

February 2007

President's Corner

Doyle Gantt, W4DJG, LARC President

Greetings all,

January was an interesting month. W4ABP participated in the first annual winter field day. Although we didn't have a huge amount of contacts, we had a great time tuning around the bands. Hopefully, next year, more folks around the Country will know about this event and will participate. The event gave us a chance to shake down the station ensure all equipment is working properly. I thank those who participated and stuck with it through a semi-slow day as far as contacts go.

"Well done" to Tom Van Valkenburg N2SBD for recently passing element 1 to finalize his upgrade to General Class. Congratulations Tom and we welcome you to the world of HF. I would like to thank Terry W4TL, Mr. Ed KF4HPY and Roger WB4T for trekking to Tom's QTH to administer the exam.

Roger is trying a new twist for lunch bunch. He will schedule one Saturday lunch bunch per month to allow those that work an opportunity to join in on the fun and fellowship. If this idea is successful, he will continue to do so, on a regular basis. Roger is very good at finding great places for us to have lunch together so please continue to support our gatherings. Keep in mind that everyone is welcome to attend lunch bunch including spouses, children and grandchildren.

We are planning many interesting events this year and I do hope you will find them to be enjoyable.

As always, your input is important so let any officer know your ideas.

I hope to see each of you at meetings and other activities.

73

Doyle, W4DJG

February LARC Family Activity!

The LARC will take a tour of the Mayfield Dairy on Saturday, February 17th right after our Saturday lunch bunch, so keep your schedule open!

Your 2007 Officers and Committee Members

Vice President	Alfred Westbrook, KT4VP	Property Control Officer	Lamar Grier, K4JLG
Treasurer	John Brandon, KE4PCF	Field Day Committee	Terry Jones, W4TL
Secretary	Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN		Roger Gibson, WB4T
Activities Manager	Roger Gibson, WB4T		Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN
3 Year Director	Larry Tyson, W4WLT	Public Relations	Mike Hall, N4HGO
2 Year Director	Terry Jones, W4TL	Committee	Clyde Thomason, N4FCL
1 Year Director	Philip Loggins, K4PDL		Roger Gibson, WB4T
Newsletter Editor	Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN	Membership Committee	Philip Loggins, K4PDL
Hamfest Committee	John LeRoy, W4JKL		Gary Morgan, K4GRM
	Fred Ariail, KD4T	Technical Director	Don Collins, KA4BLS
	Roger Gibson, WB4T	JOTA Committee	Alfred Westbrook, KT4VP
	David Hulsey, W4PSL		Alfred Westbrook, KT4VP
Repeater		Web Site	Gary Morgan, K4GRM
Committee	Club Officers	Editor	Chuck Leming, W4EDT
Training Director	Club Officers	Nominating Committee	TBA
			TBA
			TBA

New Techs and Upgrades!

Congratulations Tom, N2SBD, on your recent upgrade to General !

Job Well Done!

FCC Suspends Vanity Callsign Processing

Submitted by Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN, LARC Secretary

The FCC has put new Amateur Radio vanity call sign processing on hold while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension is a result of a rule change that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign. The FCC is still processing vanity call sign renewal applications.

"The Commission continues to accept vanity call sign applications," says a brief announcement on the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. "However, these applications will not be processed until software changes in accordance with the recent rule making have been fully implemented." Just when that might happen is not known.

As revised in the FCC's recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140, §97.19(d)(1) stipulates that if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. "Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted," the rule concludes.

The FCC says that when it resumes processing new vanity applications, it will handle pending applications "consistent with the date order in which they were received."

This suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted on December 18 or later. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued -- or the application is denied. The FCC granted the last new Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15.

All vanity call sign renewal applications, including those for club stations, must be filed via the ULS. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.



SPAR Winter Field Day...An LARC Success!

Submitted by Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN, Secretary



Doyle (W4DJG taking the picture)

From left to right: Front – Allen (W5FOX), Robert (W4DHC), John (KE4PCF)

Back – Bob (KI4QVN), Dave (W4PSL), Phil (K4PDL)

The First Annual SPAR Winter Field held on January 13th was an LARC success! We had 7 participants and worked hard getting QSO's not only on HF but also VHF and UHF and enjoying each others fellowship. We worked all modes and all bands within the rules of the field day requirements. Certificates of Participation (suitable for framing) were presented to all participants by Doyle Gantt, LARC President. This year's field day was held at the Hall County EOC in Gainesville. If this field day is considered a SPAR success, look out for next years plans when this will be planned like a real live field day so this gives us a year to prepare and you a year to prepare to be there!

CQ CQ Field Day de W4E W4E

Submitted by Terry Jones, W4TL

Put these dates, Friday June 22, Saturday June 23 and Sunday June 24 on you calendar. LARC will be making preparations for participating in the annual ARRL Field Day on those dates. We need a lot of participation from a lot of individuals to make this Field Day successful.

We have secured a great location for this years Field Day just off Friendship Road in Southern Hall County. This is a farm with a beautiful rural setting and all sorts of places to string up antennas and do some "old time Field Day Hamming." Just a few of the things planned, we will be operating with a "Special Event" call-sign, W4E. We have made arrangements to have both of the Georgia Baptist Communications Units (GA 5 & GA 14) available for use (provided they are not deployed to a disaster somewhere). Plans are to operate an HF station out of each of these units and to put a third station operating on six and two meters somewhere at the field day site. That will have us operating three (3) stations for field day. We have arranged to borrow a 25KW generator from Hall County (thanks to Chief David Kimbrell).

Plans are underway to establish a wireless computer logging network for the event. We are also planning on having digital modes (PSK 31, Winlink, and some may even operate CW).

For this event to be successful LARC needs YOU and YOU and YOU. This needs to be a Total Team Effort and I can assure you it will be a fun event. YOU are needed to help in getting the equipment to the location and installing antennas, checking to be sure everything is working properly, etc. YOU will be needed to operate the stations and assist with logging, etc. This is an ideal opportunity for us "old timers" to hone up our skills and is also an opportunity for "newcomers" to see how equipment works and actually get in a lot of operating. Not just observing, but real "hands on operating." YOU will also be needed to break down the equipment and police up the area. As you can see it will be a Total Team Effort for us to pull it off. We will all work a little and have a whole lot of fun doing so. Additional details about Field Day will be forthcoming.

LARC NEEDS YOU FOR FIELD DAY THIS YEAR!!

FCC No Code Testing

Submitted by Terry Jones, W4TL

The ARRL has learned that the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.pdf, is scheduled to appear in the Federal Register Wednesday, January 24. Assuming that occurs, the new Part 97 rules deleting any Morse code examination requirement for Amateur Radio license applicants would go into effect Friday, February 23, 2007. The League cautions that this date is tentative, pending official confirmation and publication.

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Morse code R&O.

Publication of the R&O in the Federal Register starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to go on the books. Rules and regulations that appear in the Federal Register constitute their official version.

Deletion of the Morse requirement is a landmark in Amateur Radio history. Until 1991, when a code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse test.

On or after the effective date of the new rules, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for a higher license class will be able to redeem it for an upgrade. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 (General) could apply at a VEC exam session, pay the application fee -- which most VECs charge -- and receive an instant upgrade. A CSCE is good only for 365 days from the date of issuance.

The new rules also mean that all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will gain HF privileges identical to those of current Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees without having to apply for an upgrade. Novices and Technicians with Element 1 credit have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify the Amateur Service rules in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that were effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/.

Software for Amateur Radio

Submitted by Alfred Westbrook, KT4VP, LARC VP

The very popular software created by George Murphy, VE3ERP, has recently been revised. It's called "Hamcalc" and if you've never tried it you might be surprised at how many uses it has. George created the software over 10 years ago and has constantly updated it to include more and more useful programs. All the programs in Hamcalc are listed from a main menu selection which makes it very easy to use. You can also place a shortcut on your desktop to make selection quick and easy. The latest version is number 86 and it has 274 mini programs written into the basic package. Hamcalc has programs to calculate everything from antennas to transformers. You can calculate coils, filters, traps, resistors, baluns and there are even tables for drill and pipe sizes and much more. And the best part is the program is free. You can download the most recent version from:

www.cg-amateur-radio.com/hamcalcem.html

Hamcalc is written in GWBASIC which is an old software that came with MS-DOS. If that doesn't make any sense to you, don't worry you can still use the software. There are a few peculiarities about Hamcalc you need to know.

- Hamcalc does not support mouse operation. After the program starts you will have to make selections by using the keyboard, but it is very easy.
- The program must be on "C" drive.
- Two files "gwbasic.exe" and "ve3erp.bat" must be placed in your root directory on C drive. These files are included in the downloaded file.

There's a page of instructions at the download site which explains how to install Hamcalc. If you need help getting the program installed and/or getting it to run, give me a call and I'll be glad to help. If you enjoy Hamcalc, drop George an email and tell him thanks. His address is at the download site.

Upcoming D-Star Presentation

Submitted by Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN, LARC Secretary

There will be a D-Star presentation at the February 27th club meeting presented by Robin Cutshaw. This should be a very informative presentation on this new mode of communications. Thanks go to Terry Jones, W4TL, for coordinating this training.

Lanierland Amateur Radio Club

Gainesville, Georgia

Is Sponsoring a

HAM RADIO THREE-DAY LICENSE CLASS

Free Training – Only cost is material & test fee

Gainesville, GA

February 3, 17 & March 3

HALL COUNTY EOC BUILDING, CRESCENT DRIVE

Your Instructors will be Terry Jones, W4TL & Ed Cravey KF4HPY

- Pass your ham radio FCC License Exam right in class, on the Third day.
- Live equipment demonstrations, including emergency radio communications.
- Radio demonstrations of radio internet linking, plus computer communications.
- Training on how to operate through local repeater systems.
- Study Questions reorganized for easier classroom learning. New Simple Test!
- Multiple-examinations with no Morse Code test required.

Ham radio operators provide valuable communications in an emergency. Many local areas throughout the country use ham radio operators to support Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and actual call-outs. This three-day action packed class (the first-day on Feb 3 is an orientation, study material distribution and actual demonstrations) will feature live ham radio equipment for everyone to learn how to operate. Pre-study before class and spend Days 2 and 3 in the classroom to pass your amateur radio Element 2 Technician Examination, right in the classroom on Day 3. New Easier Test!

- Earn full ham radio Technician class radio privileges.
- Earn radio communications through satellites and International Space Station (ISS).
- Operate your own ham radio position – reporting system (APRS).
- Communicate with other hams through local amateur radio repeaters.
- Become a ham radio emergency responder.

All classes will begin promptly at 8:30 AM and will be a minimum of eight hours in length except the first day which is class orientation, which should conclude by noon. The class schedule will be explained during orientation.

The fee for the class will be \$35.00, which includes all study books, class material and the FCC Test Fee.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! This is to insure that we will have enough material for everyone taking the class. You should contact either Terry Jones, W4TL at 770-967-6364 (e-mail w4tl@bellsouth.net) or Ed Cravey, KF4HPY at 770-535-1738 (e-mail kf4hpy@arrl.net) for further information and pre-registration.

Please be prepared to pay your \$35.00 class fee at orientation on February 3.

OSCAR TODAY

Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio



Submitted by: Doyle Gantt, W4DJG, LARC President

News from AMSAT

New Argentine Amateur Radio satellite now in orbit (Jan 15, 2007) -- AMSAT-LU (Argentina) has announced that Pehuensat-1, the second Argentinean Amateur Radio satellite, now is in a 635 to 640 km sun-synchronous polar orbit (97.92 degree inclination). It was launched on January 10 from India. Once activated Pehuensat-1 will transmit voice messages in three languages -- English, Hindi and Spanish -- on 145.825 MHz followed by AX.25 1200 bps packet. Named after the native Patagonian Pehuén tree, Pehuensat-1 was developed by the Argentina School of Engineering at the National University of Comahue, the Argentina Association for Technology and Space and AMSAT-LU. More Information is on the AMSAT-LU Web site <http://www.amsat.org.ar/> To determine the next pass at your location, click on the small revolving globe off of the coast of Argentina, select your location from the map, and then select PEHUENSAT-1. -- AMSAT-NA; AMSAT-LU

Note: SatScape software has also included PEHUENSAT-1 in its database for tracking purposes. SatScape is a freeware satellite tracking program and can be downloaded at <http://www.satscape.co.uk/>

*73 to all
Doyle, W4DJG*

Georgia Ham Events

24 Feb 2007 Dalton ARC <http://www.w4drc.com> Talk-In: 145.230 (-) no tone Dalton, GA North Georgia Fairgrounds [501 Legion Drive](#)

ARRL Yearly Event Calendar:

Date(s)	Contest	Links
January 1	Straight Key Night	Rules
6 - 7	ARRL RTTY Round-Up	Rules
20 - 22	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	Rules
February 17 - 18	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)	Rules
March 3 - 4	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)	Rules
June 9 - 11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	
23 - 24	ARRL Field Day	
July 14 - 15	IARU HF World Championships	
August 4 - 5	ARRL UHF Contest	
18 - 19	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	
September 8 - 10	ARRL September VHF QSO Party	
15 - 16	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	

November	3 - 5	ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
	17 - 19	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)
	30 - 12/2	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
December	8 - 9	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

EME Contest dates to be announced

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, now Ryans, 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](#)

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Newsletter inputs are welcome from any member, any time. Please contribute!

Send your inputs to Bob Aldrich, KI4QVN, Secretary, LARC