



December 2006

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

President's Corner

Doyle Gantt, W4DJG

As we move toward the holiday season, I truly hope each of you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Do enjoy your time with family and friends.

I am excited about 2007 and what it holds for LARC. Each of you is a vital part of the success of our club. The officers and committees will need your continued support as we move through the year ahead.

We are planning many activities geared for the fun and enjoyment of all including your family. Some of the things on the drawing board are, ice cream socials (great for the kids and grandkids and even the adults), a series of meetings to teach/learn about equipment needed for "foxhunts" and actually conduct a simple hunt then advance our way into more challenging ones, and later in the year, LARC's support of JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) by providing amateur radio stations and operators to allow all the young scouts in the area an opportunity to make as many worldwide radio contacts as they can. By supporting JOTA, we will have the opportunity to spark an interest for Amateur Radio in many young lives. What a great way to promote our hobby. Of course we will continue to have our regular activities such as weekly nets, lunch bunch, hamfest, field day, summer picnic, etc. Look for a few new twists to these events. We have many more ideas and plans in the works.

Let's ensure Hall and surrounding counties know LARC stands ready and is alive and well. One of my personal goals is for us to be much more visible within the community.

Above all, let's have fun in 2007.

Again, Merry Christmas to you and your family.
I look forward to the year ahead.

73
Doyle, W4DJG

Vanity Call Signs

Submitted by Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN

A first time licensed Technician Class amateur initially receives a sequentially issued 2-by-3 format station call sign. (2-by-3 means the call sign has two prefix letters, one numeral and three suffix letters ...such as KJ7QZB. You don't get to choose the call sign.) Once you have been assigned a call sign you can trade it in for a specific 1-by-3 format call sign (one letter, either K, N or W, one numeral - zero through nine and three suffix letters) of your choosing under the new Vanity Call Sign System. (Very few "N" calls are available.) General Class amateurs also may select a new 1-by-3 call sign. A very good Vanity call sign search resource is Eldon Lewis's - K7LS web site RadioQTH.Net located at: www.radioqth.net. This website lists immediately available and soon to be available call signs. Advanced Class and Extra Class amateurs qualify for even shorter call signs. Advanced can choose any available 2-by-2 call sign beginning with KA-KZ, NA-NZ or WA-WZ. Extra Class qualify for available 1-by-2, 2-by-1 and 2-by-2 call signs beginning with AA-AK.

The Tech Corner: Antennas

Submitted by Ed Cravey, KF4HPY

The last installment we dealt with antenna books mainly under \$20. Now we will check out the ARRL series of antenna books. The first and foremost is the "ARRL Antenna Book" a \$40 book which includes a CD-ROM disc. This book has everything you ever wanted to know about antennas from the plain wire in the tree to EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) antennas, by way of rigging antennas on sailboats. However, it is a large book and difficult to use by the beginner. It covers much and is expensive for those on a budget. It features the building of very good antennas using the best of materials such as aluminum tubes which can cost a good deal of money. That is why I use copper tubes for all of my rotatable antennas from 20m up to UHF. This is a reference book for those who want to know everything about antennas, towers, theory, propagation, transmission lines etc. In short an antenna nut's book. If you must have the "Antenna Book"; please do, but get an older edition at a hamfest. This will give you the maximum information at minimum cost from a period when everyone made much of the antenna equipment.

Someone at ARRL must have recognized a need for a simpler book; so "Simple and Fun Antennas" was published in 2002. This book is really clever. It has information for the beginner, the old timer, or anyone wanting to get a few tips on making an antenna. The first chapter is titled "Your First VHF Antenna"; the second is called "Your First HF Antenna" the fourth is "Antenna Masts and Supports". This is great stuff, shades of Ed Noll's "Easy- Up Antennas". This book is a bargain at \$23 and will satisfy almost everyone interested in making their own antennas. If you are just starting a library and like ARRL publications, this is the one to get.

Another nice book is the "ARRL's VHF/UHF Antenna Classics", a good starter for those who want to get into some real antenna work. Yagis, loops, phased, helix, quads, log-periodic, even recycling old TV antennas for use in those bands open to Tech class license holders. I have built a couple of these designs myself and they do work. \$15 is a good bargain for those who want performance at homebrew construction prices. If you don't want to advance beyond Technician class, this book will allow you to build up to a 22 element Yagi for the 432 MHz Oscar band.

The books I am going to introduce now are a pair called "ARRL's Wire Antenna Classics" and "More Wire Antenna Classics." At \$14 each, a good buy for any ones library. Definitely not coffee table books as these antennas featured are simple and clever, fulfilling almost every need in the HF and 6 meter bands by scaling to size. Filled with dipoles, collinear, wire beams,

rhombics, loops, OCF dipoles, and even receiving antennas. If you already have the Noll, Orr, Carr books you will recognize some old friends and meet some new antennas as well.

For those who love Yagi antennas, there is the "ARRL's Yagi Antenna Classics". Covering the work of Mr. Yagi and his student Uda from the beginning in the '20's thru the acceptance of the design in the '30's; this \$18 book gives a god coverage of these beams that the average ham might want to build. I seem to have mislaid my copy, so I will say no more about this book. Also missing is the book "Vertical Antenna Classics" a \$12 read for those interested in HF, VHF, UHF verticals and the theory behind them.

The Compendiums 1 thru 5 in my library have been sold at a hamfest and I have not missed them at all. These are the kind of book one buys for just one or two articles of note; as the rest of the pieces are found in other ARRL books. However, there certain articles of interest, like Varney's G5RV piece as to the reasoning behind his famous antenna. So I recommend browsing through the compendiums before buying.

For my last ARRL book about antennas, I have to tell you about my favorite cheap ARRL "ant" book; "W1FB's Antenna Notebook" at \$10. This book first published in 1987 has it all, fundamentals, dipoles, single wire, verticals, high performance wire antennas including NVIS, invisible antennas, matching techniques, tables, schematics in about 127 pages. This is written in simple fashion for the new guy but has details for the old timer as well. This book is a good cross reference or field manual and addresses many questions we all have in the antenna field.

Next time I will finish this series with a review of the RSGB antenna books I have on hand. I hope you are enjoying this series of antenna book reviews.

EchoLink

Submitted by Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN (Taken from Echolink.org)

EchoLink® software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology. For licensed hams, EchoLink® software opens up new possibilities for communicating around the world with other amateurs. Your PC links you or your local repeater to any of thousands of other stations over the Internet. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 170,000 registered users in 158 nations worldwide! EchoLink is a full-featured software package with many important and useful features. For a brief overview, [take a tour](#) or go to <http://www.echolink.org/>

Safety

Submitted by Doyle Gantt, W4DJG

Doyle, W4DJG

**Often, as emergency communicators, we put ourselves into harms way without even thinking about becoming an emergency our self. In the course of the next several months, I'll be posting information concerning how we can ensure we maintain our own safety at home and in the field.

**This month, let's discuss floods. Personal safety should always be forefront in our minds. Hears what the National Weather Service has to say:

From the National Weather Service Southern Region Web Site



Flooding:

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, Turn Around Don't Drown. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

Follow these safety rules:

- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.



Flash Floods

Except for heat related fatalities, more deaths occur from flooding than any other hazard. Why? Most people fail to realize the power of water. For example, six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet.

While the number of fatalities can vary dramatically with weather conditions from year to year, the national 30-year average for flood deaths is 127. That compares with a 30-year average of 73 deaths for lightning, 65 for tornadoes and 16 for hurricanes.

National Weather Service data also shows:

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related,
- The majority of victims are males, and
- Flood deaths affect all age groups.

Most flash floods are caused by slow moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms that move repeatedly over the same area or heavy rains from tropical storms and hurricanes. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions and ground cover.

Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.

Occasionally, floating debris or ice can accumulate at a natural or man-made obstruction and restrict the flow of water. Water held back by the ice jam or debris dam can cause flooding upstream. Subsequent flash flooding can occur downstream if the obstruction should suddenly release.

****Remember, it's your life we're talking about. BE SAFE in all that you do!**

73

Doyle Gantt

November 2006 Minutes

Date: November 28th, 2006

Location: Fire Mountain, Gainesville

Time: Meeting was opened at 1912 by Larry Tyson, W4WTL

Introductions and greeting to all members.

There was no Treasurers report due to John Brandon being hospitalized.

The November program was presented by Larry Tyson, W4WTL and addressed the topic of Pandemic Influenza.

NEW BUSINESS: A proposal submitted by Doyle Gantt, Alfred Westbrook, John Brandon, Roger Gibson, and Bob Aldrich was presented to the club members by Roger Gibson to amend our By-Laws under Section II (Membership) to add and include Paragraph 2.45 that would read:

“All Amateur Radio Operators under 16 years of age, that reside in Hall and adjoining counties, will be eligible for free membership into the Lanierland Amateur Radio Club. Those persons who receive free membership will not have voting privileges and will be subject to normal club dues as outlined in paragraph 6.10 of our By-Laws at the end of the calendar year following their 16th birthday.”

This proposal, per club bylaws, will appear in this months and next months newsletter and then voted on at the LARC February meeting. **This is the first notification.**

Meeting adjourned at 1945

Georgia Ham Events

13 Jan 2007+ GARS TechFest Gwinnett ARS <http://www.gars.org>

Talk-In: 147.075 (PL 82.5) Lawrenceville, GA

St Marguerite D'Youville Church

[85 Gloster Road NW](#)

24 Feb 2007+ Dalton ARC <http://www.w4drc.com>

Talk-In: 145.230 (-) no tone Dalton, GA

North Georgia Fairgrounds

[501 Legion Drive](#)

Repeaters:

2 Meter 146.67 MHz - 131.8 Hz tone. Also used for Hall County ARES

1.2 Meter 224.84 MHz - 203.5Hz tone.

70 Centimeter 444.950 MHz + 131.8Hz tone

Nets:

ARES Net – 2000 every Wednesday night on 2 meters.

LARC Net – 2030 every Wednesday night following the ARES net on 2 meters.

Club Meeting Information

Meeting nights are the last Tuesday of each month. As always, the meeting location is at Fire Mountain on Browns Bridge Road.

Amateur Radio News:

- [Amateur Radio Newsline](#)
- [Amateur Radio Newsline w/streaming audio](#)
- [ARRL News Bulletins](#)
- [RAIN Report \(Radio Amateur Information Network\)](#)
- [W5YI News Bulletins](#)
- [AMSAT News Bulletins](#)

LARC APPAREL

A GREAT GIFT IDEA!



LARC Embroidered Cloth Patch
22 Available
\$3.50 Each



LARC LOGO Ball Cap
(One size fits All)
4 (White) Available
\$10.00 Each



**LARC LOGO Silk Screened
cotton T-shirt (white)**
4 Medium, 1 Large and 2 XL
Available \$10.00 each

**See John Brandon, KE4PFC, LARC Treasurer for any of the
above club items.**

Newsletter published by: Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN, Secretary / Newsletter Editor
for the Lanierland ARC.

Newsletter inputs are welcome from any member, any time.

Please contribute!

Send your inputs to KI4QVN@windstream.net

Continuing thanks go to Chuck, W4EDT, for our website support and ensuring the Newsletter is posted on <http://www.lanierlandarc.org>