle and John are coming up with a new technician class that will take place several Saturdays this summer. If anyone is interested, or know of anyone that is, please contact Doyle, or check out the web sight for more information.

As always, this is your club, 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. We would love to here from you.

Until next time, 73



Reach for the stars!

Let me wish you luck and perseverance. I wish you all successes on your life path. I hope to hear about you when I will be reading the newspaper article about a breakthrough in medical research, a new technology we can't begin to imagine or an athletic record being broken, I will know whom to think of - one of you - graduates 2008. Good luck to you all!

Congratulations to Our Special 2008 Graduates

- **Adam Peacock**, grandson of Betty and Ed Cravey, graduated from Hebron Academy on May 23. Adam has a part time job in landscaping. His time is spent with his studies, his job and girlfriend. Adam plans to attend Gainesville College in the fall. We wish for Adam great success with his continued studies.
 - **Zackary (Zack) Loggins** , son of Susan and Philip Loggins, graduated from West Hall High School on May 24. Zack excelled in academics as well as his chosen sport of cross country running. Zack was named Region 7-AAA First Team All Area for the 2007 cross country season. He led West Hall to a fourth place state finish by running a 17:31 at the state meet in Carrollton. He also finished sixth at the Region 7-AAA meet. In track, his 400 and 800 meter times helped West Hall finish second at the region meet in 2008.

His love for family and friends is an inspiration. He works for Sam's Club and has signed on with North Georgia College & State University and will be running in their cross country program and plans to become a math teacher.

We wish for Zack continued success. (He'll be fine Dad. My question: who will be prying Zack out of bed every morning?) I'm not taking sides but SLEEP is a good thing, right Zack?

• Parents and Grandparents of the Graduates

We commend you for all your support over the years for the above fine young adults. We know it's very hard to realize the time has come for them to spread their wings and soar. Be comforted in the knowledge you have done a fantastic job by you support and guidance and are key players in their lives.

WELL DONE

A Laptop Interface called Plug & Play

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY



The last piece I wrote was about interfaces, now I will review another type of interface for the more modern radios and computers. This one is called RIGblaster Plug & Play from West Mountain Radio (WMR). This one is designed for radios with data ports and computers with USB buses. Such radios as the Yaesu FT-817, FT-100; ICOM -703, 706 MKII and 706MKIIG; Kenwood TS-570, TS-2000 are all ready to use. One tip, some radios require an adapter to match the data ports to the P&P interface. Visit the WMR site and determine what adapter, if any is needed. RIGblaster Data Jack Plug & Play Radio Compatibility Chart, www.westmountainradio.com is the place to find out what is a match for your radio.

If you have an older laptop that lacks headphone and mike jacks, like some Dells with internal mikes, fear not. WMR has an adapter that is clever; a small unit that looks like a flash drive with two mini jacks. Plug the mike and phone cables in and plug the adapter into the USB port of your choice; instant external earphone/mike jacks.

The first caution is to install the drivers before plugging in the P&P interface. The next tip is to check to see which COM Port was assigned to your radio using Windows Device Manager. If all is well, follow the instructions for the P&P as well as your radio. Example: My Yaesu FT-817 has a PSK-31 mode, but it is recommended to use "User-U" instead of "PSK-U" due to TX/RX frequency shift; per "Pack-it Ref. For The FT-817". Once the drivers are installed you are ready to go. Connect the P&P per instructions and run through the Configure column if you are using DigiPan to set up for transmitting. Hopefully you have printed out the DigiPan Help sheets and bound them into a book to help you to set up.

Remember the transmitter is set to full power; the sound card controls the actual output, usually 10-50 Watts depending on requirements. Watch the ALC and if you see a reading of more than a couple of increments on the meter, you are pushing the signal to harmonics and distortions. Back down on the Volume and Wave controls on the TX Waterfall. If you have Vista the Configure RX/TX Waterfall controls will not show up. In this case go to the Speaker symbol on the Task Bar and Right Click for Properties and adjust the record and playback volume controls; the controls for the RX and TX waterfalls. Enjoy yourself and have fun.

During the time I have had this interface I have had no problems with it and have switched it between two very different radios; the Yaesu FT-817 and the ICOM 706MKIIG on expeditions and between two different computers, XP and Vista.

This article is not designed to take the place of the manuals that come with the equipment. Already a couple of people have contacted me and I helped them to start receiving signals on the waterfall. Maybe I'll see you there when you get your stuff together too.

UPCOMING TECH CLASS
Lanierland Amateur Radio Club
Gainesville , Georgia
Is Sponsoring a
HAM RADIO
FOUR-DAY LICENSE CLASS
Free Training – Only cost is for material & Exam fee

LOCATION:
Chattahoochee Baptist Association
1220 McEver Road
Gainesville, Ga.

Visit <http://www.lanierlandarc.org/licensing.html> for map to class location

July 19, 26, August 2 & 9

Instructors will be Doyle Gantt, W4DJG & John Brandon, KE4PCF

- Pass your ham radio FCC License Exam right in class, on the 4th session.
- Live equipment demonstrations, including emergency radio communications.
 - Training on how to operate through local repeater systems.
- Study Questions reorganized for easier classroom learning. New Simple Test!
 - Multiple-examinations with no Morse Code test required.

Ham radio operators provide valuable communications in an emergency. Many local areas throughout the country use ham radio operators to support Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and actual call-outs. This four-day action packed class (the first-day on July 19 includes an orientation, study material distribution and will feature live ham radio equipment for everyone to learn how to operate). Pre-study before class and spend Sessions 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the classroom to pass your amateur radio Element 2 Technician Examination, right in the classroom during session 4. New Easier Test!

- Earn full ham radio Technician class radio privileges and
- Earn radio communications through satellites and International Space Station (ISS).
- Operate your own ham radio position – reporting system (APRS).
- Communicate with other hams through local amateur radio repeaters.
- Become a ham radio emergency responder.

All classes will begin promptly at 8:00 AM and will be a minimum of four hours in length. The class schedule will be explained during orientation. (Subject to change at the discretion of the class & instructors)

The fee for the class will be \$30.00, which includes all study books, class material and the FCC Test Fee. (\$20 due at first class for text book and \$10 due before taking the final exam on July 9.)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! This is to ensure we will have enough material for everyone taking the class. You should contact Doyle Gantt, W4DJG at 770-967-4397 e-mail at w4djg@bellsouth.net or John Brandon at 770-654-4375 e-mail johnke4pcf@aol.com for further information and pre-registration.

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 you 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

You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm.
- Colette

Chinese Proverb

Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed.

BUY, SELL, TRADE **“You can list items here”**

May Club Meeting

June 24 at Curt's in Oakwood.
Dinner at 5:30pm with meeting at 6:30pm

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.gsl.net/w4hhh/

This is pretty nifty. Just enter your zip code in the site below, and it tells you which gas stations have the cheapest prices (and the highest) on gasoline in your zip code area. It's updated every evening.

<http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip= & ;src=Netx>

New Meaning to “Moon Bounce”

Mike Hall, N4HGO

There have been some nights recently when we have been unable to see the light of the moon in the night sky. Most folks believe that the moonlight was hidden by clouds. But Lunar scientists have another theory. They believe that the light of the moon has been blocked due to a series of bombardments of the moon by tennis balls.

Extensive investigation has revealed that the tennis balls hitting the moon were launched from planet earth by two gentlemen who live in a northeastern county of Georgia known for raising chickens, rednecks and a few questionable hams.

Reporters have learned that the gentlemen in question are licensed ham operators and that they are participating in a weak signal ham radio mode known as moon bounce. The problem is that some hams just don't understand the concept of moon bounce, " said Jim Haney, past President of the ARRL. "The art of moon bounce is to bounce a radio signal off the moon. These guys from that chicken county appear to be bouncing their antennas off the moon. Satellite pictures reveal that some of the tennis balls landing on the moon had full length dipoles attached. Placing antennas on the moon is certainly possible now with the advent of the wireless dipole, a type of dipole that is quite popular at field day events. Mr. Haney went on to say that this whole effort is an attempt to contact the little, green cheese men who live well below the moon's surface. These are the men who come out in the middle of the moon day sun and bake grilled cheese sandwiches that are truly out of this world!

While trying to determine the impact on the moon from these tennis ball attacks, scientists have discovered two new craters which have been named for the two men believed to be responsible for their formation. The craters are located just north of the Sea of Tranquility, which isn't very tranquil right now. The first crater will practically break your back if you fall in it and it's quite hazardous to moon rovers, even the 4-wheel-drive versions. It is known as the Great Gantt Expanse. The second crater extends for a few miles and it is filled with jagged rocks, some sharper than glass. That crater is known as the Treacherous Lane of Payne.

Hopefully these two gentlemen have grown tired of their other worldly experiments. But some Lunar observers fear that we soon will hear of the first chicken on the moon.

The Things My Mother Taught Me: Part 2

5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. My mother taught me IRONY.

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.

"Shush your mouth and eat your supper."

9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

From The Editor

The July newsletter will be a bit late due to my being on vacation. It will be published shortly after my return. Thanks for your understanding.

NA1SS Contacts The National Air and Space Museum

An International Space Station Expedition 17 ARISS school contact was held with participants at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM), Washington, DC, USA on 03 May.

NN1SS in Maryland performed earth station duties and provided the telebridge between NA1SS and the National Air and Space Museum. The contact was audible over most of the Eastern USA on the 145.80 MHz downlink.

This ARISS contact is part of the space day events celebrating NASA's 50th anniversary. This event is made possible by the generous support of Lockheed Martin.

The ARISS/AMSAT exhibit was in the new "America by Air" gallery, Gallery 102 on the first floor, just past the Museum Store before you reach the Flight Simulators. The display featured ARISS and AMSAT hardware. Mr. Kemp and students from his Systems Engineering Class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology explained their progress on their Cubesat project.



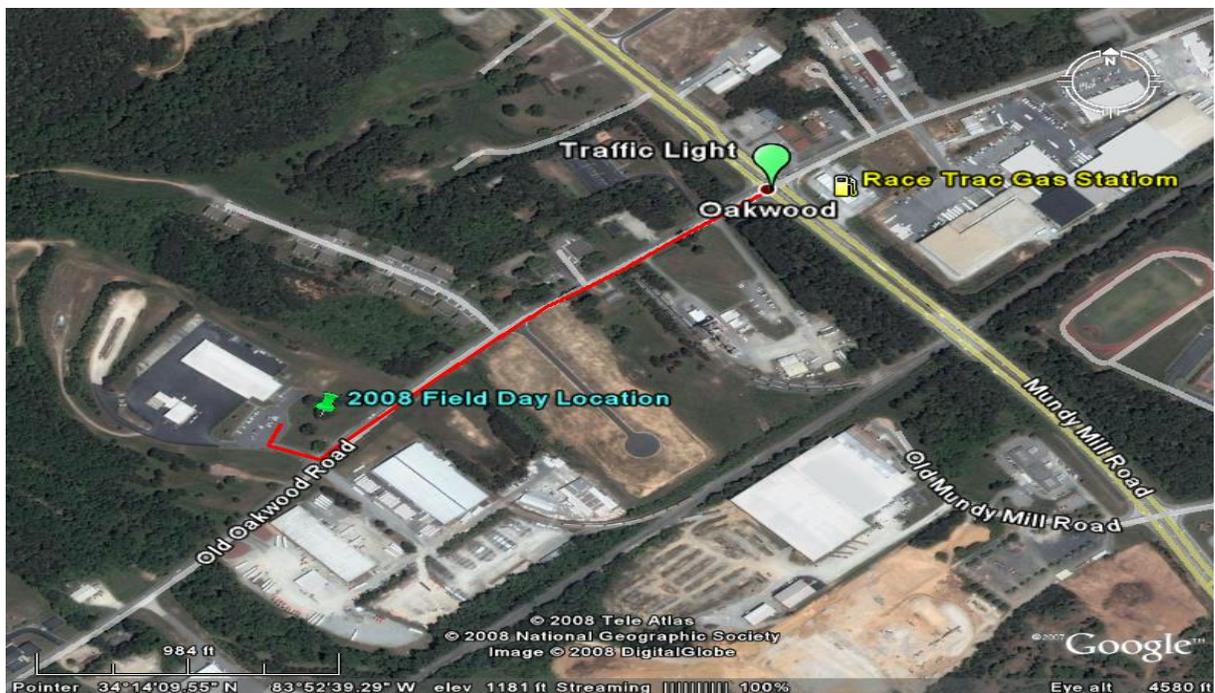
Place: Jackson EMC Field Operations (Oakwood)

Visit

http://www.lanierlandarc.org/field_day_2008.htm

For more info

Map to Field Day Location



ARRL rules in part:

Eligibility: Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

1. **Object:** To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.
2. **Date and Time Period:** Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend of June**, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2008 will be held June 28-29, 2008.**
 1. 3.1. Class A and B (see below) stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire 27-hour Field Day period.
 2. 3.2. Stations who begin setting up before 1800 UTC Saturday may work only 24 consecutive hours, commencing when on-the-air operations begin.
 3. 3.3. No Class A or B station may begin their set-up earlier than 1800 UTC on the Friday preceding the Field Day period.
3. **Entry Categories:** Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of *simultaneously* transmitted signals, followed by a designator indicating the nature of their individual or group participation. Twenty (20) transmitters maximum are eligible for the purpose of calculating bonus points (2,000 points maximum). However, additional transmitters may be used simultaneously in determining your entry category. Switching and simulcasting devices are prohibited. **Bonus stations, such as the GOTA station and satellite station do not count towards determining the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.**

See <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html>

For complete rules.

Our plans are to meet at Loretta's at 8AM for breakfast then head over to the site to begin setup.

Please participate in this event. Bring a friend who is not a HAM and maybe a spark will be ignited to get licensed themselves. Our intention is not to win this contest but rather practice our hobby and have fun. This is a great opportunity for us to introduce others to the hobby.

Plans are to have at least one HF, VHF and PSK31 station up and running. If you want to set up a station for CW or other mode, please let one of the club officers know so we can establish what category we fall under.

REMEMBER: The end result is always determined by the amount of effort we put into whatever we are doing. Little or no effort equals lackluster result.

Seven CubeSats Delivered into Orbit

From: AMSAT.org

The April 28, 2008 launch of 10 satellites aboard the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-9 (PSLV-9) rocket included 7 amateur radio cubesat, and 3 commercial/ scientific satellites. Watch for late breaking operational messages via the amsat-bb and detailed information on each of the satellite's respective web pages.

The payload included:

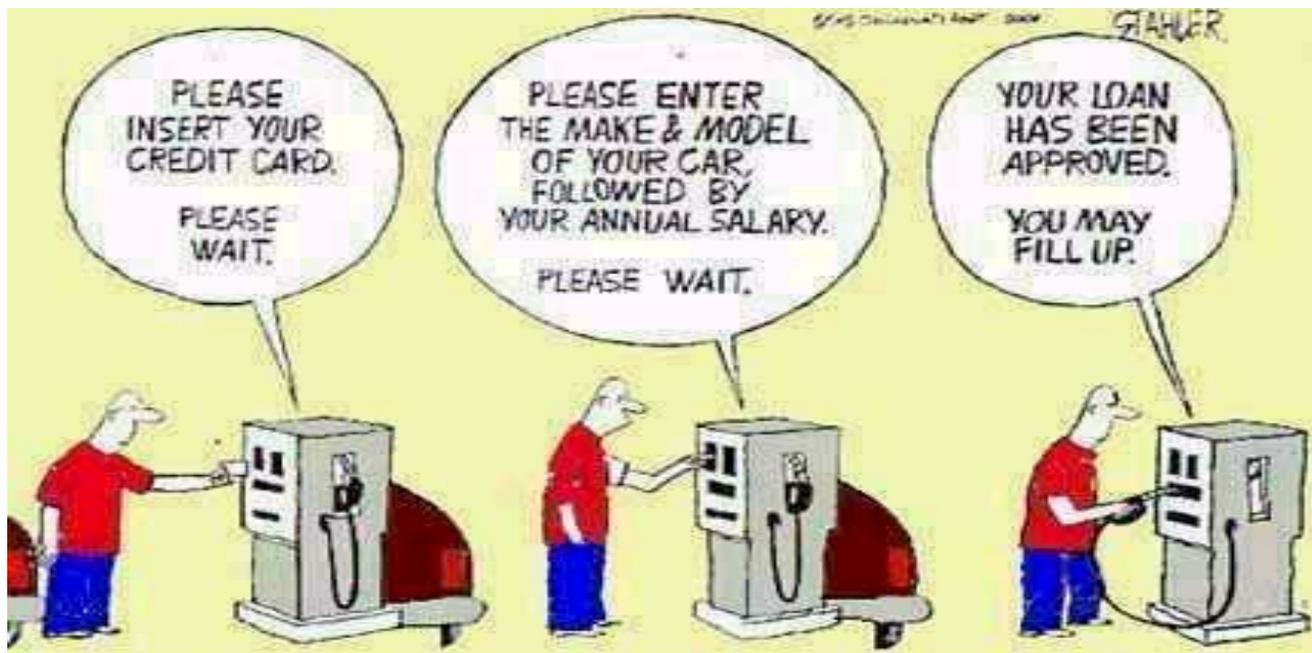
- Cute-1.7 Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
- SEEDS Nihon University, Japan
- Delfi-C3 Technical University of Delft, Netherlands
- AAUSat-II Aalborg University Cubesat, Denmark
- COMPASS-1 Fachhochschule Aachen, Germany
- CanX-2 University of Toronto, Canada
- CanX-6 University of Toronto, Canada
- Cartosat 2A Indian Space Research Organization (non-amateur radio)
- IMS 1 Indian Space Research Organization (non-amateur radio)
- Rubin 8-AIS OHB-System, Germany (non-amateur radio)

An excellent source of information for each of these satellites can be found at:

http://space.skyrocket.de/index_frame.htm

Also see Ralph W0RPK Cubesat Webpage
at: <http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/CubeSat.htm>.

How True This Is !!!





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

Trent Jarrett (great nephew of Alfred KT4VP) is not your average high school student.



While other student-athletes his age are busy running routes on the football field or rounding the bases on a baseball diamond, the 15-year-old freshman at Mill Creek High is perfecting his gymnastics routine. His sun-up to sundown dedication earned him a trip to the National Junior Olympic Men's Gymnastics Championships last week.

But that's not the only thing special about Jarrett.

Jarrett, who lives in Flowery Branch, copes with the daily struggles of being dyslexic and 95 percent deaf in his right ear.

"Trent learned at a very young age that things don't always come easy and that he must work hard to make things happen," said Scott Jarrett, Trent's father. "The

sport of gymnastics, along with the training and travel, has given Trent the opportunity to make friends all across the country."

With dreams of competing at the collegiate level, Jarrett knows what it takes to maintain high grades in addition to honing his elite athletic abilities.

"Being dyslexic just means that Trent has to study longer and harder, and he does a great job of balancing all of it," Scott Jarrett said.

Learning to cope at a young age

Growing up, Jarrett had a problem learning the difference among colors. But as first-time parents, the Jarretts had no idea that something more serious could be affecting their son's learning abilities. During Jarrett's first year as a grade school student, his parents slowly began to notice something was different about their 5-year-old son.

Following a tough year in kindergarten, Trent's parents sent him to Readiness (a grade level between kindergarten and first grade). His teacher there suggested that Trent may have a slight learning disability. Following numerous tests, he was first diagnosed with dyslexia, a learning disability that causes difficulty in processing language.

His parents later found out that Jarrett was partially deaf in his right ear. According to his parents, there is no known reason for his deafness. A series of tests were done at Emory University and doctors determined that high fevers during his infancy could have caused Trent to become hearing impaired.

"It has kind of played to his favor," Scott Jarrett said. "New coaches at camps and clinics remark at how he is so comfortable looking them in the eye when they explain things to him. Most kids are shy to make direct eye contact, but for Trent, there is a coping mechanism as he needs to look you in the eye to make sure he hears you and reads your facial expression and such."

Jarrett also regularly attends the Roswell Eye Clinic for visual therapy.

"Trent has far exceeded our first concerns about his learning and for most people, they have no idea that he processes things a little differently," said Karen Jarrett, Trent's mother and a third-grade teacher at Harmony Elementary in Buford. "He sees and processes things a little different than the average person, but he has learned to adapt to our world."

"If you did not know he had a disability, you'd never be able to tell," said Patrick Bates, Jarrett's World Geography teacher. "He never uses those disabilities as an excuse. He always does what he is supposed to and then goes above and beyond on most occasions. His efforts make up for any shortfall he may have, and that is what makes him a great student and athlete."

Falling in love with the sport

When Jarrett was 4, his parents took him to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He immediately knew that gymnastics was something that he wanted to pursue.

"At first, I did not understand what the Olympics were all about," Jarrett said, "but my parents asked me if I wanted to go see some competitions. I really did

not understand what I was watching, but I knew it looked fun. I saw all these guys hanging from bars, flipping from rings and hanging all over the place.

"I was hooked and I knew I had to do it for myself."

Jarrett's parents then enrolled him in a couple of recreational classes, and his distinct talents were soon discovered.

After a couple of years of taking a class one night a week, two Russian coaches invited Jarrett to try out for a competitive team. The Jarretts accepted the offer and he was competing all over the southeast by the age of 7.

Success quickly followed, and Jarrett became the state vault champion in his first year of competition.

"Trent's first year of gymnastics was interesting," said Samuel Zaretsky, Jarrett's first gymnastics teacher. "He was a little power house. His strength was above par and his body structure screamed gymnastics. I began using him as an example and a leader in the gym and he took the responsibility seriously.

"The one word that sums up Trent's gymnastics past and soon-to-be future is passion. I have never coached anyone in the gym who would stay late to train on his own, never miss a day and ask for consistent feedback the way he did."

Balancing school, gymnastics and a social life Jarrett fully understands the definition of dedication.

A typical day for Jarrett usually begins around 5:15 a.m. when he prepares his own breakfast. He then readies himself, boards the bus and begins his day at school.

Jarrett, who carries a 3.67 GPA, leaves school around 3 p.m., gets home, and allocates the proper amount of time to finish his daily schoolwork. Jarrett's parents then rush home, pick him up and drive him to Sugarloaf, where a ride awaits to take him to the Atlanta School of Gymnastics in Tucker.

There, Jarrett practices from 5 to 9 p.m. Back at home nearly an hour later, Jarrett begins his homework, gets to bed, and begins the process again.

"The structure and discipline that I have learned in gymnastics has helped me to have good time management skills," Jarrett said.

"Even though I miss out on a lot of social time with my friends, gymnastics has changed my life in many positive ways. Through gymnastic camps and competitions, I have been given the chance to see many places like Chicago,

Las Vegas, Miami, Columbus (Ohio) and many places all over the southeast," he said.

"I live a very structured life, but it is a life full of purpose, goals and many rewards."

Making a name for himself

On May 6, Jarrett and his teammates boarded a plane and flew to Battle Creek, Mich., to compete in the National Junior Olympic Men's Gymnastics Championships. Jarrett, who represented the Southeast Region in the meet, was awarded a spot in the national event following a top-tier finish in the Southeastern Regional Men's Gymnastics Meet in early April in Huntsville, Ala.

Although Jarrett, who is ranked as the No. 8 gymnast in the state in the 14- and 15-year-old division, was not awarded for any of his efforts during the national event, he left the meet with an Academic All-American award from the president of USA Gymnastics.

"I had already achieved my goal for this year and that was to just make it to Nationals," Jarrett said. "But next year, my goal will be drastically different and I expect myself to bring home some hardware."

Goals for the future

Jarrett's goals extend beyond gymnastics.

An aspiring archaeologist, Jarrett hopes to attend a college in the Big 10 conference and continue to chase his dream of competing in the Olympics one day.

"Since there are only 13 men's college gymnastic programs in the United States, I think I'd like to continue my education in the Big 10," Jarrett said. "Last year, I went to Ohio State and got the chance to talk with the coaches and stuff. Last week, Iowa talked to me, and I really liked those coaches, too."

"I just hope I get the chance to continue competing in gymnastics, and given the opportunity, I won't let it pass me by."

We wish you the best in everything you endeavor Trent.

How to impress a Non-Ham with Your Handheld Radio

Mike Dinelli, N9BOR - www.ARRL.org

Some people see the excitement of ham radio as a thing of the past. How do we convey our love of radio to curious kids and technically savvy adults? We certainly can't compete with cell phones, and

perhaps we don't want to, anyway. Amateur Radio should remain a technical pursuit. We must demonstrate some knowledge before we are even allowed to call our first CQ. After we obtain our tickets, the learning should not stop. For the curious, ham radio is an ideal vehicle for lifelong learning in multiple disciplines.

Take your old 2-meter handheld, punch in a few tones and talk to a ham in Glasgow, Scotland. Instead of talking to the same group every night on the local repeater, you could have Jimmy Khoo, 9W2HJ, from Malaysia stop by to say hello. Perhaps Kappy, W9CJ, is on his way to dinner in Florida and decides he wants to check in with his buddies in Chicago on the MAC repeater.

Is this possible? Yes, and it's really quite simple and inexpensive. There are several systems available, but one that is growing in popularity is called EchoLink [www.echolink.org] -- free software that allows Amateur Radio operators to communicate with each other over the Internet, using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, from computer to station, or from computer to computer. The audio is crystal clear and I can't detect any delay or lost packets using my dial-up Internet account. I don't need an outdoor antenna or have to spend any money, yet I'm in Chicago and I'm talking to three hams in New York. Cool! This could even impress my 14-year old son.

Imagine walking your dog and talking to a ham in England on your handheld. A neighbor walks up and says, "What are you doing?" You say, "I'm talking to my friend, Nigel in Manchester, England. He says it's bloody cold, but he's on his way to a rugby game anyway." This is how you impress a non-ham with your handheld.

HOW TO USE YOUR TAX REFUND CHECK -- As you may have heard, each of us who filed a tax return will be getting a tax rebate check to stimulate the economy. If we spend that money at Wal-Mart, all the money will go to China. If we spend it on gasoline it will go to the Arabs. If we purchase a computer it will go to India. If we purchase fruits and vegetables it will go to Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala. If we purchase ham radio equipment it will go to Japan. If we purchase useless stuff it will go to Taiwan and none of it will help the American economy. We need to keep that money here in America. The only way to keep that money here at home is to spend it at a **hamfest flea market!**

Items for Field Day 2008

KID'S DAY IS JUNE 15! Kid's Day, Saturday, June 21, from 1800 to 2400 UTC, is a chance to invest in the future of Amateur Radio. Scheduled twice a year, in January and June, Kid's Day is an opportunity for amateurs to introduce their own

youngsters, young relatives or neighborhood kids to the magic of Amateur Radio and, in the process, to perhaps open the door to a lifelong hobby.

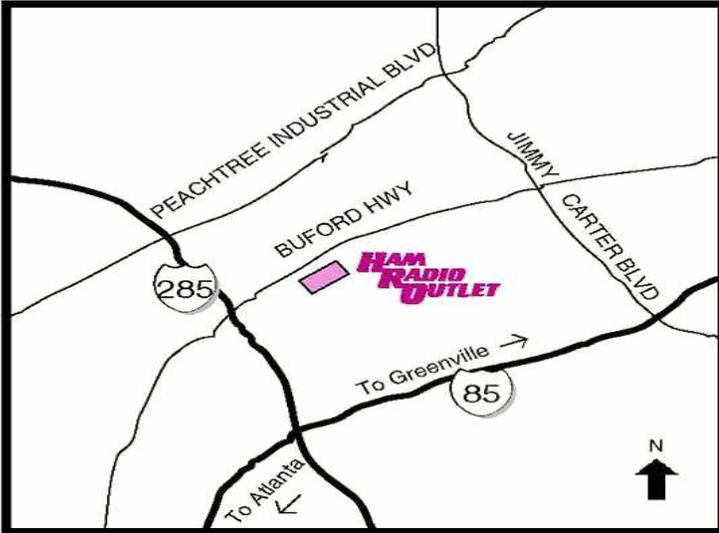
Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters as well as locally on VHF, including repeaters. Suggested frequencies are 14,270-14,300; 21,360 to 21,360, 28,390 to 28,390 kHz and 2-meter repeaters (with permission from the repeater sponsor).

Kid's Day is not a contest. It's more of a social event, where an experienced operator facilitates getting the youngsters on the air so they can enjoy the fun of ham radio. The licensee need only keep an eye on the technical and legal aspects of the operation--including observing third-party traffic agreements and identifying every 10 minutes--and lend an Elmering hand as necessary. The idea is to help the kids find someone they're comfortable talking with and to just let them enjoy themselves. In Kid's Day, it's the quality of the contacts, not quantity, that counts.

To provide a little framework, it's suggested to have youngsters exchange name, age, location and favorite color with other participants they meet on the air. It's OK to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Stations may call "CQ Kid's Day." All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html> to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then be able to download the certificate page. Or, you can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Details on Kid's Day are available on the [ARRL Web site](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html) at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>.

See June QST page 62 for more info.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA 85613-5000

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Following news release is submitted by:

Chuck Leming/AAM4TGA/ W4EDT

Georgia Training Officer

Phone: 678-450-4846

Army MARS – Voice of the Army

For Immediate Release

FREE FATHER'S DAY MESSAGES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Families of service members deployed away from home are invited to send personal greetings on the occasion of Father's Day June 15. Volunteer Amateur Radio operators will deliver the messages, known to the armed forces since the Vietnam era as "MARSgrams", at no charge to senders.

The MARSgram is a year-round service of the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), the Defense Department-sponsored organization of volunteer "hams" whose primary mission is providing emergency communications in times of crisis.

Captain Jeffrey Hammer of the Indiana National Guard, the Army MARS representative in Iraq, is looking for a lot of holiday messages. "I am 100 per cent set up to deal with them," he said.

To send a MARSgram, access <http://www.mymars.org> on the Internet. The message you enter there will be transmitted automatically. Or contact the Army MARS member listed below.

MARSgrams must be held to 80 words, but there is no limit on the number of messages that may be sent. Text must be in English and complete postal address is required. If available, the addressee's telephone number may speed delivery. Full instructions appear at www.mymars.org.

Serving the United States military since the 1920s, Army MARS is dedicated to ensuring that army units and civil disaster response organizations have reliable auxiliary communications. To learn more about the mission of the 2,700 volunteers in Army MARS, visit www.netcom.army.mil/mars.

To send a MARSgram if the Internet is not available,
Phone 678-450-4846

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 website. Each issue is listed with the most recent edition first. <http://www.lanierlandarc.org/newsletters.html>

73 to all