

Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

February 2006

President's Corner

Larry Tyson, W4WLT

"Be Prepared"

The Boy Scout motto is one we, as Amateur Radio Operators, should take to heart. One of our primary responsibilities under the FCC rules and regulations is to be available to provide emergency communications during times of disaster. Last year's hurricane season demonstrated the value of Amateur Radio. Are you ready for 2006 as we head into the severe weather season?

Wednesday, February 22, 2006, was Georgia's Tornado Drill. We opened the EOC station with two (2) operators and had seven (7) stations check in. Our report was made on HF to the National Weather Service Peachtree City Office. Dr. William Gray's initial Hurricane prediction for 2006 is for seventeen (17) named storms, nine (9) hurricanes, of which five (5) are predicted to be "intense." The East Coast of the United States is forecast to have a high probability (64%) of at least one hurricane making landfall. Go to <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts> to check out the latest predictions as Dr. Gray updates his forecast.

"Being Prepared" starts with making sure you and your family are safely taken care of, with a supply of food, water and other basic necessities to survive for a minimum of three (3) days. Is your station ready to operate under adverse conditions? Batteries charged and portable equipment checked out and ready to go? "Go Kit" packed and ready to deploy? Make it a priority to make sure you are ready before the next "big one" hits.

There is a lot of information out there, printed and on the Internet, to become better prepared. Take advantage of training opportunities, offered by ARRL, Red Cross, FEMA, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and other organizations, to be able to better serve your community during times of disaster.

73,
Larry, 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 meeting is on 2 March. The March meeting is on March 30. The presentation at the February meeting will be QRP & QRP Kit Building featuring Jim Stafford, W4QO and several members of the North Ga. QRP club.

Antenna Books

Ed Cravey, KB4HPY

Well, another month slipping away. This month the subject is the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) antenna books. I have a few on hand; such as "Antenna Topics", "Practical Wire Antennas" and the clever "Backyard Antennas".

Antenna Topics is an expensive book, \$30., but of course I got it for half at Dayton. It is a collection of clippings from the writings of Pat Hawker G3VA dating from 1958-1999 for the magazine RADCOM a British publication. It is full of antenna designs, many of which are not known to the American public. Included are some pieces written about American made antennas. It is well cataloged to find an article about any antenna in the index. I have not read each piece, but instead have looked at antennas of interest and have enjoyed them. This is like that old scrapbook one used to keep filled with schematic of radios to build. Save for the fact, this one is full of antennas(aerials as they say in the UK).

Practical Wire Antennas, a small book by John Heys G3BDQ, is one of the books long available at HRO and is a good beginner book for the new HF operator. At \$17. it is still a pretty good builders manual. Little or no theory is pushed on the reader, just good explanations of the class of antenna featured, followed by the specs to build and experiment with that antenna. I like this book for its ease in using it as a builder's manual.

(continued next page)

(Antenna Books, continued)

Next is the antenna book "Backyard Antennas" one of my favorites because it offers so many ideas for limited spaces; plus many high performance antennas. Chapters include: Overcoming limitations, HF center-fed antennas, end-fed HF & LF antennas, matching and tuning ,even building a tuner; loops, beams VHF/UHF antennas are covered, along with masts. There are techniques for overcoming seeming impossible locations to place an antenna. I bought this one when it was cheaper, now it is \$32. at ARRL. This was one of the first RSGB books bought at a hamfest for my library. Since I have been in ham radio for ten years, I have a fair selection of books.

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

Shock and Awe! BPL being tested in Habersham Co.

Woody Parr, W2BBQ

Hello LARC members. There may be more good news than bad. Habersham Electric Membership Corp (HEMC), who provides electricity to many areas of the NE corner of the state, including areas outside of Habersham county, and who also is a provider of phone-based dial up Internet service, is considering entering the Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) business. BPL has been a rather hot topic in the amateur community for the last few years due to the circumstance that these systems are known for radiating spurious noise off of their equipment and onto the HF spectrum. Most of these systems have operating frequencies between 4~30mhz. HEMC is in their initial testing phase of a proposed system. A several mile long line was installed last fall and has been operating for a couple of months in an area a little north of Clarkesville. One small benefit I am able to provide here is that I have an associate who works with HEMC Internet Division so I am able to obtain first hand information about what is going on. HEMC publicly won't tell "outsiders" where this Test System is at but I have been able to pass the test location whereabouts over to a group of interested hams near Cleveland who are seriously concerned about the potential noise pollution. They have already made 2 or 3 trips to this area with HF mobile stations looking for radiated noise. And they have found plenty of it! They have recorded their findings and passed it along to HEMC management. Upon subsequent trips they have found that some of the noise has apparently been abated in places, in other places the noise has simply moved to other frequencies (still in HF) and in yet other places there has been no change at all. In the places where this noise is present, S9+ readings of it are being obtained.

I am trying to save what may be the best news for last. For this BPL system to become a lasting and expanding reality...it has to work well and have lots of consumers willing to pay for it. This test system has been given to 10 customers for them to try out. This service is supposed to provide a Internet connection speed which is 100 times faster than a dial-up connection. So far, it is only working at a measly 10 times faster than dial-up. My contact at HEMC states that none of the persons using it are liking it so far and none have indicated that they would be willing to pay for it. So that is a very good thing. Even if they can manage to eliminate all spurious noise emissions from HF, they still have to make it work well enough so that customers would buy the service. So far, this Mitsubishi branded equipment which is being tested is failing on both accounts. Let's all hope that it remains this way and the HEMC BPL experiment will come to a quick end soon.

Take care and have fun with radios!

Woody Parr, Cornelia W2BBQ

LARC January Meeting Minutes

Robert Copelan, WB4DHC, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the President. The speaker for the evening, Ray Rector WA4NJP, was introduced by Roger Gibson. Ray gave an excellent presentation on Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) activities.

Discussion: The repeater phone line will be left active at this time. Everyone was reminded to renew their memberships if they had not already done so. For data security reasons the club roster will be moved from the website to the files section of Yahoogroups. Members who have difficulty accessing it there can request a copy from the club secretary. 2 new membership applications were submitted: W2BBQ and W9JWT.

Treasurer's report: We have \$3931.91 in the bank with no known outstanding bills. There are 7 outstanding memberships to be processed.

New Business:

KT4VP, Alfred mentioned that repeater options need to be discussed and that VE testing is on the following Sunday.

Club members should submit suggestions for a fund raiser to the Executive Committee.

Motion by Mike, N4HGO, to have 2 raffles consisting of 3 to-be-determined prizes. Motion was seconded and passed.

Raffle Committee was appointed: N4HGO, K4PDL, W4WLT.

Bylaw amendment was proposed by Robert, WB4DHC to adjust the Bylaws to match how we currently handle Honorary membership dues. See the next column for the text of the proposal. The motion was seconded. It will be published in the next 2 newsletters and scheduled for a vote at the April meeting.

The January meeting was adjourned.

From the Editor

Robert Copelan, WB4DHC

A short note for this month. The year has gotten off to a good start. Keep those articles coming in. So far we have been able to have a newsletter with all original content. Hopefully we'll have enough input to sustain that this year.

Proposal to amend the LARC Bylaws Paragraph 6.10

(first printing)

1. Amend the ByLaws paragraph 6.10 by adding the following sentence:

"An Honorary Life Member may upgrade their membership to a family membership by paying the difference between the then current family membership rate and the then current single membership rate".

2. If adopted, the above paragraph will apply retroactively for the 2006 membership dues. The Treasurer is directed to either return excess monies paid or to distribute them to other club funds as directed by the honorary member.

Where in the World is:

????

Have any suggestions for a location to feature? If so, either let the WB4DHC know of the location or send a short article about it. The only criterion is that the location be in some way related to a club member or amateur radio.

Thanks to **Megaprint** for the free-of-charge printing services for LARC. Visit them at:

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Gainesville, GA 30501

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