

GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

“GARS”

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

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MEETING SCHEDULE....GARS regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM local time at the Doyle Conner Building, SW 34th Street & 20th Ave, Gainesville. All interested in Amateur Radio are welcome to attend the meetings.

COPY DEADLINE....Ten days prior to the meeting date. Editor may accept, reject, edit, delete or add to any copy submitted. Opinions & views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect opinions or policies of GARS or its members.

ARRL & QST....When members join ARRL via the club treasury at regular rates, GARS receives a discount bonus for its treasury. All ARRL members receive QST as part of their membership.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, ROSTERS, CORRECTIONS, etc.... Mail to Pat Callaway K4HFJ, 3515 N.W. 50th Ave., Gainesville FL 32653. Email: patc@fdt.net, (352) 378-0512.

MATERIAL FOR GARS MOUTH.... Ads, articles, etc., mail to Ed Amsbury N4OVO, 5620 NW 25th Terrace, Gainesville FL 32653. Email: augie64@bellsouth.net (352) 378-3240.

TESTING.UPGRADING.LICENSING....Call Warren Croke NW4C (352) 378-0935.

December Meeting

This is going to be a tough meeting, but someone has to go. Actually, the December meeting will be held at Quincy's Steak House on N.W. 69th St., just north of the Red Lobster. Folks will start congregating at 6:00 PM and they will throw us out at 9:00 PM. While they seem to change weekly, at press time, Quincy's has customers pay as they go in the door. Walk around and check out the dinner bar and then decide if you want all-you-can-eat or if you want an entrée instead. At this point in time, they are not automatically adding a gratuity. The main idea is to have a good social hour (or three) and see who is the most outstanding member of 1999. With any kind of luck, the winner will take the trophy home before October.

\$\$ CLASSIFIED \$\$

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE RUN FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE ISSUES UNLESS EDITOR IS NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE TO CONTINUE OR CANCEL THE ITEM

FANTASTIC BUY FOR FUTURE HAMS!

Now You're Talking! The ARRL manual for new hams is now being offered at a greatly reduced price. Instead of the usual \$19, shipping and handling extra, you can now buy it for only \$15. Start a friend in ham radio.

ARRL Publications at less than cover prices! For more details, Contact Jay Lieberman, KD4FER 376-7853 (12/99)

ESTATE SALE:

The widow of Jerry Allison, KR4FV, wishes to sell his ham gear (and some computer gear). She is looking for local buyers. The gear includes:

Kenwood TS-440S HF (\$400-\$500)
2 Yaesu FT-2400's 2m (\$125-\$150 each)
ASTRON- RS-20A power supply (\$50-\$75)
Kenwood PS-50 power supply (for the 440S)
Hewlett Packard DeskJet 660 Cse color printer (\$75)
IBM G40 14inch color monitor (\$25)
MFJ-406 keyer
2 Daiwa SWR/power meters
Realistic Pro-34 handheld scanner (needs antenna)
2 push-up antenna poles
1 vertical antenna (looks like an R-5 and needs counterpoise)
Connectors, wires, cords, etc. that hams like to keep

The prices are my suggestions looking at Ham Trader and QST sales. If seriously interested, please contact Mrs. Allison at (904) 292-2505 in Mandarin.

Thanks and 73, Don Fraser, K2DF (12/99)

TECH WRITERS WANTED:

Some creative hams are needed to write articles on the pros and cons of horizontal vs. vertical antennas. Same great pay as the editor. You'll also get to be a famous writer. Any volunteers?

November VE Report

Four of the five candidates who tested during the Gainesville ham exam session in November emerged winners. All either upgraded or earned a new license and will shortly be receiving the good news officially from the FCC.

Carol Chesney, KG4FEX, of Alachua hadn't even received her official Technician ticket from an October test at the Jacksonville Hamfest when she passed the code test here to upgrade to Tech Plus.

Gainesville's Mike Williams also passed Tech Plus during the November session. However, Mike plans to upgrade soon. He passed his General class theory in the same session and now plans to devote full time to getting his code speed up to the required 13-wpm.

Two other candidates tested successfully for the Technician license, Christopher Sengelmann of Gainesville, and Wayne Bell of Alachua.

Thanks to VEs Tom Scott, KF4I, and Lloyd Smith, NX4W for their assistance in administering the examinations.

The next scheduled ham test session will be Saturday, Jan 8, 1:30 p.m. at the Gainesville Hamfest at the Alachua County Fairgrounds. For more information or to register for an examination, contact Warren Croke, NW4C at (352) 378-0935, or by e-mail at nw4c@arrl.net.

Ham Exams slow in 1999

To paraphrase a well-known Saturday night radio show host; It's been a quiet year for GARS Volunteer Examiners. The Gainesville examiners are ready and able, but the candidates have been few and far between.

Only 13 candidates were tested on a total of 27 elements during 1999. Of this number, three were successful in getting a Technician license, four others achieved Tech Plus, and one candidate tested and passed the General class ticket.

Special thanks to the GARS VEs who administered exams during the past year. They include Gary W0SH, John KS4XN, Mace KD4MG, Lloyd NX4W, and Tom, KF4I.

Ham testing nationwide is down slightly, according to the leading VECs. However, some of the slowdown in exam applicants is supposedly due to the long-awaited FCC restructuring of Amateur Radio licenses. One of the more popular restructuring rumors making the rounds is that Novice and Tech Plus class licenses are to be eliminated, and hams holding these tickets may be upgraded a class without having to take any test.

Sources within ARRL indicate February 2000 is the earliest they expect any news on restructuring. They suggest that instructors delay starting any new ham classes until then just in case.

Meanwhile, testing in Gainesville by GARS VEs will continue as scheduled. The next ham exam session in Gainesville will be during the hamfest January 8th at the Alachua County fairgrounds. For more information or to register for an exam contact Warren Croke, NW4C at (352) 378-0935, or e-mail NW4C@arrl.net.

OPERATING OPPORTUNITIES:

GARS Sunday evening rag-chew net; 8:30 PM. K4GNV Repeater 146.22/82
Various net controls. (7:00 PM on 6/6 and 6/13/99)

Alachua County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net; 8:00 PM –
Thursdays, K4GNV Repeater 146.22/82 ...Ron W8MSH net control.

Old Florida Amateur Radio Trading Society: Thursday evenings following the
ARES net. Jay KD4FER net control. P.O. Box 140546, Gainesville FL
32614. (352) 376-7853.

GARS Code Practice; Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:00 PM. 21.120 MHz ... Gary
KC4JYR/Carl AC4MX net controls

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GARS Saturday Breakfasts ... 1st & 3rd Saturday each month, 8:00 AM Quincy's
Steak House, 908 N.W. 69th Terrace in Gainesville; by I-75 and Newberry
Road just back of the Red Lobster. Good Food, Good Fellowship, chatter-
ALL WELCOME-JOIN US!

QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) ... 4th **Tuesday** each month, 6:30 PM
at Shoney's, 1505 NW 13th Street, Gainesville.

Silver Springs Amateur Radio Club; 3rd Monday each month, 7:30 PM, Green
Clover Hall, SE 25th Ave, Ocala.

ARC-BA; Starke Repeater Net Mondays (except 2nd Monday), 145.15 MHz (down),
8:30 PM followed by ARES net at 9:00 PM. **ARC-BA meeting, 2nd** Monday
each month, Bradford Co. EOC conference room 7:30 PM. **Saturday
Breakfast, 2nd & 4th** Saturday, Waldo Trading Post, Hwy 301 north of
Waldo, 8:30 AM.

AREA REPEATERS:

Chiefland	147.390+	
Ft. McCoy	146.94 -	PL 123.0
Gainesville (GARS)	146.82 -	
Gainesville (GARS)	146.985 -	
Gainesville (GARC – UF)	146.91 -	
KB4HF Repeater	147.375 +	
K4EAC Memorial Sta. (SFCC)	146.79 -	
High Springs	145.47 -	
Keystone Hgts (KF4EHP/KF4DRU)	145.130 -	
Lake City	145.49 -	
Ocala	146.61 -	
Ocala	146.97 -	PL 123.0
Palatka	147.345 +	
Starke (ARC-BA)	145.15 -	
Gainesville (GARS)	224.16 -	
Gainesville (GARS)	444.925 +	

GARS net address: www.gars.net

November Minutes

The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society met on Wednesday, November 17, 1999, at 7:30 PM at the Doyle Conner Building. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Liljegren, W0SH. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and then introduced themselves.

Gary introduced the speaker, Sam Ulbing, N4UAU, author of many articles and winner of the April 1999 ARRL QST Plaque Award, who spoke on surface mount technology.

After a short break, the minutes were approved as written in the GARS MOUTH. Mace Green, KD4MG, gave the treasurer's report. Report was approved.

Gary reminded members of the Holiday Party at Quincy's Steak House on December 15, our regular meeting night. No board meeting is planned for December. Gary asked for a straw vote on receiving the GARS Mouth by e-mail. Twenty-seven voted in favor. Six or eight said that it would not be available to them.

Walt Johnson, W4TKE, and Thom Scott, KF4I, reported on problems and possibilities with the repeater.

Thom said that the Hamfest was still on schedule. Warren Croke, NW4C, said that testing would be available at the Hamfest in January, but not in the month of December.

Elections were held for the year 2000 officers and directors. Officers elected were:

President: Walt Johnston, W4TKE
Vice-President: Kenneth Hall, KE4SLK
Secretary: Pat Callaway, K4HFJ
Treasurer: Mace Green, KD4MG

Directors elected were: Ed Amsbury, N4OVO, Ed Callaway, N4EC, Jeff Capehart, W4UFL, Mike Robinett, KE4UVQ, and Thom Scott, KF4I.

Meeting adjourned.

Pat Callaway, K4HFJ, Secretary

E-mail for GARS Members

We are using the OneList services to host the GARS members' e-mail list. Anyone who has not been receiving GARS email who does have an e-mail address should subscribe to the GARS e-mail list. Users with Internet access can visit the OneList website at www.onelist.com and use the search box for "GARS". Be sure to click on GARS-FL to join the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society list. Then click on "Join Community". All members with email are encouraged to join the list so they may receive timely updates of information and supplements to the printed newsletter.

Jeff Capehart, W4UFL

QCWA Minutes

The Gainesville, Florida 200 Meters & Down Chapter of QCWA met at 6:00 PM at Quincy's Restaurant on Tuesday, November 23, 1999, with 12 members and guests present. After dinner, President Frank DeNuzzo, W3KT, opened the meeting. Frank read an analysis of Field Day by Warren Croke. We came in 14th nationwide in class 5A, although our class was misprinted in QST and will be corrected in an early 2000 issue. The site for next year was also discussed.

More nominations were invited for new officers. There being none, Bill Wells, K4RDP moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Rollo Medler, W4ANN, and passed. Those elected were: President, Ed Callaway, N4EC; Vice-President, Bob Sorkin, W4JDI; Secretary, Pat Callaway, K4HFJ; Treasurer, Earl Tonjes, W4NG.

Members were reminded of the Starke Hamfest December 4/5 and the GARS Hamfest January 7/8. We will man a QCWA table at the GARS Hamfest.

The December meeting will be again at Quincy's on the 28th. We are to bring small gifts (\$5.00 or less) for exchange with members of our own sex. Hopefully, a photo will be taken. As a program, we saw videos on Kenwood products.

Pat Callaway, K4HFJ, Secretary

North Florida DX Association

At the November 13, 1999, meeting, a new slate of Officers for next year (2000) was elected.

President: Steve Brown, AB4UF
Vice President: Pres Graham, W4FDA
Secretary: Frank DeNuzzo, W3KT
Treasurer: Jim Hughes, KC4FWS

This renowned group of gentlemen will be seated in January 2000.

Frank DeNuzzo, W3KT

By the way, you don't have to be Big Ed, Frank or Walt to enjoy DX. Tech Plus license holders can get on 10-meters phone and a bunch of bands on CW. You can call most of our members and they'll be glad to let you come over and fire up their HF rig to get accustomed to some great DX. Give it a try!

Ed Amsbury, N4OVO

Thanksgiving Surprise

There's a moral here somewhere.

Two days after Thanksgiving, I was catching up on some work at the home computer when I turned on the rig and tuned to 10-meter sideband. Since I'm 'antenna challenged' in Woodcreek Village I usually find a station to listen to, preferably DX. I say 'listen' because a semi-hidden off-center-fed dipole and a hundred watts (on a good day) doesn't amount to much in a DX pileup. So, I do a lot of listening. It's like having background music on while I do other things. Turns out the guy I'm listening to is Tom, P29TL in Papua, New Guinea. It's shortly after his sunrise and he's working the left coast, mainly, giving and getting 5-5s. About the same as I'm hearing him, I'm thinking. I wonder. . .nah. . .the band is starting to go. I can barely hear him as it is. And, besides, my rig's microphone is buried somewhere in the desk drawer.

Well, I reason, as long as I'm listening to him I might as well try and find the microphone. Sure enough, there it was down behind some file folders. A quick connect and, with the VOX still set for full CW break-in, I shout "Poppa-Two-Nine-Tango-Lima." What the heck, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Wonder of wonders, back comes Tom on my first try! The guy must have a great set of ears. He's not even moving my S-meter, but I give him a 5-4 anyway. I was so surprised I almost missed my report. He gave me a 5-5, which was probably just as made up as mine was. Doesn't matter. It will still count for a new one when/if his card arrives. Until then, P29TL is still DX, and I'll keep right on listening. However, from now on the mike will be connected to the radio and not squirreled away somewhere in the desk drawer.

Warren Croke, NW4C

FCC Test Fees for 2000

The FCC announced that the maximum test fee reimbursement that can be collected by VEs and VECs during the calendar year 2000 is \$6.66. The increase is based on a 2.6% Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase between 9/98 and 9/99.

Accordingly, the ARRL/VEC has set its year 2000 test fee amount at \$6.65 except for persons who take only elements 1A or 2 which are always free per ARRL/VEC policy. The \$6.65 fee will be collected from persons seeking an upgrade using the FCC Morse Exemption System.

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL VEC Manager

Novice RoundUp

Unless the FCC does something with the restructuring before February and eliminates the Novice class, FISTS will continue to sponsor the **Novice RoundUp**. The ARRL dropped the NR a few years ago, and we've been hosting it ever since.

This notice is early, but I'm hoping it will give you time to get it into your local club newsletters and spread the word where ever you think it is appropriate. The event is open to everyone, FISTS and non-FISTS. You will note that there are SSB contacts allowed; this is because it's a Novice RoundUp (as opposed to a CW or a FISTS RoundUp) and Novices can use phone on 10 meters, so please don't complain about that!

Thanks to Dennis K6DF for being the NR Manager again this year. If you have questions about the rules contact him at <k6df@home.com> or me <nancy@tir.com>.

The information will also be in an upcoming *Keynote*, and will be on our web page.

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The 2000 Novice Round-Up Sponsored by FISTS CW Club will be held starting Saturday Feb. 12th at 0000 UTC to Sunday Feb. 13th 2400 UTC. Novice/Tech stations get points for working anyone.

Above Tech get points only for working Novice/Tech stations. No repeater contacts.

Score: 2 points for CW and 1 point for Phone.

Exchange: Call Sign, Name, RST, License Class, QTH. Total of 63 multipliers, one for each state and Canadian Province worked. Score = (number of CW QSO's times 2, plus the number of Phone QSO's), times number of multipliers worked.

Work each station once per band per mode. Example: You may work the same Novice/Tech station located in Oregon on 80 meter CW, and 40 meter CW for 2 points each, and on 10 meter SSB for 1 point, for a total of 5 points, but only one multiplier for Oregon state.

Certificates to the winners and the top scoring Novice and Non-Novice will get a one year free membership in FISTS CW Club.

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Send Logs, summary sheets, and check sheets to: **NOVICE ROUND-UP**, c/o Dennis Franklin K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA., 94536-5448, postmarked no later than March 15, 2000.

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Oh, come on. Get out your key and try it!

BILL'S BOARD
Bill Tygart, KO4KI
Magnets, Crystals and People

They say, "Variety is the spice of life". So here comes a dose of spice.

Let me precede these forthcoming admonitions by admitting that I am fully aware of the fact that extensive age does not make me an oracle of wisdom or a paragon of virtue.

When you have been around and used things electrical, you are bound to make quite a number of factual observations and add to those, reams of pages of scientific articles written by truly great people. In spite of that, fraudulent individuals who claim to be experts about electricity and magnetism beset us.

I turn on the AM radio and here's a dingbat selling a water purifier that consists of a little belt full of magnets to be clamped around the incoming water line. Yeah, I know I've brought this up before but my wrath then was that it was fraudulent (to the tune of about \$450). Now, however, it can become life threatening.

Chunks of magnetized iron (called *Lodestone*) have been known about for at least 300 years. About every 30 years, they crop up again, touted with great healing powers. The first I remember were sold off the back of a wagon at a "Medicine Show" in 1929.

The reason for this is that now the charlatans are selling magnetic belts of all sizes, so that there is one for all parts of your carcass. (Well almost, give 'em time). Now, what I'm so riled up about is that this fraud is no longer confined to the obscure radio mail order crooks, but is seen in the ads of reputable "mall level" stores. So why should I care if thousands fulfill P.T. Barnum's saying, "There's a sucker born every minute"? No, that is not my concern.

I'm concerned about the ham radio friend I had who was given a magnetic belt by a very well-meaning person, and depended on it while there was still time to have sought conventional medical treatment of a type that had a good track record.

When I first mentioned this subject, I also refuted claims being made about the danger in living near power lines. This claim has since been invalidated by long-term studies.

I defy anyone to present proof of any permanent change in human tissue caused by the presence of a few weak magnets, typically of 1500 gauss. If that were true, an MRI machine, producing several hundred thousand gauss, would barbecue the patient!

The reason I bring these matters to the attention of the club is that the general public looks upon the holder of a "ham" ticket as one who has more electrical know-how than the average person does. Please help expose these frauds.

W4SH Top Florida 5A Entry in Field Day 1999
14th Nationwide in Class 5A

W4SH, a collection of 45 operators from the QCWA and three Gainesville ham clubs, topped all Florida stations in Class 5A, and was 14th nationally of the 90 stations entered in this highly competitive division.

Operating five stations simultaneously from the campus of Santa Fe Community College, the Gainesville crew netted 2,085 QSOs and 7,094 points over the June 27-28 contest period. The five stations made contacts on all bands from 2 through 80 meters in a variety of modes. Field Day '99 Chairman Dave Price, WA4ET, expressed pleasure with the group's overall effort, noting it was the highest field day point total for a Gainesville entry in recent memory.

There was confusion initially in finding the W4SH score in the December QST. Due to a data entry error at ARRL Field Day '99 contest headquarters, the W4SH totals are listed in Class 2A. FD '99 assistant Frank DeNuzzo, W3KT, said he pointed out the mistake in a phone call to the League. "A correction will be run in QST," Frank said, "probably in the February issue."

Although ARRL bills Field Day as more of an operating event testing emergency preparedness than a contest, most hams taking part keep and report their scores. According to QST, a record total of 31,266 people took part in FD '99. A total of 2,108 logs were submitted with a total of 1,470,218 QSOs. Class 5A is one of the most competitive of the 33 classes in the annual Field Day contest. Three of the top 10 scores in FD '99 came from Class 5A.

The Gainesville FD '99 effort was made up of hams from the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS), Gainesville Amateur Radio Club (GARC), and the Santa Fe Community College ARC. The FD operation has been held on the Santa Fe campus in recent years because the Community College is one of the major evacuation centers that would be used in the event of an emergency.

Warren Croke, NW4C

For KLM Antenna Users

KLM has closed their doors and all equipment and fixtures have been sold. There are some parts left and will be sold as long as they last. M2 is planning to support the popular KT34A/KT34XA series of antennas with a line of upgraded replacement parts. There is a possibility of manufacturing a completely redesigned and upgraded version of the antenna under the M2 label. M2 is on the Web at <http://www.m2inc.com>.