

Happy Halloween



# Lanierland ARC



<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

October 2009

## President's Corner

Philip Loggins K4PDL



I found this to be a great quote. "Aspirin is obsolete, but new uses are found for it every day, just like with ham radio. Collecting stamps is a hobby, but ham radio is a lifestyle."

Congratulations to the new Hams. Best wishes in your exploration and enjoyment of a very fascinating and diverse hobby. Many kudos to our members who take their time to put forth another class to promote amateur radio. And last but not least, the VE Teams who help keep turning them out. Our many thanks.

Wow, this year is going fast! It's about time to begin thinking about elections again. I know that there are many who would be great to serve in the LARC leadership next year.

LARC elections will be held at the November 24th meeting, come and nominate your choice for any LARC Club Officer. If you would like to be considered as a nominee for any office, please contact Larry Tyson, W4WLT, who has been appointed to head up the Nominating Committee. Here is your chance to be a part of the future of Ham Radio. All paid-up regular members of the Lanierland Amateur Radio Club can vote for and run for a position on the executive team or as an officer of the club. Their report will be due at the October meeting, so don't delay. If you would like to make a difference in the club and help it grow, contact Larry right away.

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 reserve the



good and build for tomorrow. Start today. Until next time,

## Congratulations to new “Hams” and upgrades

### From LARC “Tech” class (August)

<b>Bruce Athelstone</b>	<b>KJ4PJZ</b>
<b>Steven Estes</b>	<b>KJ4PKA</b>
<b>Erick Kreutzman</b>	<b>KJ4PKB</b>
<b>James Athelstone</b>	<b>KJ4PKC</b>
<b>June Payne</b>	<b>KJ4PKD</b>
<b>Alex Payne</b>	<b>KJ4PKE</b>
<b>Andrew Boggs</b>	<b>KJ4PKF</b>
<b>James Boggs</b>	<b>KJ4PKG</b>
<b>Ron Brown</b>	<b>KJ4PKH</b>
<b>Dalton Satterfield</b>	<b>KJ4PLA</b>

### From October 4 session

LARC's **David Hulsey** W4PSL to **EXTRA**  
**Greg Wood** KJ4PEV to **General**  
**Terry Mize** KJ4PMJ (LARC “Tech” Class)

Many thanks to Perry KO4RD and his VE team for providing testing.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

**Our next club meeting (October 27) will be located at Ryan's Buffet  
2415 Browns Bridge Rd in Gainesville. Dinner at 18:00 with  
meeting following at 19:00.**

## **MFJ 9440x**

Ed Cravey KF4HPY

The other day I had the opportunity of trying a new radio on the 40-meter band. Let me give you a little background first. Up in the North Georgia Mountains, we have had a cabin since 1994. It is a site located in a valley and hard to use transmitters from such a location.

Recently there have been a series of burglaries and not wanting to leave an expensive, powerful radio behind in the cabin; I sought a solution. In 1996, I was ticketed as a Tech-NO

Code, and soon tired of the repeater scene as a steady diet. Doing a little research, I discovered MFJ made a 6m SSB transceiver of 10 Watts PEP. Being curious, I bought one, despite everyone saying, "The 6m band is dead!!" How wrong they were, I worked New England, Canada, WI, TX, a ship in the Gulf of Mexico, VA, CT, and have the QSL cards to prove it. A few years later I sold it to N2SBD Tom and he worked some more, including Canada on Field Day.

So, naturally I turned to MFJ and ordered one from HRO. I decided on the 40-meter radio, a simple, analog dial, a couple of knobs, speaker and phone jack, and a pair of push buttons contained in a plain aluminum box. Not much to look at. Not after all the big rigs on display at HRO. I took it out of the box and thought, not much to this! The proof is in the pudding! Powering it up and matching the antenna, the radio was as they say in the South, "Eat up with signals!!" I didn't get anyone to answer my calls though, shades of the old 9406 back in '96.

In the mountains it was another story; I checked into the Rotten Apple Net first try and was given an S8 report. Subsequent check-ins were greeted with, "Hey you're the guy with the MFJ

QRP rig!! Or, "Wow, I've gotta get me one of those!!" Not bad for 12 Watts SSB from Hiawassee, GA, working Iowa with comments from Ohio. I have a feeling this is a keeper radio. It has a speech compressor and ladder filter; also it can be converted to do CW with an optional board. The VFO does drift during warm-up but after a few minutes all is stable. The frequency covered is 7.150 to 7.3 SSB, but the CW board allows coverage down to 7.0 MHz.

This would be a good loaner radio for a beginner, or a travel radio for someone on a low budget. I learned all about dipoles, working pile-ups, and nets on 6m long before getting upgraded to with such a radio.

Now I'm not saying to rush out and buy one of these as MFJ has its QC problems and sometimes we must tweak their products to suit us. But their power supplies, analyzers etc. are very good. I like to check on different products by searching Product Reviews on

Eham.net before buying. This saves a lot of heartache and woe- is-me. The 94xx series got pretty decent reviews so I took the plunge. I have had the 9402, 9406 and now the 9440.

Always get the models with the x suffix as in 9475x indicating a 75m SSB radio with microphone.

Once you have one of these simple radios the hunt for accessories is on. The first piece needed would be a power supply; a 12 V gel cell or 3 Ampere /13.8 Volt would do quite well. Next would be the antenna; you have to buy or build one of those. I built my first dipole of 2 x 2's and threaded rod so I could rotate it. Which led me to add another element to my next antenna making that into a two element Yagi array. For this radio and its single band, I can build a wire dipole and save a \$100.00 by not having to use a tuner. Since I am on 40m. I will use 468/7.225, the midpoint of the radio's 40m bandwidth. I favor Budwig center insulators. Those pieces are almost invisible, have a molded-in SO-239 and are of best quality. I'll be using RadioShack SWL antenna wire of 14 AWG (stranded) sold in 70- foot lengths. Since a phone jack is now provided, a set of earphones with 1/4 -inch plug will just about complete the ensemble, save a logbook to record all the stations worked. In fact, I have just completed the antenna using the exact materials listed above with parts from the "Junque" box.

The only difference in my antenna and those sold by commercial firms is the \$40.00 I didn't have to spend on the antenna as I've had the pieces on hand for years. I can hardly wait to return to the mountains to see what the single band radio station will do. Come on and join the QRP folks on the air.

73,  
Ed

**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.**



# Ham Radio in the 21st Century



## Ham Humor

A television news cameraman had just arrived at the scene of an accident. As he exited his vehicle, he heard a policeman on the scanner using the radio phonetic alphabet to alert other officers. "Be aware that the Mike Echo Delta India Alpha has arrived," he said.

The cameraman approached the officer, looked him in the eye and said, "You might be surprised to know that some of us in Mike Echo Delta India Alpha can Sierra Papa Echo Lima Lima."

## Why Become a LARC Member?

I wanted to take up a little of your valuable time to explain why you should be a member of the Lanierland Amateur Radio Club. One should not let personality or difference of opinion determine your membership status with this great organization. None of us will ever agree on everything all the time. If you want something changed, you have to debate the issue. If you want to debate the issue, you have to be a member. Remember, you have no voice, without a vote.

Another major reason for needing membership are the dues to help maintain club equipment and general overhead expenses. I want to list the basic yearly overhead expense categories, committee budgets, and why we have them.

**Repeater System Basic Maintenance:** 146.670 & 444.950 on top of Wauka Mtn. We all use them, so we have to keep them up and running.

**Insurance:** When we do special events we need coverage. In case of fire, disaster, or equipment theft, we need coverage.

**Website:** Having this fantastic Website has the potential to bring in new members to the club, and has helped our image as a growing club. Check the hit counter on the site. And to think of all that info!

**SERA Coordination:** We pay dues to SERA to help insure others won't have the same frequencies in our broadcast area.

**ARRL Membership:** They help with no cost legal assistance, Hamfest promotion, insurance protection, and FCC lobbying for amateur radio.

**Technical Committee:** A budget has to be maintained at all times in the case of equipment failure that produces immediate down time.

**Hamfest Committee:** A budget has to be maintained to allow for Porta Potties and other expenses that may occur.

I'm sure I have not covered everything in this short note. As you can tell, there is a lot more going on than just meetings. I just wanted to give you a sense of what it takes to keep the club going. Your membership is very important. Please think about this before you decide not to join. Let's all help keep the Lanierland Radio Club an on-going success. Volunteer your services to a committee of your choice and support your newly elected officers. You can download a copy of the club membership application from the web site –

[www.lanierlandarc.org](http://www.lanierlandarc.org) .

Warmest Regards,  
Phil K4PDL

## **NEW HIGH EFFICIENCY SOLAR CELLS DEVELOPED**

Turning to the emerging technology page, an Electronics Weekly article reports that Belgian researchers have taken another step towards creating a new generation of mechanically-stacked triple junction solar cells. These new cells are expected to eventually become the most efficient available.

According to the article in a triple junction cell, each junction is tuned to absorb a different part of the solar spectrum, with the upper layers designed to be transparent to wavelengths absorbed in the lower layers. This is similar to the way many color films were made prior to the advent of digital photography. The researchers say that this broad coverage of the spectrum is why high efficiencies are obtained.

This is the first promising demonstration of this new stacking



technology which is expected to produce cells with efficiencies above 40%. The complete article on this new is at [www.electronicweekly.com/Articles/2009/09/23/47021/imec-opens-door-for-record-breaking-solar-cells.htm](http://www.electronicweekly.com/Articles/2009/09/23/47021/imec-opens-door-for-record-breaking-solar-cells.htm) (EW)

## **ANOTHER NEW UK D-STAR REPEATER ON THE AIR**

Yet another new D-Star repeater is on the air in the United Kingdom. GB7NE operates on 439.450 MHz and covers most of the county of Northumberland.

The repeater is maintained by G7RWC and has a website, [gb7ne.org.uk](http://gb7ne.org.uk). It currently operates as a stand alone digital audio system but will be connected to the D-Star network within the next few weeks.

## **HAMVENTION ATTENDANCE NUMBERS UP FOR 2009**

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association says that 18,877 people attended last May's Dayton Hamvention. That was up by almost a thousand from the approximate 17,800 that showed up in 2008 but still nowhere near 25,000 to 30,000 mark of the latter 1980's through the mid-1990's.

Dayton in the United States and the Ham Radio show in Germany have long been considered the bellwethers of the economic health of the service by the world-wide amateur radio business community. This year Ham Radio had approximately 17,400 visitors which was also up by some 300 over 2008. As such there is growing belief that the increased attendance at these shows is a sign that the economy of ham radio is improving even if all else lags behind.

Hamvention 2010 will be held next May 14th to the 16th. More about the Dayton Hamvention is on-line at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org). (DARA RF Carrier and other sources)

## **RUSSIAN OTH RADAR DESTROYING 20 M IN EUROPE**

An over the horizon radar system in Russia is ruining reception on 20 meters in Europe.

The IARU Region 1 reports that the Russian over-the-horizon radar is

active daily on 14.440MHz and is producing splatter plus and minus 110kHz. The upper part of the 20m band is affected, too.

The location of the ABM2-radar is in the area of Smolensk. The German PTT has been informed. More information is available on their website at [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org).



## 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>

**How to print a zero with a slash through it ( Ø ) from the KEY PAD!  
Be the first to email me ( [k4pdl@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4pdl@bellsouth.net) ) with correct answer, and be surprised at Lunch Bunch!!!**

**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  
"Everyone is welcome to check in"

### Quote of the Month

Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance

### Proverb of the Month

*I can resist everything except temptation*



**Something to WATCH for!**

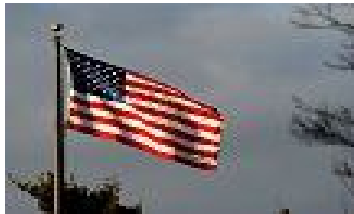
**Watch your thoughts; they become words.**

**Watch your words; they become actions.**

**Watch your actions; they become habits.**

**Watch your habits; they become character.**

**Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.**



**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.**

**It's time we stand up for what we believe!**

# ALT Codes

Doyle Gantt W4DJG

(Information obtained from several sources and by “trial and error”)

During my years of putting together PowerPoint presentations and word documents for work and other groups, I discovered a fast way to create special characters that are not on the keyboard.

Windows assigns a numeric code to different accented letters, other foreign characters and special mathematical symbols. For instance the code for lower case sigma is 229, and the code for capital Sigma is 228. The ALT key input is used to manually insert these letters and symbols by calling up the numeric code assigned to them. Below is a short list of the ones I've found most useful:

## To obtain an ALT Character:

Make certain that the Num Lock key has been pressed to activate the numeric key section of the keyboard. There should be a light on your keyboard to indicate it is active

1. Depress the Alt key.
2. While the Alt key is depressed, type the proper sequence of numbers (on the numeric keypad) of the ALT code from the table below.
3. Release the Alt key, and the character will appear

Symbol	Code
Up Arrow ↑	24
Down Arrow ↓	25
Pi $\pi$	227
Sigma $\Sigma$	228
Omega $\Omega$ (Ohm)	234
Lambda $\lambda$ (wave)	955
Micro $\mu$	230
Plus/Minus $\pm$	0177
Divide $\div$	0247
Cent $\cent$	155
Square Root $\sqrt{\quad}$	251
Power of 1 $^1$	0185
Squared $^2$	0178
Cubed $^3$	0179
Degree $^\circ$	248
Fraction $\frac{1}{4}$	0188
Fraction $\frac{1}{2}$	0189
Fraction $\frac{3}{4}$	0190
Copyright $\copyright$	0169
Trademark $\text{TM}$	0153
Registered $\text{R}$	0174
Pilcrow ¶	0182

**Note:** Some codes will not work with programs such as Excel. A few will not work in Email.

Your result may vary depending on how your system is set up and what OS your running. I have not tested ANY of these codes on Vista.

- **Instructions for entering Alt Codes on a lap top**

Even if you have a laptop or a keyboard with no numeric keypad - you can still use **alt codes**.

1. Look for a "function" or "fn" key normally near the bottom left of the keyboard.
2. Look for a button with "num lock" written in the same colour which is usually near the top right of the keyboard.

- While holding "function" press and release "num lock".

- Enter **alt codes** using the method above but to enter the **actual numeric alt code** use the keys with **numbers in the same colour as the function (fn) key**. Normally "U" has 4 on it for example.
- Switch "num lock" off in the same way as you switched it on to **continue using your keyboard normally**.

The above list is only a very small sample of ALT codes. If you have a special need, Email me ([w4djg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4djg@bellsouth.net)) and I'll try to help you find the correct code.

I also have an ongoing spreadsheet with many more ALT codes. I'll be happy to share if you're interested.

## Solution to last month Crossword

A	L	A	M	O		M	I	S	T	S		H	T	S	
W	I	D	E	R		O	N	E	A	W		A	I	L	
O	M	A	N	I		L	U	C	I	A		M	M	I	
L	A	R	S	O	N	E	R	A	P	P		V	I	N	
			A	N	I		E	N	E			B	E	N	E
G	M	T		S	C	R		T	I	D	I	N	G	S	
H	E	A	R		K	F	C			B	O	T			
I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	I	L	I	T	I	E	S	
			E	T	O		S	O	U		A	O	N	E	
A	C	R	O	B	A	T		N	N	W		N	T	X	
L	E	E	R		S	A	T		A	E	S				
I	R	C			Q	S	T	F	O	R	A	P	R	I	L
N	E	O			T	U	T	O	R		V	O	I	C	E
C	A	R			H	C	O	N	E		E	I	C	O	S
O	L	D			S	H	O	E	S		S	L	A	N	T

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>



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