

# Lanierland ARC W4ABP Newsletter

<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

December 2008



“Remember the Reason for the Season”

## President's Corner

Philip Loggins K4PDL

This newsletter is hopefully going out before the end of November and before our November meeting. That said, I want to invite everyone to the Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for this is the night of electing our next year's officers. Everyone is welcome.

Just a few short years ago, this club had over 150 paid members on role. This past year we were down to about 70 or so. Many factors have played a role in this decline. But what it boils down to is that about 80 people or so may have thought it wasn't worth it.

There may not be anyone or anything that can force us to 'join a club', but there are some compelling reasons to do so.

From my point of view, they are: Public Service, Emergency Service, and service to other hams.

Did you notice the word "service"? When we concentrate inward, on ourselves, our world becomes extremely small, narrow, and boring. When we lift our eyes to see others, our world becomes infinite with possibilities and opportunities. Knowledge, experience, and excitement quickly follow. This is my hope and prayer for our club and every one of its members and future members.

I'd like to take a moment and thank everyone for the opportunity to serve you as your President over the past year, and hopefully into the new year. We have accomplished my main goal, and that was to see the club grow. We are really off on the right foot. More classes are now being scheduled for next year in hopes of bringing in even more members. But there is so much more to get done. Keeping these new members interested, our club needs to get busy doing things to

accomplish this. We need help from each of you for the upcoming year. Hopefully, seeing this come to be, it will gear up us older members to jump in head first and also enjoy the things to come.

Help us preserve the good and build for tomorrow. **START TODAY**

It's December! And with December comes the most blessed time of the year, Christmas. As we reflect upon the past year, and all that has happened in our World, Nation, and City, let us remember our friends and good times and all that GOD has blessed us with.

I hope and pray that your Christmas is merry and bright. And don't forget that Jesus is the real reason for this great Season.

Merry Christmas and may God bless each and everyone at LARC, and your families!  
Phil Loggins K4PDL

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## HT Radio Stands

Ed Cravey KF4HPY



We have all seen those radio stands costing \$8 to \$22 at the hamfests and in the catalogs, made of mainly plastic and steel or wood. I admired them but didn't want to spend all that money for a piece of bent plastic no matter how cleverly done. I thought how could I make stands to keep radios with tall antennas from falling over? What materials have I, on hand? I have wooden moldings, plywood, plastic matting, and a miter box with saw. Since Mike N4HGO and I had the same problem, falling radios, I started on the project. First I cut the molding to length and laid two pieces out on a piece of plywood using the radio as a template for the spacing. I then nailed the pieces together and set the radios up inside the stand; but something was lacking. Next I mitered the front corners to 45 degrees, painted the stand, glued a piece of plastic matting in the radio space, and pressed on rubber feet to prevent

scratching fine furniture. Mike and I haven't had a short-wave radio fall over in years. All from scraps around the house.

Have you noticed how small the new HT radios have become, while needing taller antennas? Also how they topple over at the smallest stirring of the wind? I have the answer. Make your own stand! Start by visiting Walmart or a hobby shop and look for wooden plaques. Some are in plywood, some are in pine, all are in varying shapes. Pick out one you like and think about what finish to apply. I like brown paint or clear lacquer the most. Hardware is Panhead-Phillips-Zinc in 8x1/2 metal screws; if the wood is thin, add #8

flat washers to the list. I like rubber feet under the base, so add those to the list too. Now we have our base, for the stand piece check your hardware store for the Simpson Strong-tie A24 angle for large HT's and the Simpson Strong-tie FB-24z fence bracket for small HT's.

Now that our pieces are on the table ready to assemble, let's start by using a fine file (not course) and remove the wire edges caused in manufacturing of the zinc-plated metal pieces. Two reasons, to prevent marring and scarring of the radios: and to prevent cuts and bleeding of the fingers during use. Try the radio on the angle and the fence bracket to see the fit. An Alinco 196,596 etc. will fit perfectly in the A-24. Other radios may require enlarging of the 1/2 inch hole in the angle to accommodate the belt clip. The FB-24z may need a nylon spacer underneath to support the radio, as in the case of a VX-150 or not as it has a long belt clip. It's your call. Next determine the placement of the metal stand: centered laterally, and so that the centerline of the radio is aligned about on the centerline of the stand. Placement is not critical just so it is pleasing to the eye. The A-24 angle base will have to be drilled for the mounting screws; the FB-24z requires no drilling. Now that the layout is determined, mark the screw holes with a small punch or nail. Next is the wood base work. The bases can be routed, sanded, painted, lacquered, or left unfinished; whatever you want. The A-24 angle now drilled can be clamped in a padded vise and struck with a "dead hammer" to angle it backwards for a more pleasing appearance. Not too much of an angle, you need to be able to tighten the screws. The plaque base should be ready for final assembly. If you are using the A-24 angle with a thicker base the #8x1/2 screws shouldn't be a problem. The plywood base used with the FB-24z may prove too thin and need a bit of filing to blunt the protruding screw-point or just put a washer under the screw head. One more item to add: rubber feet to prevent marring and scarring your wife or mother's dining table. I enjoy not having to attend to my Yaesu VX-2 while listening to weather or short-wave broadcasts. I hope you try to make one or two stands and see how wonderfully well they work. If not, I can always make you one.

73 Ed KF4HPY

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**CLUB LOGO ITEMS**  
**"SHOW YOUR TRUE CLUB COLORS"**  
(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

all 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 your 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.

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## BUY, SELL, TRADE

[List your gear here](#)

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OSCAR STATUS :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>

OSCAR FREQUENCIES :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/frequencies.php>

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### December Club Meeting

December 6 at Ryan's Gainesville.

Breakfast at 08:00 with meeting following

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**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

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Repeater Info: 146.67 (-) 131.8 Hz 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”

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## **WCARS ANNOUNCES NO FEE CHANGE FOR 2009**

Norman Harrill N4NH, president and VEC of WCARS has announced no testing fee increase for next year. This is great news for all concerned. During this very unstable economic time we all face, it is very refreshing to see no increase in testing fees from our VEC. While at least one other VEC will increase fees by \$1 (from \$14 to \$15 (ARRL)) next year, WCARS will keep fees at \$10. Kudos to Norman for his ability to keep cost low as well as providing high quality service. WELL DONE!!!!!!

For the record, W5YI will hold their fees to \$14 (no change from 2008).

It should be noted that each VEC across the country establishes its own fee schedule for providing examination services. As a result, there are almost as many different rates charged for examinations as there are VEC's. Depending on the VEC, the cost runs anywhere from the high of \$15 to one that charges no fee at all to administer an exam.

## **HAM RADIO BUSINESS: CQ BUYS WORLDRADIO AND TAKES IT ON-LINE**

[Amateur Radio Newsline](#)

A big change is coming to the ham radio publishing scene. This as one popular magazine absorbs another. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

Two magazines that this writer knows quite well are kind of being joined at the hip. At least, so as to speak. This with word that Hicksville, New York-based CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired Sacramento, California based WorldRadio magazine.

Since its inception in July of 1971, WorldRadio has been the only ham radio magazine published West of the Continental Divide. Its a monthly publication with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. And as many of you know, for about the past 10 years this reporter has been the editor of its VHF and F-M column.

So why has Worldradio been sold? My longtime friend and Worldradio publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, says that at the age of 74 its simply time for him to retire. And why sell to CQ? In a press release N6WR said simply that he wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that its readers would continue to be served by what he

termed as an independent voice in amateur radio.

**CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, echoed Armond Noble's words. Ross says that for nearly four decades WorldRadio has filled an important niche in the hobby. Ross says that he welcomes all of WorldRadio's readers to the CQ family, and looks forward to meeting their needs for many years to come.**

**At this time WorldRadio to continue to be published, but only online magazine with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. Current WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.**

**CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DX'ing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945. And along with Vertex-Standard Corporation, it is also one of the two primary corporate underwriters of the Amateur Radio Newline Young Ham of the Year Award. Bill Pasterak, WA6ITF.**

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### **Points to Ponder**

ZED is NOT listed as a phonetic for the letter "Z". ZULU is the correct phonetic.

This may not matter much to some on FM , but in an **emergency** on simplex or any HF voice mode, PHONETICS ARE IMPORTANT AND THEY WERE CREATED SO THAT ALL STATIONS WOULD HAVE A **STANDARD** TO GO BY WHEN PASSING TRAFFIC IN BAD CONDITIONS.

Zed may be picked out of the noise incorrectly as "head" and a broken leg may be transmitted as a "head" injury due to the station misinterpreting ZED'

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\*\*I am not the best in the world. I make mistakes on HF that most new hams would not make. Even on VHF, I sometimes "get in a big way of talking" and forget to ID on time. But, below are some of the things that might help everyone out somewhere down the line, QSL ?  
(just had to throw that in there to show how stupid it looked).

I really believe that the reason a lot of the new hams don't operate as much as they could is that they **simply cannot figure out what the heck is being said!!** It makes them afraid to talk.

The other thing is that some operators on repeaters have their own little "group" and that little group is the only one they will respond to or talk to. I hear so many new callsigns being correctly " thrown out' on repeater frequencies and no one goes back. I try to jump in and talk to them if no one

goes back to them by the second try. It makes them feel left out, looked down upon , and more like giving up on the HOBBY than anything else when they hear people talk for 30 minutes and then when they get the courage to key up, no one comes back!

### **What happened to being courteous!**

I truly believe that is the reason there is not that much traffic on repeaters now. Why should many operators in our calling area keep trying over and over for days to get someone to talk to them or sit there and listen to a bunch of garbage that they have never heard of?

**Remember guys and gals.....you're the "Elmers" and teachers of the newer hams**

Get on there and tell the new ham,

**" Good to hear you, just get on here and if you talk on it like a telephone in plain english and ID every 10 minutes with the repeater ID timer, and sign off by saying your ID, you will learn a lot from the people on here and will be made to feel welcome".**

The last paragraph above in bold text sums up how to talk on a repeater in one sentence.

It only takes one time to tell a new ham the one paragraph above that will make them sound and feel much better on any and all repeaters.

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### **Calculate Resistor Values from Color Codes**

<http://www.dannyg.com/examples/res2/resistor.htm>

### **Satellite Prediction Software**

(various platforms)

<http://www.satobs.org/orbsoft.html>

### **Humor (sorta)**

**I was walking past the mental hospital the other day with my trusty HT by my side, and all the patients were shouting,'13....13....13'... Could it be that they were trying to get me on CB channel 13? The fence was too high to see over, but being the typical curious ham, I saw a little gap in the planks and looked through to see what was going on.**

**Some nut case poked me in the eye with a stick.**

**Then they all started shouting '14....14....14'...**

## **YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....**

- 1. YOUR WIFE SAID "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID ANTENNA!**
- 2. YOUR WIFE SAID "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!**
- 3. YOUR WIFE SAID "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID HAM FEST!**
- 4. YOUR WIFE SAID "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID LOG BOOK!**
- 5. YOUR WIFE SAID "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT? AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, " IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?'**

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### **Quote of the Month**

**The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.**

### **Proverb of the Month**

**An inch of time is an inch of gold but you can't buy that inch of time with an inch of gold.**

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**DO YOU KNOW THE REGS?? Part 97 rules and regulations**  
**<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>**

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**This is edited and forwarded from the ARRL's PIO list.**  
**The Eyes of the Storm - Skywarn**

**Newington, CT November 12, 2008 -- Skywarn Recognition Day. When you are unsure about the weather you look to the TV to get a National Weather Service report. When the National Weather Service is unsure of the weather, they look to Skywarn - hundreds of volunteers who are trained to report ground level conditions that radar cannot detect. For 364 days of the year, volunteer Amateur Radio operators, often called "hams," affiliated with the NWS' Skywarn program provide the National**



Weather Service with critical, visual confirmation of major weather events. But one day a year, ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, and the NWS join together in recognizing all the Skywarn volunteers and light up the radio waves just for the fun of it. The annual Skywarn Recognition Day begins on December 6 and will last 24 hours. Hams will be contacting the National Weather Service stations throughout America. But instead of passing tornado, snow and ice warnings, this time the hams will be exchanging reception reports and greetings. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event.

While you do not have to be an FCC licensed Amateur Radio operator to take part in Skywarn, many of the volunteers are hams and they are most appreciated. Amateur Radio messages are able to get through to NWS offices quickly even if the phones and internet are out due to the weather. When minutes count, especially in a tornado, radio is the fastest and most certain way to get emergency messages in to the NWS offices.

The value of these reports is considerable. Skywarn volunteers are trained by NWS staff to spot and report conditions that the weather service needs to know. Because weather radar pulses go in a straight line and cannot follow the curve of the earth, conditions from hundreds of feet above down to the ground may be missed as it is "under the radar." Like the stagehands behind the curtain, the NWS and Skywarn hams quietly do the work that makes many local TV forecasters look good.

Further details can be found at

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/30/10417/>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>

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**What an outstanding special tribute in such a unique and special way. Veterans Day 2008**

Many thanks go to Andrew KI4KLP for sharing this file

**This is a MUST SEE !!**

<http://www.w4djg.com/private.htm>

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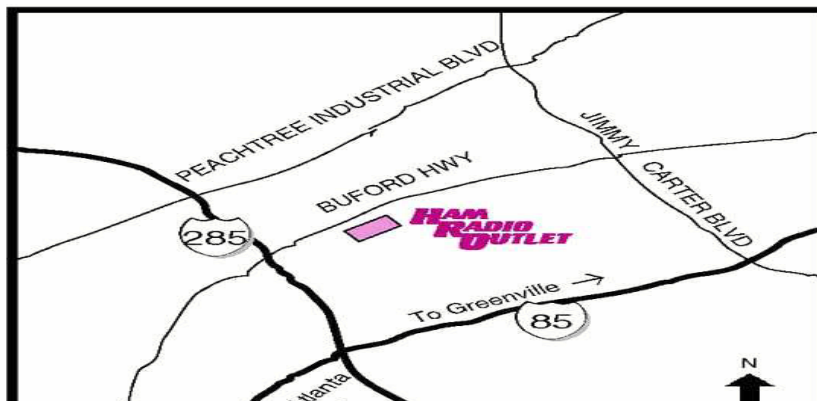


*Mark Holmes KJ4VO, M a n a g e r*

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Mark KJ4VO, Tim KE4VDH, Dale W4GCL, Bill KF8AZ, Josh W4JDH, David W4EGT



**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

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**LARC's Michael Crowder K9VR**

**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, the newsletters are archived within our web-site. Each issue is listed with the most recent edition first.  
<http://www.lanierlandarc.org/newsletters.html>**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!  
Doyle, W4DJG**

