

# Lanierland ARC



<http://www.lanierlandarc.org>

February 2009

## President's Corner



Philip Loggins K4PDL

Congratulations to all the most recent graduates of the Technician Class on January 24. This is another great job presented by the whole training team. Another great job was completed by the VE team also. We seem to be getting plenty of work these days of which we are very grateful for everyone's efforts. Let's keep it up and promoting 'HAM RADIO'!

Remember, all of us should be Elmers to support and expand new and young members. Information about the craft should be spread. With growth comes protection for the hobby frequencies and provides service to others.

We had a wonderful day with the children on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. at 'Kid's INK for Kid's Day. The administrator, Sheri Hooper, stated it was a huge success. We have been invited back at any time. Fun was had by all. Some place in time, hopefully these children will renew their experience they had with us that day talking on Ham Radio.

I heard a story a few years ago, it has a message.

Researchers went to a class room of kindergarten children and ask 3 questions.

1. "How many can draw?" Every hand shot up. "What would you like us to draw?"
2. "How many can sing?" Again all hands shot up. "Not only can we sing we can also play instruments while we sing!"
3. "How many can dance?" Every hand went up. "Play the music and we will dance!"

The Researchers took the same questions to a second group -- this time graduate students at a prestigious university. This group represented the top of the class in education. The

same questions were asked. 1. "How many can draw?" Several hands were raised, "it depends, I can draw mountains, some animals but that is about it." 2.

"How many can sing?" Even fewer hands were raised, "only in the shower and always alone" was the most common answer. 3. "How many can dance?" Very few hands were raised. Again the answers were qualified. "It depends on the music."

The results were condensed and the conclusion profound. Something terrible happened between kindergarten and college, children lost their excitement, their love and confidence in drawing, singing and dancing. How sad.

From my view point I see a lot of people in radio with incredible experience and talent. There

are also people who do not know as much but have a desire to learn. Many are not members of LARC but should be. What a great opportunity for an organization to have. I want this year to be a year to come together and share, bring friends and family. This society is a place where friends meet, socialize, learn, and just have fun in a safe environment. It is a great place to ask for help without feeling stupid, and to expand your understanding of radio and go to new levels. There are plenty of opportunities to learn and teach. Let's all do our part and be the best we can be.

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 preserve the good and build for tomorrow. Start today.

Until next time,



## Winter “Tech Class” Finishes Up

Another LARC sponsored tech class finished up the course material on January 24. Several of the students decided to test on the last day of classes. The others tested on our regular testing date of Sunday February 1



## Congratulations to “new” hams

Tom Anthony KJ4JBF

Joe Boone KJ4JBG

Ray DeLuca KJ4JBH

Pat McMahon KJ4JBI

Alan Shedd KJ4JBJ

Floyd Walbert KJ4JBK

Harry Jennings KJ4JET

Laura Blanton KJ4JEU

Charles Exley KJ4JEV

Joseph Weaver KJ4JEX

Mark Wolezin KJ4JEY

## Congratulations to License upgrade

Patricia Theriault KD4BIU upgraded to General

Many thanks to Roger WB4T and the VE team for conducting the testing sessions.

Special thanks to John Brandon KE4PCF, Mark Murray KD4PEO, Bob Scott KG4NJC, Perry Roper KO4RD, David Hulsey W4PSL, Oria Stephens KG4KFM, Marc Shockley KJ4EZQ, Ed Cravey KF4HPY and Doyle Gantt W4DJG for all your dedication in helping folks earn their first license and upgrades.

## A Battery Joy

Ed Cravey KF4HPY

This is a "Eureka, I found it!" story. I own a tiny Yaesu VX-2R vest pocket radio and even though it only puts out 1 1/2 Watts on VHF, I enjoy its usefulness. I can listen to my favorite Short wave, AM, FM stations, and transmit on 2m and 440 MHz. By plugging in a 6 Volt battery pack I can step up the output to 3 Watts on VHF and 2 on UHF. For SW listening, a 10-foot outdoor whip will be fantastic, more could overload. As an UHF/VHF HT, those long high gain SMA rubber ducks will do a championship job. However, the bane of all HT's is the battery. A spare is always handy, however some of us are on limited incomes and spares are costly. The VX-2R and VX-3R use the same battery and cost \$30 from the major aftermarket suppliers. The basic battery that is supplied with the radios is the FNB-82LI, a 3.7V 1000mAh Lithium-Ion unit costing \$39 from Yaesu. I looked at replacement batteries and found they were higher than I wanted to pay. So I did without.

One day I was shopping in RadioShack and thought I saw the same battery I use in my VX-2R. I checked the voltage and current ratings and found these batteries were for cameras and differed from my battery. Upon inquiring at the counter about the battery, the clerk asked to see my battery from the radio. After subjecting the FNB-82LI to a computer search a match was found. I ordered this battery; a 3.7V 1100mAh Lithium-Ion battery priced at \$19.95 and when I picked it up at the store, was pleased. It was from Lenmar Enterprises labeled DLF60, a direct replacement for Fujifilm NP-60 with a 3-year warranty.

I have been using the new battery for some time, operating the radio, a VX-2R, charging either battery in 2.5 hours and getting good service from each. RadioShack did have an answer for this question. It might be the answer for your battery needs too. Other battery matches are Kodak KLIC-5000, HP A1812A, L1812A, R07 as well as Fujifilm NP-60, which are replaced by the DLF60 from Lenmar. Clever, a radio charging a camera battery; a camera battery powering a radio. Another tip from "Lil' Beaver's Secret Indian Fighting Tricks"!



## In The Spotlight



As a Reno NV resident, Ed Cravey KF4HPY knows well the old city hall and Majestic Theater as mentioned in a previous newsletter. Ed Graduated Reno High School in 1953. He Bummed around in Los Angeles and Las Vegas as a Gas Company laborer, a chemical plant Pur-Vac operator, and stock car mechanic. While in high school, he joined the Nevada National Guard and continued in the Guard until he joined the Regular Army in late 1954 as an Armour Crewman, later he left the big brown machine for the big blue one. In the Army he finished as a Turret Artillery Mechanic.

In the Air Force he worked on piston engine aircraft, later that field faded and then became a Radio Relay Technician (microwave/tropo transmissions) until he left the AF for civilian life. At that time Ed joined the Georgia Army Guard as a helicopter mechanic until retiring with over 22 years of military service. In 1996 Mr. Ed became a ham and entered the world of Disaster Relief moving through Tech, Tech+, Gen, and now Extra. So now you know why he likes guns, radio, cars, and motorcycles and sometimes answer to " Mr. Fixit".

During the time from school on, Ed has built or repaired radios and TV's, become an avid SW listener, fixed cars, trucks, done plant maintenance, automotive electrician, and each time he noticed all of his prior jobs aided him in getting ahead in the present task. Whatever happened to that lamppost lounge outside Walgreen's watching the girls go by? You think he grew up and moved away?

## CLUB LOGO ITEMS "SHOW YOUR TRUE CLUB COLORS"

(See John Brandon KE4PCF, supplies are limited)

Ball Caps Embroidered Logo



**SOLD OUT**

(Blue Embroidered Ball Caps  
will be forthcoming)

T-Shirts (Silk Screen LOGO)



**\$10.00**

Limited Sizes and Quantity

Embroidered Patches

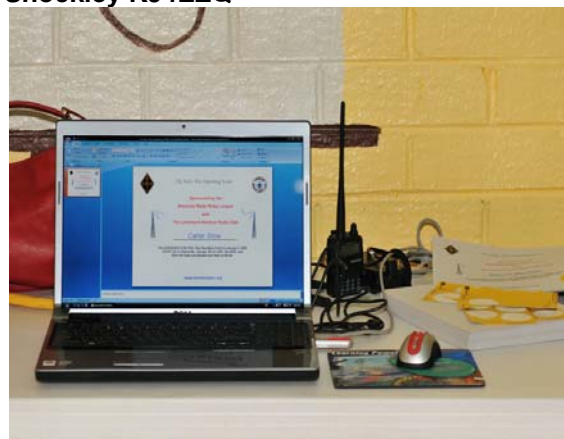


**\$3.50**

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## Kids Day 2009, recap

Photos Courtesy of Mark Shockley KJ4EZQ



Several LARC members including Philip K4PDL, Matt KJ4FVR, Debbie KJ4FQV, Kimberly KJ4HAV, Marc KJ4EZQ and Doyle W4DJG were on site at "Kid's Ink" in Gainesville with a 2 meter station set up to allow children to talk via Amateur Radio. We were assisted in the field by John KE4PCF, Mike KF4HPU and Michael K9VR. All together, we had about 30 kids between the age of 5 and 10 to make contact and share a few comments on the radio. The children were excited to have this opportunity. We, in turn, were excited to share our hobby for a few minutes with the youngsters.

The group operated for about 4 hours. The look on the kid's faces made the trip well worthwhile. Each child received a certificate along with our blessings of "bragging rights" for their accomplishment.

We will never know what seed may have been planted that may someday grow into the next inventor of a new technology in our ever changing hobby we call "amateur radio". A good time was had by all. Many thanks to all those who participated and helped make our day a success.

# Upcoming HAMFEST

February 28

Dalton Hamfest #27 Dalton ARC, Dalton GA

[www.w4drc.com](http://www.w4drc.com)

March 21

Kenneshooshee Amateur Radio Club, Marietta GA, Jim Miller Park

[www.w4bti.org](http://www.w4bti.org)

June 6

Georgia State Convention Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC), Marietta GA

Jim Miller Park

[www.atlantahamfest.com](http://www.atlantahamfest.com)

## Michael Crowder Puts Finishing Touches On Station K9VR



The new shack has two H.F. rigs, a Yaesu amp that outputs 600 to 750 watts according to band and a Diawa 1kw auto tuner. It also has a Yaesu 2800 VHF radio, a Vertex UHF radio and a Midland 11 meter radio. There is a large assortment of power meters, SWR meters, and other widgets. For diagnoses and repair work there is a 100 Mhz o-scope, a sweep function generator and large assortment of parts. In addition to these tools, I have a MFJ 269 analyzer, dip meter RF field strength meter. Currently we have a 60 foot tower with a Diamond X50 dual band antenna, a G5RV dipole, a Mosely classic-33 triband yagi and a Firestick 11 meter antenna. Another tower and more antennas are in the plans.

The shack and test equipment is available to club members to use free of charge during normal business hours with a 24 hours notice. All folks need to do is email me or call 770-533-2801 to confirm a date and time.

## Other upcoming events

- FEBRUARY 9-13--- SCHOOL ROUND UP. 1300Z Feb 9- 2400Z Feb 13. [www.arrl.org/SCR/](http://www.arrl.org/SCR/)
- The 63rd Orlando HamCation Hamfest, 2009 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention!  
February 13-15 2009  
Location: Central Florida Fairgrounds  
ARRL Northern Florida Section  
Sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club  
See <http://www.hamcation.com> for all the details.  
Talk-In: 146.160/146.760 (no tone during HamCation)

- The Desecheo Island DXpedition!  
February 12-26, 2009

The DXpedition team will be led by Mike Thomas, NA5U, Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ and Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Desecheo Island is located about 14 miles off the Puerto Rican coast. The team applied for and was issued a Special Use Permit by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge office for this special event.

See <http://www.kp5.us/> for operating frequencies, maps, logs, news and many more details.

Contact Desecheo Island on as many bands you can, visit HamCation and find more Southeastern Division Hamfest information at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>.

"And don't forget to mark it on your calendar NOW! The Georgia 2009 Hamfest season will be kicking off in fine form on FEBRUARY 28, so be prepared to chase away the winter doldrums by spending a fun-filled day with hordes of your fellow hams at the always hopping, always memorable DALTON ARC HAMFEST. (8AM, at the North GA Fairgrounds)"



## 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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**February Club Meeting**  
**SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 24**  
**Holiday Inn / Lanier Center**

400 EE Butler Parkway Gainesville, Georgia-----Dinner @18:00 with meeting following @ 19:00



**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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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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## Satellite Prediction Software

(various platforms) <http://www.satobs.org/orbsoft.html>

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## Quote of the Month

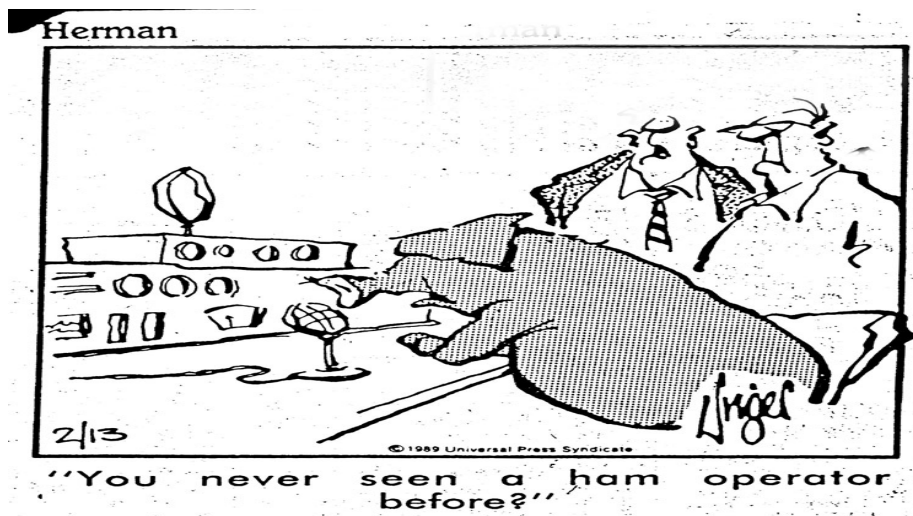
*Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.*

Mark Twain

## Proverb of the Month

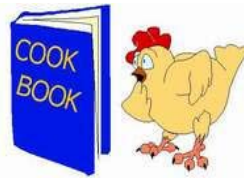
*Technology is a way of organizing the universe so that man doesn't have to experience it.*

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# "GOOD EATS" COLUMN

*Susie Q*      *KFOOD*



**Redneck Seafood Dinner**



## **Food for Thought**

Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

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## **More is Better, Right.**

Mac Payne WD4MP

Many of us like to think that if a little is good, more is better. This may sometimes be correct, but sometimes not. Much depends on the unexpected and unplanned results of "more".

I'm reminded of a former brother-in-law who had an upset stomach. He was told to take a certain dose of OTC medication, which he did. But then, his thought was that if a little was good, two or three times that would be even better. He

turned the bottle of medication up, and took a couple of big swallows, then left home and drove to town. Unfortunately, with the amount of medication he took, it became a highly effective laxative. Fortunate for him, when it "hit", he was standing outside a feed and seed store that had an unoccupied rest room. As the story goes, he was able to take up residence there for awhile.

Especially on HF, most rigs are designed to output around 100 watts RF, and with a good antenna system, that is sufficient to "work the world". Indeed, many hams rely on much less power, and have collected WAS and DXCC awards with no more than 5 watts radiated. But, some of us hear the "big boys" booming their way through a DX pileup, and we envy them for their microphones, beams, and legal-limit power. Perhaps we invest in a new mic in hopes of improved audio. We might investigate putting up a HF beam antenna, but since a beam generally requires a substantial tower, perhaps we come to the conclusion that the expense, difficulties of installation, and liability, especially where space is limited, would be more of a project than we want. So, we begin considering adding a linear amplifier to add more power. More is better, right.

Maybe, but one area of concern to consider before deciding on an amplifier is RFI... having our signal interfere with the operation of our neighbors' telephone/television/appliances. The fault can, indeed, be ours if we aren't careful, but we might be entirely within limits, legal with our installation, and completely within our rights, but still cause interference. This can be because of the neighbors' choices of cheap telephones and gadgets that aren't designed with sufficient rejection of external radio frequency energy... especially, in the close proximities of "quarter-acre ville" where most of us reside. It won't matter that you've installed proper grounding and taken all the steps necessary to insure spurious emissions are within proper limits. It won't matter when you explain the situation to your complaining neighbor and show him all you've done to insure compliance. When that neighbor picks up his cheap wireless telephone and hears your voice calling "CQ", it's all your fault. And, if he's really unreasonable, you and your hobby will be blamed for every glitch that occurs in that neighbor's house... whether it be a failed DVD player or a problem with the blender.

The problem with increasing RF power output is that, while that bargain device your neighbor bought may reject the level of emission from your original 100 watt rig, there's a possibility it won't tolerate the 1,000-1,500 watts from an amplifier next door. It's true that I sometimes run a Heathkit amplifier to send 450-500 watts RF to my antenna, and I've received no complaints. But, even with the precautions I took in the installation, when I first flipped that power switch on, I was still prepared to reduce the power output if neighbors began to complain. In such a case, my plan was to express sincere concern, test to insure I was still in compliance, and then begin to work with the neighbor and hope to eliminate the problem by installing filters on their equipment.

Especially with the poor HF band propagation we've all experienced, a little extra power can sometimes help. The saying is that the first 600 watts is the most valuable... experience generally supports that, and the math proves it. But, more is not always better. The increase in benefit fades quickly as power is increased,

while the equipment costs rise exponentially... and the opportunities increase to have unplanned conversations defending your hobby with your near neighbors.

## ATOMIC CLOCKS...

Atomic clocks do not use radioactivity, but rather the precise microwave signal that electrons in atoms emit when they change energy levels. Early atomic clocks were masers with attached equipment. Today's best atomic clocks are based on absorption spectroscopy of cold atoms in "atomic fountains" and can achieve time stability if 1 part in 100 trillion. It is with such accuracy that spacecraft can be built to travel around the solar system and land accurately on Mars or an asteroid. It has been suggested that a spacecraft be launched to go visit Apophis, much like a fighter jet would be used to "visit" an errant airplane. And the spacecraft will use an atomic clock.

## LARGEST J38...



This key is believed to be the world's largest operating Morse code key. It was designed and built by the Salem Area Amateur Radio Assoc. in Salem, Ohio. The key is modeled after a J38 key. The key has a working contact point and an actual amateur radio contact was logged with this key. When assembled the key measures 14 feet long by 7 feet wide. The knob is 36 inches in diameter. The spring used at the contacted point is a coil spring out of a car. The tension on the spring is also adjustable. Disassembled the key will fit in the back of a full sized pickup truck .

<http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/morse.htm>

## Cold Cream

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Giving up?"

## **ECHOLINK ON PC...**

(from main Internet EchoLink web pages)

**EchoLink allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to connect to one another over the Internet. You can use EchoLink to connect your station (or your computer) over the Internet to other amateurs using the same software, and carry on a voice QSO. This greatly enhances the range and utility of mobile and portable VHF/UHF-FM stations, and also allows computer-equipped hams to access distant repeaters directly.**

**You can access EchoLink either with a radio or a computer. If you are in range of an FM repeater or simplex station equipped with EchoLink, you can use DTMF commands from your radio to access the EchoLink network. If you are a licensed amateur with an Internet-connected PC, you can access EchoLink stations directly from your PC. EchoLink is an extension of conventional voice modes, particularly FM. EchoLink communicates over the Internet digitally, but does not transmit any digital signals over the air. EchoLink is a system designed to provide VoIP gateways for repeaters and simplex stations.**

**There is only one version of EchoLink, which can be operated either in "user mode" or "sysop mode". Switching to Sysop mode enables all of the features needed for connecting a transceiver to EchoLink using your computer's sound card and one of the popular interface boards offered by WB2REM, VA3TO, or West Mountain Radio. For more information, see Interfaces. Each new user of EchoLink must be validated, which means providing positive proof of identity and license, before being granted access. After having been validated, each EchoLink user must provide a password, along with his or her callsign, to log in. Each time a connection is made for a QSO, the EchoLink servers verify both the sender and the receiver before communication can begin.**

**In addition, if you wish, you can configure EchoLink to accept connections only from certain types of stations: repeaters, links, users, or all three. You can also set up a list of any number of "banned" call signs, which will not be allowed access. In addition, you can block or accept connections according to their international callsign prefix, in order to comply with your country's rules regarding reciprocal control-operator privileges or third-party traffic restrictions. In Sysop mode, by default, EchoLink announces each station by callsign when the station connects. The EchoLink software automatically generates detailed logs and (optionally) digital recordings of all activity on the link. Any PC connected to the Internet should always be protected by some sort of Internet security hardware or software. It is important to keep this protection in place even after installing EchoLink. Some users have run into trouble with viruses and worms after installing EchoLink, not because of any problem with the software, but because they had removed or disabled this protection while troubleshooting connection problems. Keep this in mind, particularly if your computer remains connected to the Internet for longer periods of time because you are running EchoLink. For enhanced remote control, EchoLink includes a built-in, password-protected Web server which can be set up to accept commands from any Internet-connected**

computer. Basic functions allow you to remotely enable or disable the link, disconnect stations, and see who is currently using it. The software also supports a basic and extended set of DTMF commands for control over a radio link. For example, you can key in either the node number or the callsign of the station you wish to connect to.

EchoLink also supports full DTMF remote control over a dial-up telephone line, if a dedicated line is available. EchoLink is offered free of charge to the worldwide Amateur Radio community for the purpose of setting up simplex and repeater links that can be accessed by other EchoLink users. Although there are security features that allow you to limit access to your node, the software (and the system in general) is not intended to be used to create closed or private systems. ([www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org))

## DTV/HD TVs...

(abridged from Web articles)

By 2009 there will be many choices of DTV model television sets. There will be fully integrated digital televisions and Digital-Ready DTVs, there will be both Standard SDTV and High-def HDTV models; there will be a variety of screen sizes (from 20-75"), and screen shapes (both 4:3 and 16:9). So naturally the price ranges will be wide. Below are some important definitions and terms. (tnx N8CX for suggestions)

**Progressive Scanning** : Rather than writing individual scan lines across a TV screen in all odd, then all even, lines - called interlaced - progressive scanning writes all horizontal lines in order, top to bottom. Rather than displaying 30 frames per second, progressive scan displays show 60 full frames per second, resulting in smoother motion and fewer artifacts. Many display devices, such as DLP, LCD and plasma screens, use progressive scanning, while CRTs may use either progressive (e.g. in computer monitors) or interlaced scanning methods.

**Interlaced Scanning** : In a traditional television display, pictures are written on the screen at the rate of 30 frames per seconds by drawing half the raster lines in the first 60 th of a second and the other half, consisting of filling in between every line in the first field with the second field during the second 60th of a second.

The important definition distinctions are:

\* **Analog**: An analog TV cannot display progressivescan DVD or HDTV. It can show only standarddefinition programs such as those found on regular TV, cable, or satellite—including digital cable and DirecTV or Dish Network.

\* **Digital**: A digital television, sometimes called a DTV, can also display progressive-scan DVD and often, but not always, HDTV.

\* **EDTV**: This stands for Enhanced-Definition TV, and usually it describes a television that can display HDTV signals but doesn't have enough resolution to really do them justice. Most often it applies to plasma TVs and denotes 852×480 pixels.

\* **HDTV**: High-definition televisions, or HDTVs, can display standard TV, progressive-scan DVD, and HDTV signals.

### **Typical Screen resolutions:**

**480i** – format is 704-by- 480 pixels, sent at 60 interlaced fields per second (30 complete frames

Per second). NTSC-Analog TV resolution is 480-i.

**480p** – format is 704-by-480 pixels, sent at 60 complete frames per second.

**720p** - format is 1280-by-720 pixels, sent at 60 complete frames per second.

**720p60** - format is 1280 x 720 pixels progressive scanning with 60 fields per second (120 Hz).

**1080i50**- format is 1920 x 1080 pixels (ie 2 MP) interlaced scanning with 50 fields per second.

**1080i** – The picture is 1920-by-1080 pixels, sent at 60 interlaced fields per second (30 complete frames per second).

**1080p** - The picture is 1920-by-1080 pixels, sent at 60 complete frames per second.

**Letterbox**: When a wide 16:9 aspect ratio picture is displayed on a 4 :3 aspect ratio screen

(without squeezing or anamorphic processing), the picture is first scaled down in size so it fits the available width. As a result, the picture is too small vertically or horizontally, so black bars may be used to fill in the resultant space at the top and bottom or sides.

Two things that we have heard will become issues as consumers start experiencing digital TV: letterboxing (and stretched or squashed images from one format being shown digitally in another format), and out-of-phase audio lip-sync (words) vs. the TV image (mouth). Either of these issues has the potential to get really ugly and belated discussion in the media which has been ignoring all these issues for several years.

By the way, apparently every household, whether on cable or satellite TV or not, is eligible to receive two coupons worth money-off on buying converter boxes that will interface the incoming digital signals to older analog tuner TVs. In a future issue of the *LOG* we will discuss converter technology and issues.



# Georgia Wants You to Spend Week Getting Ready for Disaster

visit

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/article/14323/>  
for full story

## How is the Weather?

*Mark Murray KD4PEO*



Every year the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Peachtree City offers tours of their offices. This year they had it in the middle of the week and not on the weekend as they normally have it. In addition to the forecast center for North and Central Georgia the Peachtree center also contains the Southeast River Forecast Center.

The first Meteorologist we met is Kent France he is the Hydrologist for North and Central Georgia. He is responsible for monitoring the small streams and creeks in our area that the river forecast center does not have time for. After a brief introduction to the facility he was ask a question on global warming. In answer he expressed some doubt about global warming without giving a specific answer.

He then sent us on to the Southeastern River Forecast Center where they monitor the rivers. As we were there storms were raging in Puerto Rico.

This was of concern to the Meteorologists and Hydrologist because rivers there reach and surpass there capacity very quickly. They then told us that most of the rivers in the southeast are in distress because of our severe drought with little relief in sight.

We were then sent on to upper air Meteorologist Brian Lynn. Brian showed us and we got to handle a weather balloon they a very much like a large latex glove and the instrument is in a cardboard box much like in



size and shape to a Chinese food takeout box. These are launched twice a day from more than 100 locations in the United States including this office in Peachtree city, at 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. They climb to 100,000ft and rise at more than 1,000ft per minute relaying important information about our atmosphere. About 20% of these instrument packs are recovered and reused because we the public mail them back for reconditioning. Brian then showed us the computers that keep NOAA Weather Radio on the air. He explained that newer radios are capable of being programmed to only respond to alerts as the user wants by county and to not go off at every alert that happens to touch the area covered by the transmitter being monitored by the radio. This is a major up grade and defiantly keeps the radio from unnecessarily wakening up the house needlessly in the middle of the night or worse getting tuned off.

Then we moved on to Meteorologist Matt Sena in the radar section. He told us that the big difference in radar forecasting has been with the rollout of Doppler radar in the 90's. Before Doppler radar the weather service was doing a good job if they could give you a warning 3-4 minutes before a severe storm. That level of warning time also produced a large number of false warnings that never happened. Since Doppler radar and the increased information that it gives about the rain drops in the clouds the warning times have increased to about 12 minutes with very few false warnings.

**For more information or to get involved:  
National Weather Service Forecast Office  
4 Falcon Drive  
Peachtree City, GA 30269  
Phone: (770) 486-1133  
<http://www.noaa.gov/>**

**CoCoRaHS  
Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network  
<http://cocorahs.org/>**

**Let it Rain!**

*Mark Murray KD4PEO*

As I sit down to write this I can hear the radio as it calls out the location of the rain, clouds and damage in real time. The remnants of a rain filled hurricane. Fay the one that drenched Florida and came up here from the Gulf of Mexico. Did you ever wonder where the news cast gets its data? From the weather service you say, true but where do they get their on the ground observations? Automated weather stations can only tell you

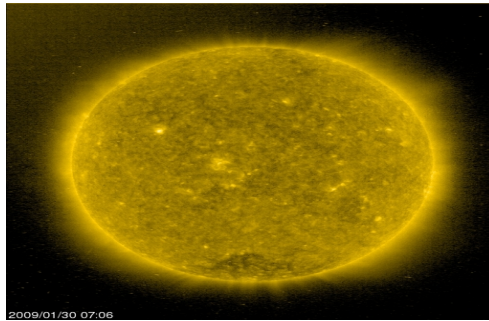
so much. What I am hearing is not some after the fact report on what happened on commercial radio, nor am I hearing weather radio as it issues warnings based on predictive models from radar images. I am hearing the weather as it happens on the ground on an ARES net. ARES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The “net control” that is the station that has called and is operating the net is doing a truly superb job. The other stations follow procedures that are well practiced by amateur radio operators so that an orderly flow of information is presented. I am listening to the 2 meter (a band used by amateurs for local communications) output of the LARC repeater on Wauka Mountain north of Gainesville. LARC (Lanierland Amateur Radio Club) maintains two repeaters on Wauka Mountain to enhance local communication and is open to all licensed operators not just club members. These repeaters are critical to local relief and are maintained by the club both with member’s time and money. The operators I hear range in location from Cleveland to Buford. They provide and maintain their own equipment. All have spent time and money to learn a sufficient amount about radio, radio practice and propagation to earn an amateur radio license. Some have at their own expense studied emergency radio procedure or weather spotting.

When there is no emergency the repeaters works a lot like an old time party line telephone. It is where they keep up with each other, help setup other radio equipment or just chat to and from work.

Amateurs are to a very large degree are self-policing and self-regulating. That is to say the FCC has final authority over the Amateur service but in actuality commits few resources to amateur radio enforcement. You will never need to put fingers in the ears of your little ones nor will you blush. That type of language is not tolerated in the amateur community. Additionally the FCC has turned over the actual testing for an Amateur license to the Amateur community with the establishment of Volunteer Exam Coordinators and their Volunteer Examiners. There is in North Georgia somewhere to take the test almost every weekend and some weeknights in any given month. Many clubs offer classes at no cost or just the price of the study material. Check for a local club in your town or county or <http://www.lanierlandarc.org/> find an email address on that site and they would gladly set you right to join the ranks of ham radio.

The weather is now past and the net is shutting down. We got a good amount of rain to fill the lake up a bit. I hear there is one in the Gulf and another in the Atlantic; we could use a bit more rain so let it rain. I will by that time have a radio that can transmit and will do more than just listen next time. I will be part of the action, so let it rain!

*Mark KD4PEO has been an amateur operator for more than 12 years. Went quiet on the radio several years ago when the children were young but has recently upgraded to General from Technician. Mark has worked with the Salvation Army on disaster relief a number of times including South Georgia, Savannah and North Carolina. He has also served as net control on the Taccoa repeater.*



**On Tuesday January 27, 2009 yet another solar cycle 23 sunspot group (S738) formed near S05E40. If numbered by NOAA/SWPC it will be 11012. Solar cycle 23 is now 12 years and 10 months long from first spot to present one, an extension of the already record long solar cycle!!!**

**73 & GUD DX,  
Thomas F. Giella, KN4LF  
Lakeland, FL, USA**

KN4LF Daily Solar Space Weather & Geomagnetic Data Archive:  
<http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf5.htm>

## **ID-10-T Error**

**For those who may have sent articles to include in this edition and don't see it within the pages, please accept my humble apologies and PLEASE resend.**

**Seems I had an ID-10-T moment at the last moment and lost the entire newsletter. I was able to recover most of the information but know for sure some got lost somewhere between 1's and 0's.**

**Doyle W4DJG (Hanging head in shame)**

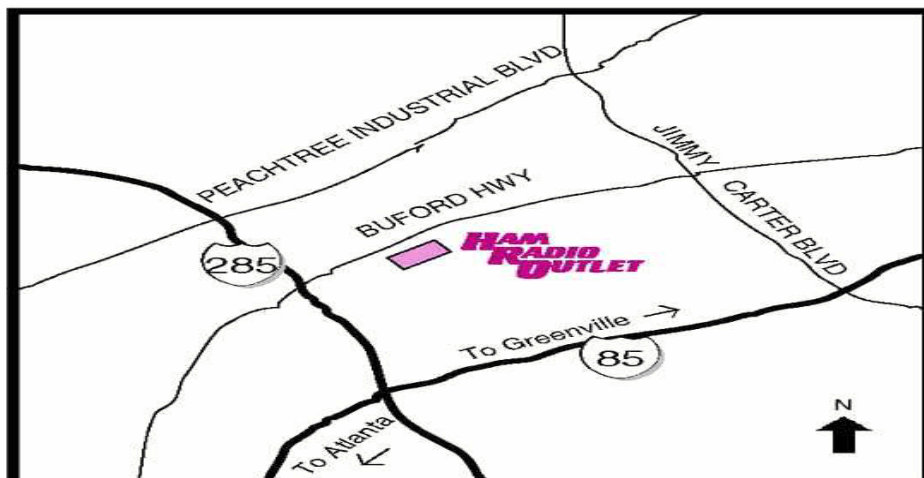


*The "Candy Store"*

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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>



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