

# Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

December 2005/January 2006

## President's Corner

Larry Tyson, W4WLT

Welcome to 2006! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am looking forward to a great year for LARC. We have a lot of activities to look forward to and the planning is underway. If you have any suggestions, be sure to let a member of your Executive Committee know. Hamfests (including ours) and Field Day, with a family picnic, are really just around the corner. Let Roger, W4RLG, know what you would like to see in the way of meeting programs or other activities.

By the time you read this, you should have received a notice about rescheduling the January, February and March meetings. Hall County Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is underway and created a conflict with our regular meeting schedule. Four (4) of the Club Officers and several members are participating in the training to better prepare us to handle disaster and emergency situations. I hope each member will consider this training when future classes are announced. You will be hearing more as classes' progress.

LARC is looking for a few good people. Spread the word and see if you can encourage other local Amateurs to join LARC. We also have a few Committee vacancies. Look for a listing of the current Committee appointments and let a member of the Executive Committee know what interests you. We especially need someone to take on the challenge of Training Director, appointed by the Executive Committee. To quote the By-Laws; "The Training Director shall be responsible for the supervision and organization of all Club-sponsored training classes, for recruitment of instructors, etc." This means you don't have to teach the training classes, just organize them.

Hope to see you at the meetings and other activities.

73,  
Larry Tyson, W4WLT

## Club Meeting Information

Due to the CERT classes, the January club meeting is on 2 February at the Fire Mountain Restaurant on Browns Bridge Road in Gainesville. We gather at 1800 for dinner. The meeting starts at 1900. The February and March meetings have also been moved to the first Thursday of the following month.

## 2006 Appointments

Public Relations Committee:

Mike Hall, N4HGO Chairman

Clyde Thomason, N4FCL

Membership Committee:

Doyle Gantt, KI4KLQ Chairman

Roger Gibson, W4RLG

Oria Stephens, KG4KFM

Nominating Committee: Pending

Technical Director:

Alfred Westbrook, KT4VP

EOC Liaison Committee:

John Brandon, KE4PCF

Terry Jones, W4TL

Larry Tyson, W4WLT

Hamfest Committee:

Bob Scott, KG4NJC

Roger Gibson, W4RLF

Chuck Leming, W4EDT

Field Day Committee:

Perry Roger, KO4RD

Roger Gibson, W4RLG

Phil Loggins, K4PDL

Repeater Committee:

Alfred Westbrook, KT4VP

Gary Morgan, K4GRM

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Copelan, WB4DHC

Property Control Officer:

Lamar Grier, K4JLG

Training Director: Open

## Antenna Books

Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

The other day, while sipping the dregs of a cup of coffee, a few of us were talking about antenna books. We all felt the ARRL Antenna Book was too deep for the average new ham. Fine, but what books are out there, suitable for the newer ham, or the busy working family man? I have been giving it some thought; money is always an issue, so is the readability of the material, and lastly what type of antenna do we need or want? You say, "I don't need no stinkin' book, I'll buy an AB600x like Alphonse across town!" Is Alphonse operating in the same bands you are? Do you have the money for such great projects? Do you have the ability to leap to a rooftop? No? Do you know what you really want for an antenna? Maybe you should read a simple, low priced book that does not overwhelm you with grand terms. I think I have the answer to at least what book to buy.

I favor the NCO group of authors; Ed Noll, Joe Carr, and Bill Orr. Let us start with the books by Ed Noll. The first is "Easy-Up Antennas" a guide to do it yourself antennas for SW, MW, HF, FM VHF/UHF for listeners and hams. Covered is theory, construction, analyzer and bridge usage, starting with simple antennas and going to more complex styles. Verticals, dipoles, longwire, and beams are covered. This book is carried by MFJ for \$17. Another book by Noll is "73 Vertical, Beam and Triangle Antennas" this one assumes you know about basic antenna theory and plunges you into the building of 10 verticals in the first section. Each section gets more complex without overwhelming you, sections dealing with phasing, parasitics and arrays. All this from MFJ for \$13. The last Noll book is "73 Dipole and Longwire Antennas". if you thought you had seen everything on wire antennas, here are 73 more antennas you never knew about. Also an MFJ offering at \$13. These are simple, easy to use books for the ham who has little money and less patience for reading.

I will skip the Joe Carr books for a moment. Bill Orr has written several books of note for the amateur, some with the aid of S. Cowen. These include: "VHF Amateur Radio", a very good book for the Tech operators; "Simple, Low-Cost Wire Antennas For Amateurs", great for those who want to learn about antennas, construction, and have homebrew high performance antennas. Another Orr book is "The Amateur Antenna Handbook" dealing with beams, quads, wire, horizontal, and vertical antennas plus sections on baluns and towers. Last is my personal favorite "Beam Antenna Handbook" more than I really wanted to know about Yagi's and other beams, I have built several two element beams and even a five element beam that worked quite well. All the previous books are paperback and in the 5x7 or 5.5x8.5 format and easy to use. All the Orr books are out of print, but are available from Amazon.com from \$7 up.

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The Joe Carr book "Practical Antenna Handbook" is the most expensive at \$50.; fear not friends, I got mine on sale. Inside is about every antenna type that ever drew a whisper from the airways. Also is all the math you ever needed to build antennas, the Smith Chart is covered well; and the antennas are practical, like PRACTICAL! I use my copy more than the ARRL "Antenna Book" as the antennas described in the book can be built in a couple hours and work well. All the above books are in my library and are used quite often as references for learning about some new antenna design, like the increased use of capacity hats on antennas coming on the market today.

All of the books mentioned are available at hamfests from firms like ROSEWOOD and other booksellers as well as the sources I mentioned earlier, MFJ and Amazon. Save for the Joe Carr book, all the books mentioned are available for under \$17. and are great books at any price. If desired, at a later date, I will give my impressions of some of the ARRL books and those RSGB books I have read and still have on hand.

## Katrina Experiences

Richard Wright, KG4KHT

Here is a brief report of my activities during the days of Katrina hurricane. On Sunday, Aug. 28, I was called by my disaster chairman of the AL Gulf Coast American Red Cross and asked to go pick up twenty rental cars from the Mobile Avis Rental at the airport and get them away from the airport property because if the hurricane came here we would not get cars because the power might be out and the computers would not work. I moved them away from the airport.

Monday, we waited out the storm. Tuesday morning I set up a communication room (what we call a war room) which I had prewired like I did at the Gainesville, GA Red Cross Chapter with the help of Terry Jones, Clyde Thompson, the Reverend, Lamar and some others who I cannot call their names at this time. I hooked up eight hard phone lines that day and then on Wednesday, we got some cell phones from our local Verizon dealer and I helped pass those out to the ERV (Emergency Response Vehicle) drivers which were sent in here from all over the United States. Shortly thereafter I was sent to Lucedale, MS (where the GA 14C Communication Trailer was located) to install two-way radios to be used for communications between the Baptist Kitchen which was set up to prepare food for disaster victims. I stopped in to talk to Bill Elliott in the communication van for a few minutes then my buddy and I were sent to Biloxi, Gulfport, Picayune, Hattisburg, Wiggins and Laurel, MS to put the radios in for all the different Baptist Kitchens from different towns and states. I will not try to put the names in for fear I will omit some. It took about three days to put them all in and after that we had to go back around to part of them and make sure there were no problems with them and to answer any questions they might have.

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I put in eight more hard line phones later on in the Mobile, AL Operation Center along with installing lap top computers. As we received more cell phones I issued those out as more and more people came in on the job. I keep track as to where GA 14C was being sent but I was never able to get up with it any more.

Later, I hooked up eight more hard line phones that we got Bell South to install in the war room as well as more lap top computers. I installed four hard line telephones and four lap top computers in a logistics warehouse we set up to receive and ship out goods as they came in from all over the States to the different disaster feeding stations all over Alabama and Mississippi. Later, I had 25 hard lines installed by Bell South in a big room where we took clients' calls for assistance to be processed. I had to keep the lines in working order. We had a unit sent in to Mobile called a fly-a-way to connect up to the satellite and generate our own dial tone to run electronic IP phones, printers and fax lines.

Later, my communication manager had to leave and I took over as the manager until we were shut down at the Mobile, AL Center and moved everything to Montgomery, AL. These I had to help tear down and ship back to our headquarters in Montgomery, AL.

I put in about sixty-five days with a few days off now and then. It was a lot of work but I enjoyed it.

Richard E. Wright, KG4KHT Communication Coordinator  
AL Gulf Coast American Red Cross

## OSCAR TODAY



Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio  
Doyle Gantt, KI4KLQ

### Information on the new OSCAR 53 found from ARRL and AMSAT:

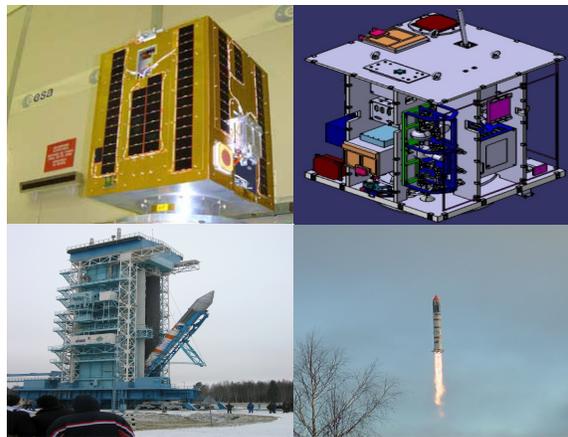
SSETI Express is now OSCAR 53 (Nov 10, 2005) -- AMSAT-NA has designated the now-problematic SSETI Express satellite as OSCAR 53--XO-53 for short, NORAD ID# 28894. After long delays with scheduled launch dates, the bird was finally launched October 27 by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The satellite, which carries an Amateur Radio package and deployed three ham radio cubesats, went silent after about five orbits. Based on telemetry received during its short period of operation, SSETI Express Project Manager Neil Melville has cited an apparent onboard power system anomaly. The spacecraft went into a "safe mode" due to an under voltage caused by battery charging problems, Melville has said, adding that ground-based hardware tests confirm the possibility of a further failure mode of the specific component that would allow the batteries to charge and the spacecraft to resume operation. In thanking AMSAT's Bill Tynan, W3XO, and the AMSAT Board for notifying the project of the designation, Melville remained upbeat. "As you are no doubt aware XO-53, to use its new designation, has some significant problems right now," he said. "However, we remain vigilant and hopeful, perhaps it can be recovered." Graham Shirville, G3VZV, says analysis of the actual cause of SSETI Express's problems continues, and a full review will take place later this month. Shirville says a number of automated ground stations have been set up in Europe to listen for SSETI Express on 437.250 MHz. He also invites valid reception reports via e-mail from the Amateur Radio community, "and if you do hear it first we can promise you a bigger prize than just a special T-shirt!" he added. "We believe that there is a small but finite chance of recovery, so your efforts could be very worthwhile."

**Author's Note:** From what I can find, serious problems still plague the mission as of this writing. The mission team is asking the Ham community for any/all reception reports. I hope the team can correct the problems soon. The bird carries many great features.

### XO-53 (SSETI Express)

Voice Uplink	437.250 FM 67Hz CTCSS
Voice Downlink	2401.835 FM
Packet Up/Downlink	437.250 9k6 packet
Packet Downlink	2401.835 38k4 packet
Launch	27 October 2005



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(Oscar Today, continued)

Current Keplerian elements are available from SpaceTrack and from the SSETI project team. The SSETI team has provided a number of software downloads to decode telemetry, payload data and images from SSETI in AX.25, Carrier Pulse and DTMF decoders. The primary decoder, the SSETI Express Radio Amateur Communications Client (SERACC) is the preferred client for down linking the spacecraft and is freeware. Downloads can be found at: <http://sseti.gte.tuwien.ac.at/express/mop/index.php?uri=downloads.html>

SSETI Express will automatically downlink general telemetry at 9k6 on 70cm. It will also be possible for radio amateurs to request specific downloads. In addition it is planned that the satellite will downlink 38k4 telemetry transmitter on the 2.4GHz transmitter. SSETI will also be available for amateur voice operation as a Mode U/S transponder after initial tests on the satellite have been completed if the bird regains power.

73 to all,  
Doyle KI4KLQ

## From the Editor

Robert Copelan, WB4DHC

We are into a new year and with that comes the first edition of the newsletter. The December 2005 edition was missed. I apologize for not getting that completed. This year I will have a published schedule for the issues and keep to it. You will also see, in the coming months, a change of format. This one has served well to get the newsletter restarted but we need a more flexible format. The 2 columns are sometimes a bit restricting. Also planned, with the input and help of W4EDT, is a new website for the club. Since the restart in August we have had a number of really excellent articles from club members. Lets continue and expand that in 2006. If you would like to submit articles or have ideas for topics please let me know. We should keep the material in the newsletter as original as possible. Put on your thinking caps!

## Where in the World is: Friedrichshafen Germany?

Friedrichshafen, home of the largest hamfest, called HamRadio, in Europe, is in extreme southern Germany on Lake Constance (Der Bodensee for you German speakers). Each year on the last weekend in June, amateur radio operators from across Europe and Asia converge on this little town of around 58,000 inhabitants for a weekend of eyeball QSOs. (almost 18,000 attendees in 2005) This is truly an international event. The national radio clubs (including the ARRL from the USA) setup booths to showcase their countries and activities. For more info about HamRadio. Vendors from around the world are there to show their latest products. For more info about HamRadio check out:  
<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/en/>

Friedrichshafen is also known as the Zeppelinstadt or Zeppelin City. It is here where the famous zeppelins such as LZ129, the Hindenburg, were built. Today, a smaller version called the Zeppelin NT is built by the modern Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH. Friedrichshafen also has manufacturing companies known world-wide such as MTU (engines), Nortel (telecom), Dornier/EADS (satellites) and ZF (transmissions, axles.)

For anyone on a tour of Europe (particularly in June/July), Friedrichshafen is a great place to spend a few quiet days by the lake and enjoy some good German hospitality along with excellent Schwabish dishes such as maultaschen, spaetzle and schnitzel. The view of the Swiss Alps across the lake is one you will never forget.

## EOC Access List

John Brandon, Hall Co. EC

The Hall Co. EOC radio room access list as of 10 Jan. 2006 is as follows:

Terry Jones	W4TL
John Brandon	KE4PCF
Alfred Westbrook	KT4VP
Ed Cravey	KF4HPY
Phillip Loggins	K4PDL
Clyde Thomason	N4FCL
Larry Tyson	W4WLT

The EOC is a controlled access facility. Access is by security clearance and assigned pass card. Other Amateur Radio Operators will be permitted access to the radio room so long as they are accompanied by one of the above listed members.

## Lunch Bunch

Every Friday at 11:30 AM there is a lunch get-together at a local restaurant. The location is announced on the Wednesday night net as well as the Yahoogroups discussion list and the 146.67 repeater.

## Repeater Info

The club has several repeaters located on Wakua Mountain.

146.670 (-) 131.8 Hz  
224.840 (-) open  
444.950 (+) 131.8 Hz

## Hall Co. Nets

W4ABP repeater  
146.67 Mhz(-) 131.8 hz

Net	Time
LARC	Wed. 2030R
Hall Co. ARES	Wed. 2000R

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