

GARS MOUTH

VO LUM 58 EDIOTON 5

MAY 2014

WWW.GARS.NET

*Welcome to the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society's
Newsletter*

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Presidents Corner, May 2014

Welcome to all, as the spring season is in full bloom, and those of us with allergies enjoy the annual battle with the pollen.

We have several ham radio adventures to carry us through the pollen season. First, for our April General Meeting on Wednesday, April 16th, we have scheduled the candidates for the North Florida Section Manager's position to speak to the membership. The candidates are each scheduled to speak for 10 minutes, followed by a 3 minute question and answer session for each candidate.

At the April meeting we will also be making final preparations for the Hamfest on April 26th at the Waldo First Baptist Church on State Route 24, in Waldo. Tickets are \$5.00 each for entry and tailgate space. Please come and help support our annual fund raising event for the club, and enjoy the camaraderie of other hams in our community.

For those members traveling to the Dayton Hamvention, May 16-18, 2014 we wish you safe travels and happy shopping.

73,

Pete Winters

W4GHP

GARS President

GARSPresident14@gmail.com

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Send edits, comments, articles to garseditor@gmail.com

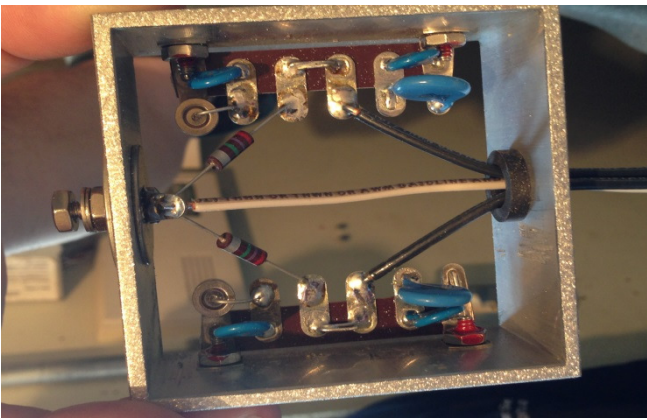
You might not think it's important, but your input is wanted for this newsletter. Please send articles of interest, links, and buy, sell or trade to garseditor@gmail.com

FAMOUS WORDS

"each metal has a certain power, which is different from metal to metal, of setting the electric fluid in motion" **Count Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta**

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Well we had a great hamfest and then we got to work on more improvements to the tower site at WRUF. Grounding and surge protection are one of the most vital needs for any repeater site. We have installed a panel surge protector to prevent any more line surges. Hopefully this will take the hit before the equipment does. This device probably will need to be inspected yearly to insure there is a resistance across the three legs as seen in this photo. There probably will not need to be a disassemble of the item unless it is determined that one leg is a difference in potential than the other.



There was some grounding work done, it was stormy so we did not get a lot done on the roof but that can be another day. We did get to eat a great breakfast before we started to evaluate the site. Sam was able to participate and looks much better from being under the weather at the hamfest.



Some of the work group photos.



Shannon working on the grounding,



Pete adding wood, for the antennas to be off the roof for next time.



Outside grounding



WRUF tower, look close we are up there.

VE REPORT

None to report.

If you would like information about upcoming testing or one day technician classes please contact the individuals below.

For All of Gainesville, and other surrounding areas.

Allan West by email at WA4JD@cookie.org

For the Town of Tioga

Gary Liljegren by email at gary@w4gal.net

GARS MEETING MINUTES

None to report at the time of the publishing of this paper.
Please review at the general meeting.

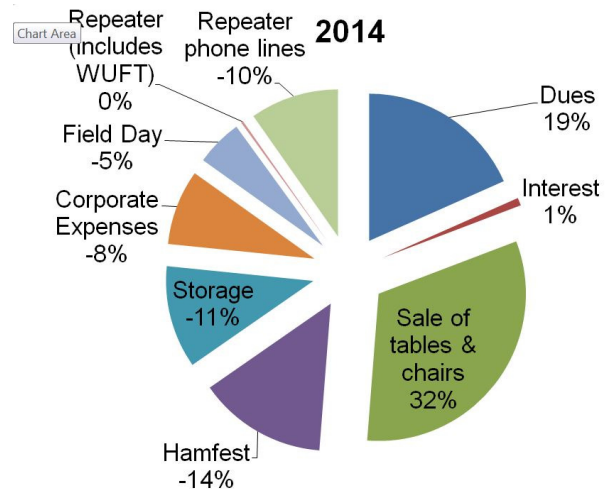
GARS FINANCES

Your membership dues are due as of January 1, and you will be out of membership if you laps after March 31, so please renew and support your club.

\$\$\$

To be able to provide activities such as the club picnic, Christmas party, the club "repeaters", food and materials for Field Day, Hamfest, etc. it takes \$\$\$\$. Support GARS by paying your dues, the dues are due January 1 of every year, and so see Susan Tipton at the general meeting before the meeting starts. Even give a little more for the activities that make GARS and active association. A small note that even the donut money at the meetings, supports the GARS, so have a cup and a bit of sugar and spice and some camaraderie and top off that donation cup.

GARS financial report will be provided at the general meeting and will not be published in the GARS Mouth.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are the Hamfest's that are currently listed.

05/24/2014 | [SUWANNEE ARC](http://www.suwanneearc.org/html/2014gate.html)

Location: Live Oak, FL

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Suwannee Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.suwanneearc.org/html/2014gate.html>

05/24/2014 | [WORMFEST 2014](#)

Location: Pinellas Park, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: The Glorious Society of the Wormhole
Website: <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org>

07/11/2014 | [MILTON ARC'S 19TH ANNUAL HAMFEST](#)

Location: Milton, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Milton Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.miltonarc.org>

08/23/2014 | [TARCFEST XXXII](#)

Location: Tampa, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.hamclub.org>

10/04/2014 | [OPARC HAMFEST TAILGATE](#)

Location: Jacksonville, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Orange Park Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://oparc.net/hamfest>

10/10/2014 | [FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION \(MELBOURNE HAMFEST\)](#)

Location: Melbourne, FL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://www.pcars.org>

11/08/2014 | [SPARCFEST](#)

Location: Pinellas Park, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.sparc-club.org>

11/15/2014 | [FREE FLEA](#)

Location: Coral Gables, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Flamingo Net ARC / University of Miami ARC
Website: <http://www.flamingonet.8m.net>

12/12/2014 | [WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION \(TAMPA BAY HAMFEST\)](#)

Location: Plant City, FL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council
Website: <http://tampabayhamfest.org>

To become an Amateur Radio operator, check out this website link. <http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio>

KEY NEWS

Ex-senator and Vietnam POW who blinked "torture" in Morse code dies.

Prisoner of war Jeremiah Denton declared his loyalty to the U.S. government during a 1966 interview for what was supposed to be a propaganda film. But his enraged captors missed his more covert message: "T-O-R-T-U-R-E," blinked into the camera in Morse code, a dispatch that would alert the U.S. military to the conditions he endured.

Denton, who would survive 7 1/2 years confined in a tiny, stinking, windowless cell at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" and other camps before his release in 1973, died of heart problems Friday in Virginia Beach, Va., at age 89, his grandson Edward Denton said.

The elder Denton later became the first Republican from Alabama elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction, though the iron will that allowed him to persevere in captivity gave rise to criticism he was too rigid a politician.

In July 1965, a month after he began flying combat missions for the U.S. Navy in Vietnam, the Mobile native was shot down near Thanh Hoa. He was captured and recalled his captivity in a book titled "When Hell Was in Session."

"They beat you with fists and fan belts," he told the Los Angeles Times in 1979. "They warmed you up and threatened you with death. Then they really got serious and gave you something called the rope trick." The use of ropes - to cut off circulation in his limbs - left him with no feeling in his fingertips and intense muscle spasms, he said.

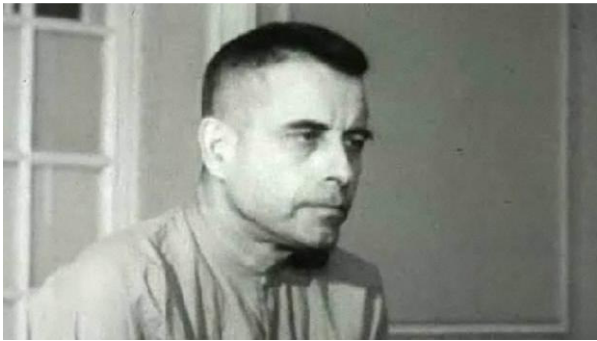
Some of the most severe torture came after the 1966 interview, in which he confounded his captors by saying that he continued to fully support the U.S. government, "and I will support it as long as I live."

"In the early morning hours, I prayed that I could keep my sanity until they released me. I couldn't even give in to their

demands, because there were none. It was pure revenge," Denton wrote.

The tape was widely seen, and U.S. intelligence experts had picked up the Morse Code message. But Denton theorized later that his captors likely figured it out only after he was awarded the Navy Cross - the second-highest decoration for valor - for the blinks in 1974.

He said his captors never brought him out for another interview. But with the war's end drawing closer, he was released in February 1973.



Denton was the senior officer among former POWs who stepped off a plane into freedom at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Denton epitomized the military spirit as he spoke for the returning soldiers: "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

His words and bearing, beamed back to his country by television, gave heart to the military at a time of increasing uncertainty and bitter division over the course of the war.

He was promoted to rear admiral and retired from the Navy in November 1977. Denton then turned to politics, despite having no experience running for a statewide political office. With Ronald Reagan atop the GOP ticket, Denton became the first Republican elected to the Senate from Alabama since the Reconstruction era following the Civil War.

In Washington, he was a Reagan loyalist, a defender of military might and an advocate for a return to traditional family values and conservative stands on moral issues. But critics said his rigid stands left him no room for political compromise and lessened his influence, limiting his ability to help Alabama.

Denton lost his re-election bid in 1986 by only a fraction of a percentage point.

After his defeat, Denton founded the Coalition for Decency and lectured about family causes. Denton also launched a humanitarian outreach to needy countries through his National Forum Foundation, which arranged shipments of donated goods.

"He was a war hero, an honorable senator, and a family man who cared deeply about his country," said a statement from U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, who as a Democrat defeated Denton in 1986. Shelby switched to the GOP in 1994 and was elected to a fifth term in 2010.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, who also was held captive as a POW in Vietnam, described Denton as his mentor.

"As a senior ranking officer in prison, Admiral Denton's leadership inspired us to persevere, and to resist our captors, in ways we never would have on our own," McCain said.

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions called Denton a "friend, warrior, leader, and hero."

"He was a man of grit and character that can't be manufactured," [Sessions said in a statement](#). "His word was his bond and his loyalty was unshakable."

In later years, Denton lived in Williamsburg, Va., but he still appeared at patriotic gatherings. In November 2008, an emotional Denton watched at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Ala., as a newly restored A-6 Intruder fighter/bomber - like the one he flew over North Vietnam - was rolled out in his honor.

Denton's grandson, Edward, said that on one hand, Denton was a normal grandfather who enjoyed taking his grandchildren fishing aboard his boat in Mobile. "On the other hand," he said, "he was a war hero and someone who set an example for being what being a good, patriotic American is all about."

[CBS affiliate WKRG reports](#) that Denton, a native of Mobile, attended McGill Institute and Spring Hill College before graduating from the Naval Academy. To watch the video go to:

<http://www.military.com/video/operations-and-strategy/vietnam-war/pow-blinks-torture-in-morse-code/1381254901001/>

ARE YOU SIX AND UP?

Realtime Propagation mapping website

<http://www.dxmaps.com/spots/map.php?Frec=50>

SHACK OF THE MONTH



This month the ISS will be featured as the HAM SHACK of the month.

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/>

<http://www.issfanclub.com/qs/>



If you did not know this, the ISS is threatened again with the possibility of the program coming to an early ending. Due to the sanctions imposed on Russia due to the Crimea take over, Russia announced Tuesday of this week that they do not want to extend Russian use of the ISS beyond 2020. NASA has also stated some dates that do not sound promising to the program and the earliest was 2016.

For more on this visit:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2014/05/13/the-tug-of-war-between-nasa-and-russia-continues/>

SPACE WEATHER

May 6, 2014: The head of NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office, Dr. Bill Cooke, often lets cameras do his sky watching for him. He and his colleagues operate a nationwide network of automated fireball observatories that capture anything that burns into Earth's atmosphere.

On the morning of May 24th, however, he plans to go out in person.

"There could be a new meteor shower, and I want to see it with my own eyes," says Cooke.

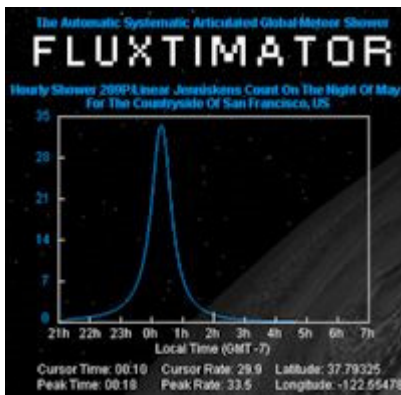
The shower is the May Camelopardalids, caused by dust from periodic comet 209P/LINEAR. No one has ever seen it before, but this year the Camelopardalids could put on a display that rivals the well-known Perseids of August.

"Some forecasters have predicted more than 200 meteors per hour," says Cooke.

Comet 209P/LINEAR was discovered in February 2004 by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research project, a cooperative effort of NASA, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory, and the US Air Force. It is a relatively dim comet that dips inside the orbit of Earth once every five years as it loops around the sun.

Two years ago, meteor experts Esko Lyytinen of Finland and Peter Jenniskens at NASA Ames Research Center announced that Earth was due for an encounter with debris from Comet 209P/LINEAR. Streams of dust ejected by the comet mainly back in the 1800s would cross Earth's orbit on May 24, 2014. The result, they said, could be a significant meteor outburst.

Other experts agreed, in part. There is a broad consensus among forecasters that Earth will indeed pass through the debris streams on May 24th. However, no one is sure HOW MUCH debris is waiting. It all depends on how active the comet was more a century ago when the debris streams were laid down.



How many meteors will you see from your hometown? Check out the May Camelopardalid flux estimator. [More](#)

"We have no idea what the comet was doing in the 1800s," says Cooke. As a result of the uncertainty, "there could be a great meteor shower—or a complete dud."

The best time to look is during the hours between 6:00 and 08:00 Universal Time on May 24th or between 2 and 4 o'clock in the morning Eastern Daylight Time. That's when an ensemble of forecast models say Earth is most likely to encounter the comet's debris. North Americans are favored because, for them, the peak occurs during nighttime hours while the radiant is high in the sky.

"We expect these meteors to radiate from a point in Camelopardalis, also known as 'the giraffe', a faint constellation near the North Star," he continues. "It will be up all night long for anyone who wishes to watch throughout the night."

Indeed, that might be a good idea. Because this is a new meteor shower, surprises are possible. Outbursts could occur hours before or after the forecasted peak.

In case of a dud, there is a consolation prize. On May 24th the crescent Moon and Venus are converging for a tight conjunction the next morning, May 25th. Look for them rising together just ahead of the sun in the eastern sky at dawn.

"That's a nice way to start the day," says Cooke, "meteors or not."

Credits:

Author: [Dr. Tony Phillips](#) | Production editor: [Dr. Tony Phillips](#)
| Credit: Science@NASA

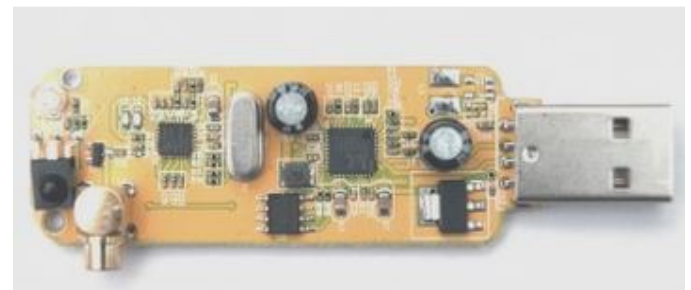
WHAT IS THIS?

This month we are doing something different.

Do you know what RTL-SDR is?

Well I was very interested in checking this out myself. I have many expensive Software Defined Radios and since I am not in a position right now to do a lot of radio, this sparked my interest.

For 20 dollars you can start with some software and a USB dongle. The dongle is a DVB-T TV tuner dongle that uses a RTL2832U chip that is extremely versatile and wide-banded. Then there are the different modes and capabilities. You can decode P-25, Packet, and about any that has an analog or digital signal. You can track planes, and ships. You can hear satellites. You can even be your own SETI@Home if you have a big enough dish and the right hardware to go with this device.



I will give you a few links and let you explore. In the next few months we will have more on this, including what we find in the area. As a note there is one thing you might want to invest in is a filter to take out the noise of your computer. I use a up converter also called HAM IT UP to go from 150 to HF and with a little luck tuning the dongle you can get a lot out of it.



This is only a receiver, and not to be mistaken for a FT-817 that can do both TX and RX, but the utility of it is a great idea. I monitor my fire paging channel on one channel of the waterfall and monitor others on a different waterfall, and you can get a lot of data about your repeater sites, or just listen to

stations around the world, it is a whole new concept in receivers. And it is far less expensive than an ICOM 1000 receiver for \$750 to \$1K.

The creator of this idea.

<http://sdr.osmocom.org/trac/wiki/rtl-sdr>

A great tutorial.

<http://www.rtl-sdr.com/about-rtl-sdr/>

The HF converter, this site also is the most reliable equipment that is compatible with the software being used.

<http://www.nooelec.com/store/ham-it-up-v1-0-rf-upconverter-for-software-defined-radio.html#.U3OGdKlvAyg>

As a new person to it, I would recommend buying the bundle and not having the headaches, also get the SMA converter to the antenna connector you have in your shack. You may need to have two antennas, one for 150 and up and one for HF and down with a SMA switch or SMA cables to a normal switch to the different bands.

This company also has some very interesting other equipment that is very reasonable for the hobbyist and tinkerer.

There are SDR stations all around the world also that you can listen using their equipment instead of yours, for FREE, free is good.

My favorite is this one.

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

CLUB HAPPENINGS CONT.

Did you know we have a new Facebook Page?

Like Us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleAmateurRadioSociety>



FROM SPACE

Keith Cowing discusses his campaign to save an old 1970s NASA spacecraft from becoming space junk. ISEE-3/ICE is a satellite that was once used to monitor space weather, but it's been unused for decades. NASA doesn't want to spend the money to bring it back to life, but Cowing and his colleagues are determined to do it. If they can raise \$125,000 on a crowdfunding site called RocketHub, Cowing says they'll contact ISEE-3/ICE, wake it up and put it back to good use.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/04/28/307766256/to-save-a-satellite-former-nasa-guy-takes-crowdfunding-to-space>

If you would like to donate to the fund go to this address.

Video and information to rescue the ISEE-3 is on this site, at the date of publishing this there was \$118k donated to the cause.

<http://www.rockethub.com/projects/42228-isee-3-reboot-project-by-space-college-skycorp-and-spaceref>

Remember many years ago a few of us visited the Radio Observatory in Old Town? Interesting antenna arrays and equipment to listen to a project call JOVE. Well there are more advancement since then and I'm going to be building some of these antenna's shortly so if you like antenna building and want to hear space and use the SDR devices in the article above, check out these links for more information.

<http://www.roswellmeteor.com/lwa-users.html>

<http://www.ece.vt.edu/swe/lwa/memo/lwa0102.pdf>


<http://spaceweatherradio.com/>

WHAT'S THE SECRET CODE, DO I NEED A DECODING RING?

I am pleased to announce that Jeff Capehart W4UFL and Shannon Boal K4GLM decoded the January clues, and Van decoded February's clues.

Please try and be creative when decoding, we know Google can do it all but imagination is everything. Next one in July.

From the early 40s to Y2K there were radio and television shows that provided clues and puzzles to resolve, some of them included badges like Capt. Midnight and Special

Decoder Rings like in Jonny Quest from PF Flyers. 

So there are all these C.W. messages in the whole newsletter and I'm sure you all are asking what does this all mean. Well to keep your interest in the entire newsletter, there will be a message spaced out throughout the paper for you to put together. Rules: If you put together the message correctly, you will receive a PL259, if you put together the message and tell me what book, yes I said book that the message is in by name, date, chapter and page(You must include all four), you will receive an item, parts, or even a copy of the book that will represent the topic of interest. This will only happen every quarter, and you only can win once a year, so that everyone has a chance to win. So happy decoding. Email garseditor@gmail.com the answer to win, or present to the President of GARS incase I'm not present. KE4PWE

LET ME CHECK MY CALENDER

Please check the GARS.net website for updates.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Sandra Estevez

Owner

Down East Microwave, Inc.

If it weren't for a trusted, wise aunt imparting some helpful advice, Sandra Estevez would have majored in zoology in college. While she was interested in the particular science, her aunt convinced her to pursue something more marketable. "She said, 'Why don't we select something more realistic?'" Estevez recalls. Since engineering and math skills are more in demand, Estevez initially set her mind on aeronautical engineering, but her plans eventually changed. During her senior year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, her mother fell ill and came to live with her. "The first week of school, she passed away, so I had to take the semester off," Estevez says. Not wanting to delay graduation or lose any time, she ultimately changed majors. "I ended up in mechanical engineering, but it worked out for me." Making the switch to mechanical engineering paid off because she was able to land a job after graduating in 1992. "From there, I went back home to Puerto Rico and started working as a supervisor for a pharmaceutical company, Merck," Estevez says, adding that the company likes to hire mechanical engineers as supervisors. Fast forward to today, and she's still using her mechanical engineering expertise, just in a completely different capacity. Now, she's the owner and vice president of Down East Microwave, Inc., which she runs with her husband in Live Oak, Fl. The couple purchased the business, which manufactures radio equipment for the amateur radio hobby, in 1995. "Amateur radio isn't

something that has a lot of females participating," says Estevez. "This was not a field I knew a lot about—and having to learn on the go and being able to relate to the community have been challenging. It's also been very fulfilling. You get exposed to people from all walks of life." The business has been able to remain competitive in its market by creating its own niche, and focusing on manufacturing accessories and components that large manufacturers use. "That's what we cater to," Estevez says. "There are a whole bunch of different frequencies that for a large manufacturer are not worth it commercially because [the market] is small. [As a small business] you cannot compete with the large guys, so you do those things that are more unique and exclusive, and you create a little market for yourself." In 2008, Estevez received the K4UHF Award from the Southeastern VHF Society for DEMI's contributions to the market that it serves. DEMI continues to develop new products to stay ahead of the curve and serve its market or find ways to serve a new market. "Those are the things we deal with that push us to move faster and keep up with the technology," Estevez says. Although amateur radio was something totally new for Estevez before meeting her husband, she took on the challenge to learn about the industry and being a business owner along the way. Her example proves that being open to changing direction at a fork in the road, even if you're uncertain at first, it could lead you to a rewarding career. "You just need to step in there and try it," she says. "As long as you put in your time and have determination, you'll figure it out." LS

As an editor's note: I would like to thank LatinaStyle for their great article on Sandra Estevez and what a great contribution her and her husband have made to the Amateur Radio from 6 to Microwave and up systems. I was very fortunate to meet her husband in Wellington FL when he did a presentation on the equipment and accessories that they produce and distribute. Now I live right down the street from them, hopefully I will get my weak signal equipment back up on the air since my recent move.

LINK'S OF THE MONTH

Do you know what MICAS is?

<http://www.esat.kuleuven.be/micas/>

Fun link here.

<http://fritzing.org/download/?donation=0>

Interesting link for golden age of radio

<http://www.digitaldelift.com/DigitalDeliToo/dd2jb-Magic-Island.html>

TECHNICAL CORNER

Are you into QRP?

<http://www.amqrp.org/projects/projects.html>

TRADE IT OR SHE WILL TRADE YOU

If you have anything that you would like to sell, trade, donate or give away, email garseditor@gmail.com and we will put the item in here. Please understand that this will be restricted to only Amateur Radio related items only, no property, vehicles or other large items that would have radio attached, just use common sense.

Listing Post by KE4PWE:

The time comes when you have to relocate or have to clean out that shack for many reasons and while equipment always is able to be resold or repurposed, there are always parts and projects that are in boxes and even books for radio and electronics that you have to throw away or leave behind. I want all your broken radios, parts, projects and books. Don't throw them away, throw them at me, well not literally but you know what I mean. Email me or call.

Ke4pwe@gmail.com or 352-672-5674. Restoration of radios from 1930s to 1970s is my favorite thing to do, and I hate seeing stuff throw away if it can be repurposed or reused to fix these classic radios again.

CREDITS

ARRL, NASA, NPR, NBC, CBS, AMQRP, Washington Post, Latina Style, CQ Six, oldphotos.blogspot.com All photos are copy write under their respective owners and cannot be duplicated or distributed without express permission of their owners.

REMINDERS

Don't forget the Suwannee Tailgate

Coming up on May 24 at 8am, FREE of charge, 7am for tailgate sellers. Look at Hamfests above for more information.

<http://www.suwanneearc.org/html/2014gate.html>

Talkin frequency of 145.410 Mhz, - 600, PL 123 or 145.270Mhz -600, PL 123

At the end of the newspaper I try to find something old and interesting to finish the paper out with. We have to remember where we came from in radio and look above to see where we are going.

This photo looks like early 1920s.



<http://old-photos.blogspot.com/2013/11/ham-radio.html>

Thank you all for reading and see you next time.

This GARS Newsletter was brought to you in part by Carnation Condensed Milk, George Burns, and Gracie Allen.

Producers: Neutralized Triode

Editors: Phil KE4PWE and Lilly No Call Just Yet

Stage Hands: Cap Resistor

Mike Grip: "D" One O'Four

Set and Lighting Manager: Tom Foolery

Script and Controller: Frequent Followers Consortium

No Bits and Bytes were abused in the writing of this Newsletter and all zero's and one's are able to be recycled under the Clean Air Act. Hope you enjoyed it and we will see you next month. 73 and 88