



CENTRAL GEORGIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 2585
Warner Robins, Georgia 31099



March 2009 Newsletter

New Call Signs & Members

John Hughes, formerly KC4YJO is now licensed as WA4JGH (John G. Hughes).

Welcome returning CGARC member Tom Haskins, W4WXA. Tom was one of the founding members of our club and is returning after several years of "wandering in the wilderness."

New local Hams

The two individuals who passed their Technician test at the February VEC session are now our newest area hams.

Congratulations to Troy Wagoner, KJ4JQD and Phil Pike, KJ4JQE. Hopefully, we'll hear them on the air soon.

Heart of Georgia Hamfest

Larry Keith, KQ4B, attended the CGARC February meeting to give us an overview of the plans for the May 9, 2009 Hamfest. The membership is very enthused and ready to get this hamfest rolling.

Bill, KC4WU, agreed to help with the ticket selling, again. Workers are needed to assist him.

CGARC will provide the refreshments again this year. Good deal. Hopefully, they will have coffee and doughnuts when the hamfest opens.

Cliff Morey, W4CDM, volunteered to capture the email addresses from last year's tickets. We will use that to do an email, with a flyer attached, to last year's attendees. Thanks, Cliff!

Mike, WM4B, provided a PDF file of the 2009 Flyer to Dave, KN4DS. He has posted it to the hamfest website <http://www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com> so

other folks may download and print copies of the flyer.

The CGARC has offered to purchase a door prized (value not to exceed \$150.00) and to donate \$150 toward the Hamfest promotion expenses. Thanks, folks!

Larry attended the February Macon ARC and the MGRA meetings to talk about the HOG Hamfest 2009!

Tim, AF1G, and Larry, KQ4B attended the Orlando Hamfest. Tim distributed some flyers to the dealers there and Larry talked with some folks. Cedar City Sales will be here this year. That's good news if you need accessories, pieces, parts, and etc.

Larry plans to be at the Dalton Hamfest and the Marietta Hamfest to distribute flyers and get more dealers to attend. If any of you plan to attend these or other hamfests please take along some flyers and do the same.

March 28 Technician Class

The Central GA Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a Technician Class Study session on March 28, 2009. The study class will start at 8:00 AM at the Extended Center next to the Cochran Hospital on Peacock St. It will be an all day study class ending at 4 PM with the VE test.

Anyone is welcome to attend and bring friends. The only fee will be \$14 for test. There will be an hour for lunch and 15 minutes breaks between session of 45 minutes. If you are interested, please email nm4w@live.com for a copy of the study guide for this class. You may also call Dr. WiL at 770-490-0022.

Feature Member of the Month

Tim Hardy, AF1G, was first licensed in early 1981 as KAØKOE. At that time all Amateur testing except Novice took place at FCC Field Offices. Tim received his Novice license in the mail on a Saturday and drove to the Kansas City Field Office the following Tuesday to upgrade to Technician class, making him a Novice for only three days. As a new Tech his call sign changed to NØDCB. A month later he went back to Kansas City and upgraded to General Class, retaining the NØDCB call sign. Two months following his upgrade to General Class, he again went to Kansas City and passed his Advanced Class exam, becoming KCØPA, a call sign he would keep for the next twenty-five years. With the dropping of the Morse code requirement Tim took the Extra Class exam and made the final upgrade. After much deliberation and gnashing of teeth he decided to apply for a vanity call sign and obtained his current call, AF1G. Tim says it represents him well, as he is retired from the **Air Force**, is a number **1** guy, and lives in **Georgia**.

One of the most amazing contacts Tim ever made happened immediately after he upgraded to General Class in 1981 and obtained HF phone privileges. The following morning he went to his basement Ham station and began tuning around on 15 meters. Being somewhat hesitant to call CQ, having never done so on HF before, he looked for another station calling CQ that he could answer. He soon found one and began chatting with Jack Kaufmann, W4GFZ in Columbia, SC. As the conversation continued, Tim got the feeling that he knew this Ham he was talking to and began to make inquiries. "Jack," he said, "Do you live on the corner of Norwood Drive and Satchel Ford Road?" And Jack replied, "No.... but I used to." It turned out that Tim's first ever HF phone contact was with the man who had once been his "Elmer" when he was sixteen years old and living four houses down from Jack on Norwood Drive. Jack started teaching Tim Morse code and about Ham radio, but being an impatient teenager, Tim's interests quickly moved

elsewhere and he didn't obtain his Ham license until thirteen years later. What are the chances that once having obtained his General license Tim's first phone contact would be his old mentor?

Tim spent a total of twenty-seven years in the U.S. Air Force before retiring in Warner Robins in 2001. Tim describes himself at a "rootless" person (not to be confused with ruthless), since his father also spent a career in the military and Tim never stayed in one place for very long. However, since he married a South Georgia girl from Echols County, they decided to settle here in Georgia upon his retirement. During his military career Tim spent ten years in the Air Force MARS program. He has operated Ham radio in South Korea, Honduras, Western Sahara, and Kuwait. He is a licensed pilot, scuba diver (as are his wife and twin daughters) and his other interests include R/C model planes and of course Ham radio. He maintains an EchoLink node connected to a local repeater. He is a trained weather spotter and enjoys chasing storms. On August 26, 2008, he video recorded a tornado forming over the city of Perry. Tim also participates in ARES and emergency communications and traffic nets.

Tim has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Troy State University and a Master's degree in Computer and Information Resource Management from Webster University in St. Louis. He currently works for the Peach County Sheriff's Office as a School Resource Officer at Byron Middle School, where he is the sponsor and trustee for KG4BMS, the Byron Middle School Amateur Radio Club.

Tim, his wife Dawn, and twin Daughters Kaitlyn and Ashley, have lived in Kathleen since 1999.

Congratulations to Tim, AF1G, on his recent appointment as ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Peach County.

Editor's Note: If you would like to be a featured member, send Bill, KC4WU, a bio and we will include it in a future edition.

FCC hires Laura L. Smith, Esq.

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules," said Harrison. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

As the CGARC officers can attest, Ms Smith has already helped our club in the situation with a sticky legal issue concerning a local operator on our repeaters. She and Bill, KC4WU, have corresponded several times and has been very helpful in resolving the problem and has been a pleasure to work with. Congratulations to Laura and welcome aboard.

*Credit to ARRL website for portions of this article.

Tailgater's Corner

For Sale by Bill, KC4WU – 478-542-1620
Hy-Gain 10m-80m vertical antenna - \$100
Larson Through-The-Glass 2m/440m mobile antenna - \$20

Foxhunt News

The first Fox Hunt for 2009 was held Saturday evening, March 7. The foxy Bill KC4WU, (along with his grand daughters) was hidden at Lake Joy Elementary School. "Team Kevin", made up of Kevin KE4LRS and Kevin KJ4BHY, was the first to find Bill. As winners Kevin and Kevin will be next month's Fox. The date of the next hunt will be announced shortly. Because of the time change they will start transmitting at 2000 hours (8:00 PM DST). All "hunters" should gather at the Goodwill Trailer in the south parking lot of the Houston County Mall in Centerville. Initial communications and control will be on the 146.25/85 repeater and the Fox will start transmitting on their selected simplex frequency.

Other participants in the first hunt were Preston WR4PM, Ken W4KIK, Brett WD4BRB and Collin N4TUA. Everyone gathered at the Huddle House afterward and enjoyed talking about the hunt.

Anyone interested in joining the next hunt should contact Preston Morgan, WR4PM, (email presmor@yahoo.com or phone 731-2871) or Bill Atkins, KC4WU, (email kc4wu@yahoo.com or phone 542-1620) to sign up or to get more information.

Membership Dues Renewal

Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club had 46 members at the end of February 2009. Thanks to the 40 members that have paid their dues for this year. As a reminder members should renew their membership between October 1 and January 31. Please send your \$20 renewal dues to the club mailing address shown at the header of this Newsletter. If you are uncertain as to whether or not you have paid your 2009 dues, contact Bill, KC4WU, at the next meeting, by phone at 478-542-1620, or send an email to kc4wu@yahoo.com.

Squelch Tails

By Mike Besemer, WM4B

Once again, I'm happy to report that both repeater systems are functioning well with no major issues. The controller programming on both systems has been optimized for better performance in 'LINK' and 'NET' modes. These changes are mostly transparent to the users, but they definitely improve operations. I'll continue to modify the programming as issues surface.

One of the issues that we're stuck with for the time being involves the combination of 'LINK' and WX modes. Because of the way the controller functions, when 'LINK' mode is activated, it overrides the 'WX' mode programming, and vice-versa. I've taken steps to make 'LINK' and 'WX' mode mirror each other as much as possible, but the one thing that can't be changed is the Courtesy Tone. In 'WX' mode, the Courtesy Tone is a Morse 'W', and in 'LINK' mode, the Courtesy Tones is a Morse 'L'. If a user establishes a link while 'WX' mode is active, the Courtesy Tone will change from 'W' to 'L'. Likewise, if we have the link active and the weather receiver activates 'WX' mode, the Courtesy Tone will change from 'L' to 'W'. These things can happen a number of times during an extended weather net, so it's important that users understand what's happening.

Several members have contacted me with comments about how some of our less-experienced hams are using our systems. These comments have nothing to do with illegal operation, but are focused on operating technique (or lack thereof). The bottom line is that these are Elmering issues not Control Op issues. It's everyone's responsibility to train our new hams to operate properly and responsibly, so when you hear something that's not quite right, take the time to help that individual out. Sometimes you can offer suggestions over-the-air, but at other times it might be best to contact the ham privately and offer him or her the benefit of your experience.

On a similar note, if you hear operation on the system that is illegal, please contact a Control Operator. If possible, the Control Operator will

come up on the system and make an assessment. If you hear anyone on the repeater who is on the 'banned' list (this list is only 1-ham long), please note the time and date and contact me when you can. I am still recording on a 24/7 basis, so with your help I can easily pull the correct file.

In the Pet Peeve department, kerchunking is down, but still much too prevalent. I know you're sick of hearing me harp on it, but not only is it annoying, IT'S ILLEGAL. (Soapbox mode off.)

Operating Tip: Please don't 'Jump the Beep'. The purpose of the Courtesy Tone is to allow a short period for breaking stations to make themselves known. 'Jumping the Beep' prevents other stations (who MIGHT have an emergency) from using the system. Additionally, the Time-Out timer is not reset until the beep has sounded, so if you 'Jump the Beep', you stand a chance of timing out the repeater. Of particular note, if you're using the link from the 145.11 system, YOU WILL NOT HEAR THE BEEP ON THE 146.85 SYSTEM, so be sure to leave about 1 second AFTER the 145.11 carrier drops before starting your transmission. I'm working on a technical solution for this problem, but at this point I'm not sure if a feasible solution can be implemented.

Until next time, vry 73 es CUA soon.
Mike WM4B

Some CTCSS Frequencies

Norm KI4YRB provided me with some of the area repeater CTCSS frequencies and asked me to pass on to the members.

<u>City</u>	<u>Repeater</u>	<u>PL-tone</u>
Macon	146.805	77.0 hz
Macon	145.430	67.0 hz
Thomaston	147.390	131.8 hz
Forsyth	147.315	88.5 hz
Griffin	145.390	88.5 hz
Eastman	147.090	179.9 hz

If you have tone frequencies you would like to share with our members please contact the editor and we will add them later.

CGARC Monthly Financial Report For February 2009

Because some of our members are unable to attend all of our monthly meetings we will publish a club financial statement in each Newsletter issue. The transaction summary is as follows:

Ending balance prior to February 2009 meeting:	<u>\$1408.48</u>
Club membership renewal (and new) dues for 2009:	\$108.00
VEC Testing fees received:	\$20.00
Club meeting Half & Half profit from ticket sales (\$47.00):	\$23.50
Donation from Half & Half winner (John, WA4JGH):	\$23.50
Repeater fund donations:	177.00
VEC Testing fees paid to ARRL):	\$16.00
Membership and Repeater fund donation refund (WN5P)	<u>\$30.00</u>
Ending balance as of Newsletter publishing date:	\$1714.48

CGARC Officers, Board of Directors and Repeater Committee

Scott Nolde, N4CI President	John Louth, WB4EEL Board Member as Last Past President	Mike Besemer, WM4B Repeater Control Operator
David Stewart, KN4DS Vice President	John Hughes, WA4JGH Board Member	Wil Perez, NM4W Repeater Control Operator
Bill Atkins, KC4WU Secretary/Treasurer & Newsletter Editor kc4wu@yahoo.com	Terry Teal, KI4QFF Board Member	Dan Haines, KF4DB Control Operator
		Charles Armstrong, AE4VA Repeater Trustee

If you have articles or items you would like to contribute and have published in our Newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Atkins, KC4WU. If you have suggestions, complaints, or if you have items for our "**Tailgater's Corner**" for sale, buyer, or trade send them. Send anything to kc4wu@yahoo.com or US mail it to CGARC, P.O. Box 2585, Warner Robins, GA 31099 or call Bill at 478-542-1620.