

# Lanierland ARC



<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

November 2009

## President's Corner



Here it is, we are nearing the end of another year. The nominating committee is looking for next year's officers and board members. Hope anyone who is interested will contact Larry Tyson. November is the date for elections and in the club meeting there will be open nominations for positions. I think there are many very well qualified individuals to lead the LARC. If you have ever thought about how you would like to be doing something more, or participating in more club activities, this is the perfect way. Your opinion, decisions, and ideas can make the direction that the club will move next year. Please get involved and have some fun.

Everyone put Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our annual Christmas Breakfast. It will be located at Ryan's Family Steakhouse on Brown's Bridge Road starting at 8:15 thru 10:30 AM. Hope to see all of you there.

The dictionary defines Thanksgiving as:

thanks-giv-ing (thæŋks-gɪvɪŋ) [KEY](#)

**NOUN:** An act of giving thanks; an expression of gratitude, especially to God: *a hymn of thanksgiving.*

Ever since, Thanksgiving has been a time for Americans not just to celebrate privately in our homes but to give public thanks to God -- and not just for our material blessings but for our freedom. Our earliest Thanksgivings were in times when that freedom was at its most vulnerable.

In 1789, George Washington issued a proclamation calling for a day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" -- a day for Americans to acknowledge "the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

But Washington didn't just say that individual Americans should thank God. He proclaimed that nations -- especially the one-year-old United States of America -- have obligations to God as well. He wrote, "It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

ut it wasn't until more than 70 years later -- at a time when America faced its greatest crisis -- that Thanksgiving became a yearly celebration. The Civil War was raging. Three months earlier, the Battle of Gettysburg had left 50,000 Americans killed, wounded or missing. Riots were tearing apart American cities. In the midst of this chaos, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed in October 1863 that the last Thursday of November should henceforth be set aside as a day of thanksgiving. As we approach this Thanksgiving, I hope each and every one of you will have a blessed Thanksgiving and remember all that we should be thankful for.

Hope to see you all at the next club meeting. We need your support in the club.  
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.

### Renewal Time – 2010

Dear fellow Lanierland Amateur Radio Club members.....

Yes – it's that wonderful time again – time to renew your LARC dues!

**REMEMBER: WE DO NOT WANT TO LOOSE A SINGLE MEMBER !!**

So while you are thinking about it, please send our Treasurer, John KE4PCF, your dues to rejoin and we will renew your membership for another year.

Or better yet, bring your application to the December 5<sup>th</sup>. meeting, which will be our Christmas Breakfast (8:15 AM-10:30 AM) at Ryan's Steakhouse at 2415 Brown's Bridge Road in Gainesville.

This year has been a productive year for membership and introducing the public to Amateur Radio. Our membership has grown from under 70 to now over 100. We are very proud of our progress. We have had 4 Tech Classes. Next year will produce even more Tech Classes, We'll work in General and Extra classes as well. Nice things are also in the planning stages on activities for next year. Plan on being a part of all the exciting things to come.

Your membership dues and donations are what keeps your Club going. It keeps the equipment in operating condition, and being able to keep you ON THE AIR. Both our 2M and 440 machines have the best coverage ever. Without your contributions, this would be a harder task.

So please upon receiving your application, go ahead and send it in, you will not want to miss a single exciting event happening this coming year!



Until next time

Phil Loggins K4PDL  
President - LARC

## **“It Was Always There”**

Unknown Author

At a recent Amateur Radio Club board meeting, during a rare lull in the oft-heated discussions about how best to increase our membership, I threw out a simple question.

"How did you get into ham radio?"

The responses were revealing, to say the least. One by one, our board members, some young, some old, told the story of how they got into this hobby of all hobbies. One gentleman had a father who was a ham, and more or less forced him into the hobby, for which he was unspeakably grateful...years later, of course. One XYL saw a shortwave radio at a friend's house, started twiddling knobs, and got frustrated that she could only listen. For her, the rest was history. A couple of others were exposed to amateur radio in high school, one in Boy Scouts. Another credited me with getting him into ham radio, much to my gratification. One other confessed that he didn't really know; it just seemed to him that ham radio was "always around."

Interestingly enough, not one of the hams entered the hobby because of a concentrated recruitment program. Although occasional public relations "Blitzkriegs" have their place in Amateur Radio, I'm not sure they produce lasting hams. Like many other clubs, we manage to get a lot of hams licensed, but the dropout rate is appalling. The vast majority of our newly licensed hams never get on the air. I don't think our message is flawed; I think it's our delivery. Of all the board members I mentioned above, I believe the last fellow, the one who said ham radio was "always around" had the key. We need to get back to the place where amateur radio is a continual, if quiet, presence. People who get lured into the hobby, stick with the hobby. People who get coerced and cajoled into the hobby leave as soon as we aren't looking.

The fact is, most new hams never see a working ham shack, about all they see is a handheld, which isn't all that fascinating. When a young person sees a ham shack equipped to cover everything from DC to daylight, they take notice...it doesn't matter whether they're a geek or not. I've never seen anyone who wasn't impressed by a Moon bounce

**(Earth-Moon-Earth contact) array swinging around on its rotators...whether they had a clue what it was or not!  
People don't know about ham radio because they don't see ham radio...except, perhaps at Field Day.**

**The best place to cultivate that "always around" feeling is in the schools. We need to infiltrate the middle and high schools again. Notice, I said, again. There was a time, not too long ago, when it was difficult to find a high school without a club station. Field Day should be a three hundred and sixty five day a year event, and that is easier to achieve in the schools than anywhere else. There is no better way to teach science than with ham radio. We need to remind our public (and private) school teachers and administrators of that. We need to let our students get their hands grubby making things happen, rather than merely watching things happen. We need to get some real hardware into the schools. We have wonderful new allocations now, and the technology to use them is cheaper and easier than ever. When I was in high school in the late 60s, it was everything one could do, and then some, to do Moon bounce. It was only because we had a lunatic (no pun intended) electronics teacher, that we were able to pull off such a stunt. Now, Moon bounce is practically within reach of any determined high school club station. Wouldn't it be great if Moon bounce stations proliferated at our high schools the way H.F. stations once did?**

**Of course, I only use Moon bounce as one radical example. We have exciting things happening down at 500 kHz, as well. What better way to learn weak signal, digital signal processing techniques than with our newly allocated MF experimental spectrum?**

**This all may be rocket science, but it doesn't take rocket science to get it into the schools! Our teachers want to see us excel in the sciences. Let's give them the tools to do so. Fifty years from now, someone may be asked how they got into ham radio. It would be nice if they could answer, "I don't know...I guess it was always there."**

## **Unnoticed Radios**

**Ed Cravey KF4HPY**

**While looking for cheap radios to use in a remote place, I stumbled across a group of radios out of the mainstream of general use. I am not counting the 2m-only mobile radios and hand-held which have come down in price to around a single \$100 bill. I'm thinking of the little known radios for odd modes; like the following: Alinco DR-03T for 10m FM at 10W or the Alinco DR-06T for 6m at 50W. There is the Alinco DR-235TMKIII**

and DR-435TMKIII at 25W and 35W for 1.25m and 70cm respectively also for mobile or base use. ICOM has the ID-1 at 10W for 1,2 GHz. MFJ has three VHF radios: one for APRS on 144.390 MHz. FM at 5W; and two SSB radios, one for 2m and one for 6m at 7 and 10W output.

On the HF bands MFJ leads with four CW 5W transceivers on the 15, 20, 30 40m bands; plus two SSB radios on 10 and 20M at 20W and two SSB radios on 40 and 75m at 12W. This is not including the offerings of kit radios for CW by Ten-Tec and MFJ. Other QRP kits include those from NorCal, Small Wonder, Sierra (Wilderness Radio), EMTECH, and a two-band transceiver from Elecraft, the KX-1. I haven't even mentioned the German radios for QRP. It sounds like kit building is very alive and well.

The FM radios might be useful on the linked repeaters; I am not familiar with link protocols, but have worked open VHF links in Sierra Nevada territory into California. FM on 6m can amount to DX into Canada from 4-land and 10m is already opening up according to my 10-10 friend on SSB. We do have 6,10, and 220 repeaters in Georgia within a 50-60 mile radius. It might be interesting to punch the mode button on our own equipment and see what is out there. To map out a course use the ARRL repeater guide and learn the various band-plans. HF has band plans also. The band plans indicate the DX windows, calling frequencies, beacon bands, mode use frequencies and much useful information. Radio has so many facets to it for the experimenter; that it should never become boring. This writer has not even scratched the surface; having been involved in radio from teen age, the military and for a decade Amateur Radio. Lets play radio and have fun! E. Cravey KF4HPY

**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.**

**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. **Everyone is welcome!!!!**

**Next club meeting** (November 24) will be located at **Ryan's Buffet**, 2415 Browns Bridge Rd in Gainesville. Dinner at 18:00 with meeting following at 19:00.  
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"

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>



Lanierland Amateur Radio Club  
PO BOX 2182  
Gainesville, Georgia 30503