



GARS Mouth

Volume 51, Number 8

August, 2006

www.Gars.net

Calendar of Events

GARS Meeting August 16
7:30 PM—AvMed Building
4300 NW 89th Blvd.
Gainesville

Ham Radio Exams
September 9—1:00 PM
SFCC Rm. P-144

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...And Then There Was Field Day

Field Day 2006 was a great day of food, fun, and fighting the band conditions. While the Gainesville point score was lower than last year (*Editor's Note: Everyone repeat after me: It's not a contest, it's not a contest...yeah right.*)

For more photos from our Field Day operations, turn to page 10 of this issue.



Vice-President's Letter

Randy Kerr

It's back to school time in our area, and we will all notice that in the form of traffic congestion and crowded conditions in many places around Gainesville. Hopefully over the next month or so we'll start to get some relief from the extreme hot days of summer. The first home Gator football game is on Saturday, September 2nd and that no doubt will be a very busy time that marks the first of seven home games

this year.

After a few possibilities for our August program fell through, I don't have a confirmed topic as of this writing, so it will have to be a surprise! We discussed some options at the August E-Board meeting, so whatever the final topic ends up being, it will be something of interest that you won't want to miss!

As I look a little farther ahead, some topics for fu-

ture meetings include CSX railroad communications, after action reviews of homeland security communications exercises, etc. We only have a few months left during 2006, and it will soon be time for the annual election of the GARS Board of Officers and the holiday party.

Our thanks go out to John Warne, K4KAM for the July presentation on the Ameri-

(Continued on page 2)

Latest News From the FCC—Grain of Salt Department

Dateline, Washington, DC
July 24, 2006

The FCC today took what they described as an important new step to reduce QRM on amateur frequencies by setting standards for voice speeds.

The docket #200-4U will become official in the Part 97 amateur regulations effective April 1, 2007.

Citing frequent complaints about "long, boring conversations" on the ham bands, especially 75 meters, the Commission moved to impose a new standard on voice operations requiring all conversations to be at a speed of "at least 200 spoken words-per-minute".

The Commission in its ruling was especially critical of what they called "long winded, often endless conversations by old men talking about their prostate problems and other needs to get up and go to the bathroom several times during the

night".

FCC staffers say they have personally heard conversations about nothing that went for hours and tied up frequencies that could be used by faster talkers. Official Observer stations have received instructions to listen to suspect conversations and count the number of words-per-minute spoken. Those QSOs which fail to meet the minimum speed requirements will be noted and the operators involved will receive Official Observer Advisory Notices encouraging them to follow the rules or risk receiving notice of apparent violation citations from the FCC.

Some hams in southern states complained the new regulation will impose a burden on them because they naturally talk more slowly than those up north. They are suggesting that frequencies be set aside for slow speed discussions concerning favorite country music artists (particularly Don Williams),

NASCAR, huntin' and feeshin' (particularly bass and brim).

FCC says it may consider that in future rulemaking.

In a separate press release, the American Radio Relay League said they are also concerned about two-meter operation where little is discussed except "full quieting and items to be picked up on the way home". The League said that sort of thing is boring and is usually spoken very slowly as well, far below the 200 words-per-minute minimum. The League suggested conversations on how to help raise more money for League activities would be especially welcomed and will be encouraged. Future issues of QST will contain special pull-out sections containing recommended topics for on-air discussion to brighten up QSOs.

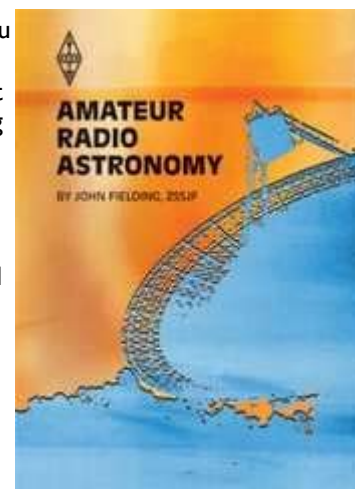
Vice President

(Continued from page 1)
can Radio Relay League (ARRL). John's program covered a wide array of information on the ARRL, the services it offers, the organizational structure, resources available, etc. We also got a chance to learn about the different league positions held by some of our own GARS members.

Although we only have a couple of meetings left in 2006 that will have a specific program, I would still like to hear from anyone who has a

suggestion for a topic. If you also have a presenter to go with it, that's great too, but if not, I can work on finding someone. I hope everyone enjoyed some relaxation time over the summer, and now it's time to get prepared for a busy fall around Gainesville. Hope to see everyone at the August meeting.

**Help the
Veep—Give
Him Your Ideas
for Upcoming
Programs!!**



Remember the program by Dr. Reyes? Now, the ARRL has a new book on amateur radio astronomy—GARS was ahead of the curve!

From the ARES Coordinator

Jeff Capehart

EMCOMM Exams August 16th at 6pm

All three levels of EMMCOMM exams will be offered at this special testing session held immediately before the GARS meeting. Testing begins at 6pm sharp. Study materials are available free from the Kentucky

ARES site. Email me if you are interested in taking LEVEL I and you want the most commonly missed questions from the exam.

<http://www.kyham.net/emcomm/training/kytest.html>

ARES meeting Monday Aug 21, 7pm at EOC

The next scheduled ARES meeting is the Monday following the GARS meeting. This month we will have a presentation overview of the WebEOC software that is used to manage emergency incidents at the Alachua EOC. You'll see how shelters, PODs, and messages are handled by the members of the Emergency Response Team. There will also

be an overview of the State Tracker system used by the Florida State EOC with an explanation of the "tracker numbers" that are assigned to ham radio operators who respond.

Homeland Security Exercise Oct. 18th

There will be a full-scale Region 3 "Regional Domestic Security Task Force" exercise on Wednesday October 18, 2006. Ham radio and ARES have been invited to participate! There will be 13 counties, and 13 hospitals that need to be covered. Alachua County is included. I have not yet heard which hospitals. If you want to be involved in this exercise, please let me know! We may be linking the 82 repeater to the Crown District linked repeater network, if that can be arranged in time.

Yahoo Group "Alachua ARES" invitations

In the next week or so, ARES members will receive a mes-

sage inviting you to the Alachua ARES Yahoo Group to sign up. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to sign up on Yahoo so that there will be an official ARES email alert list. If you do not have a Yahoo Account, an easy way to create one is to use your ham radio callsign. That makes it easier to remember.

Group/discount order on HT's

Recently I purchased a Yaesu VX-170 single-band VHF radio. It is near mil-spec waterproof/submersible (3' @30min) radio with a large 1400 mah battery pack. Comes with a belt/swivel clip. With an optional spare AA battery pack (holds 6-AA's) and a speaker-mike, the total cost is around \$200. If there is interest, I can call Ham Radio Outlet and see if they can offer a group-order discount for ARES. Contact me at w4ufl@arrl.net or 352-375-4386.



**Get Trained,
Get Certified,
and Get
Ready!**

Regularly Scheduled Nets

GARS Sunday evening rag-chew net
Sundays, 8:30 PM. K4GNV Repeater 146.22/82
Nick, K4NIK; Ken, KE4SLK; Ray, W4YTC.

Alachua County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net
Thursdays, 8:00 PM. K4GNV Repeater 146.22/82
Jeff, W4UFL; Melissa, KE4WBQ; Susan, KG4VWI are net control.

Podcasting Morse Code Practice

Warren Croke

If you want to get in some code practice but you are not near your radio here's a solution of sorts set up by **KC9ECI**. It involves listening to Podcasts of Morse Code practice sessions, either ones you create

yourself or sessions you have downloaded from a website.

Check out the details at <http://www.eham.net/articles/14546>

Click on "Windows Media Player" and wait till after the talking stops and the CW practice will start.

This could be the spur you need to finally get on the air with CW!

Call Sign Couples

Warren Croke

Is there romance in electrons? Can an interest in Ham Radio create a different kind of spark?

A quick look at the GARS roster reveals no less than 36 OM/XYL call sign pairings along with a scattering of harmonics thrown in for good measure.

Here's the challenge: Match 12 OM call signs with their XYL's from the 26 call signs listed below without peeking at your roster! Good

luck.

AC4QS
K1LAP
K4GLM
K4HMK
K4KAM
K4LRK
K9PDL
KD4PPS

KG4FEX
KG4GWA
KG4JCE
KG4JTB
KG4LQK
KG4PWE
KG4RNA
KG4WBQ
KI4CVH

KI4CVL
KI4CVS
KI4PQO
KR4E
N4MSX
N4MSY
N4OVO
W4UFL
WA4ET



Area Repeaters

Bell (Gilchrist Co. ARES)	147.285+	PL 123.0
Chiefland	147.390+	PL 123.0
Ft. McCoy	147.360+	PL 123.0
Gainesville (GARS)	146.820-	PL 123.0
Gainesville (GARS)	146.985-	
Gainesville (GARC - UF)	146.910-	
KB4HF Repeater	147.375+	
K4EAC Memorial Sta. (SFCC)	146.790-	
High Springs	145.470-	
Keystone Hgts (KF4EHP/KF4DRU)	145.130-	
Lake City	145.490-	
Lake City	146.940+	PL 123.0
Ocala	147.330+	PL 123.0
Ocala	146.970-	PL 123.0
Ocala	145.170+	PL 123.0
Starke (ARC-BA)	145.150-	
Gainesville (GARS)	224.160-	
Gainesville (GARS)	444.925+	

Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

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Director	Jerry Stewart	KR4E	twohams52@msn.com

MEETING SCHEDULE

GARS regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM local time at the AvMed Building, 4300 NW 89th Blvd., Gainesville. All interested in Amateur Radio are welcome to attend the meetings.

COPY DEADLINE

Two weeks 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

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TESTING.UPGRADING.LICENSING

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**Hurricane
Season has
been quiet so
far—but we still
need to be
prepared!**

From the Volunteer Examining Team

Warren Croke

It may be the Dog Days of Summer to some, but the five candidates who passed their ham exams during the August test session showed they could take the heat.

Congratulations to Mike Freeman, KI4MRB who made the trip from Jacksonville to pass his Morse Code exam and upgrade to General Class.

Kudos also to brand new hams Evon Francis, Miami; Ray

Hicks, Newberry; Tom Jackson, Ocala and Xiaogang Yu, Gainesville, all of whom passed their Technician exams with flying colors. Be sure to give them a warm welcome if you hear them on the air.

Thanks the following Volunteer Examiners for handling the August exam session; **Keith Hunt, KE4YZE; Bob Lightner, W4GJ; Ed Miller, AI4HN; Paul Smith,**

KF4ONH and Jerry Stewart, KR4E.

The next scheduled ham exam session in Gainesville will be 1 p.m. Saturday, September 9 in P-144 at Santa Fe Community College. For more information or to register for an exam leave a message at 378-0935 or e-mail NW4C@cox.net.

**Amateur
Radio Need
You!**

Minutes of the August Executive Board Meeting

**GARS Board Meeting
August 3, 2006**

Board members Roy, K2RMA, Kerry, KG4LQK, and Walt, W4TKE absent.

19:06 - Call to order with reminder about restrictions on motions and voting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There is a hamfest in Fort Pierce on August 12th from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM. It will be at the Indian River Community College. Talk-in is on 147.345, T 107.2, and 444.800.

Sickness and Health:

Norm, KT4SU, has become a silent key.
Walt, W4TKE, will get his new knee next week.
Sparks, W4EAS, is getting a pacemaker.
Kevin, KF4LOK, was in the hospital with chest pains.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice President: Randy, KD4KHO, is working on getting a presentation set up for next month. He has a volunteer for September on railroad communications.

Treasurer: The board discussed purchasing a second CD.

Motion passed: To accept the board minutes as published in the GARS Mouth.

ARES/RACES: Jeff, W4UFL,

mentioned that several people passed the EMCOMM tests. There will be another testing session at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, August 16th at the AvMed building. Wednesday, October 18th, there will be an exercise at the EOC. Communications between Gainesville and Jacksonville will be tested. Jeff has information about ICS training classes. Red Cross is offering training for disasters. John, K4KAM, invited members to check in on Saturdays at 9:00 AM on 3950.

OLD BUSINESS:

HamVention Bus: David, WB9UYK, informed us that a bus will be prohibitively expensive. Perhaps a group could caravan on Greyhound or Amtrak.

Club picnic: Shannon, KG4GLM, says that we have Gold Head's kitchen reserved for Saturday, October 7th. That will be homecoming. It is a potluck picnic. Shannon will make sure that 43rd Street Deli knows that the breakfast will have a smaller attendance that day.

Donated push-up poles: Shannon, KG4GLM, is refurbishing the push-up poles. They require guying if they are extended fully. **Motion passed:** To retain two of the push-up poles for the club and advertise the rest of them in the GARS Mouth for \$20 each as is with the purchaser picking it up.

21:00 Adjourn

Static Crashes

A Higher Duty . . .
Walt/W4TKE and **Warren/NW4C** both did the grandpaw-thing for a week in July. Walt was squiring an 8 and a 4 year old while Warren had to keep up with a 15-month-old. Both were glad to go back to work so they could get some rest.

It's Hot Hot Hot . . .
 Some older GARS-types were reminiscing about heat damage caused by vacuum tubes. Back when he did transmitter repairs at Norwood **John/K4KAM** recalled instances where heat generated by the 6146 finals caused surrounding tubes' glass envelopes to sag so much the tubes had to be broken before they could be removed from the set

Still counting . . .
 He's still working them, even the new ones.
Frank/W3KT, who's on the DXCC Honor Roll and has a 5BDXCC recently added the newest DX entity Montenegro to his already impressive list. Next up will be new entity of Swain Island near American Samoa which is expected to be activated shortly.

We'll be back in a moment . . .
 Satellite TV with its hundreds of channels is great, but some "adjustments" may be needed to get a good picture.

Keith/KE4YZE, mounted his sat dish on a tree so it

would be in the clear. The problem, according to Keith, is the tree keeps growing. As the trunk expands the dish comes off target and he has to realign it again.

QSL here 100% . . .
 Being super-active over the air may have a downside for newly-minted General class operators **Herb/K4HMK** and **Laura/K4LRK**. The problem, says Herb, a retired postal-worker, is find-



ing time to fill out and mail so many QSL cards. As their QSO count climbs into the hundreds Herb figures they might need a QSL manager.

KT4SU SK
 Finally, it was with sadness we learned of the passing of **Norm Craig/KT4SU** in late July. Norm was many things to many people, all of them good. He was a good man, a devoted husband and father, and a patriotic

Warren Croke

American who served his county with honor. As for Ham Radio there are several things in particular I'll always remember about Norm. No matter what the GARS project he was always willing to pitch in—be it a work party, cooking a field day banquet, serving as GARS president, or loaning equipment to a needy ham. The present GARS commitment to Emergency Communications has roots dating back to Norm's GARS

*See Yourself
 in Static
 Crashes?*

presidency. He made sure that GARS activities from picnics to Field Day always had some sort of EmComm aspect woven into it. Norm will be missed, in many ways. But his legacy endures with GARS' continuing emphasis on each of us maintaining and upgrading our willingness and ability to provide communications in an emergency.

de **NW4C**

**Make plans to
come to the
next meeting
of GARS!**

Minutes of the July GARS Meeting

GARS Monthly Meeting
July 19, 2006

19:31 - Call to order with a reminder that cell phones, pagers, and hand helds should be turned off or placed in a silent mode during the meeting.

PLEDGE.
INTRODUCTIONS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
George, KB4HCK, and Priscilla, KB4HCJ, Barnes have moved to a larger apartment in the same complex. Susan, K9PDL, has their new address and phone number.

Happy July birthdays to GARS members:
Jim, WQ4S; Herb, K4HMK; Michael, KI4MWM

Sickness and Health:
Earl Tonjes, W4NG, is not doing well. Doug's, KE4VEN's, wife, KE4ONG, is ill in the hospital.

Woody, W3HII, is getting married August 10th and moving to Ocala. He is downsizing so he has amateur equipment and household goods to sell.

PRESENTATION:
John, K4KAM, the North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator, gave a presentation on the organizational structure of the ARRL.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Treasurer: Kerry, KG4LQK,

presented the treasurer's report. **Motion passed:** To accept the treasurer's report for the past two months.

Secretary: Harold, N4KWB, presented some pricing information for Savannah Grande. **Motion passed:** To accept the minutes as published in both the July GARS Mouth.

Repeater: Walt, W4TKE, is working on getting the benched repeater on the air.

Instruction & Testing: Warren, NW4C, will be starting a new technician class in mid-September. The class will most likely be eight weeks long. There is a lot of interest in a general class. It will start after the first of the year. The next testing session will be Saturday, August 5th.

Field Day: Warren, NW4C, said that the official standings should be published in December.

ARES: Richard, KG4CHW, told us that Saturday, July 22nd, there will be a presentation on EMCOM starting at 10:00 AM here in the AvMed Building. There will be testing sessions for levels 1, 2, and 3 at 2:00 PM. The cost is \$10.00 per test. Jeff, W4UFL, informed us that he would have Florida Field Operations Guide available this at the presentation this Saturday. He showed some items that are available for sale from ARRL. There are some classes that can be set up for search and rescue training. Contact Jeff if you are interested.

July Minutes (continued)

GARS Mouth: Curt, KG4GWA, did not receive any Field Day photographs. He would like photographs of jump kits.

OLD BUSINESS:

GARS History: Gary, KF4QEX, has completed the GARS History.

NEW BUSINESS:

Club picnic: Shannon, KG4GLM, offered two choices for when we hold the club picnic. **Motion passed:** To hold the club picnic at Goldhead State Park on October 7th.

Donated push-up poles: Shannon, KG4GLM, is working on cleaning up the ten push-up poles that were donated to the club for emergency communications. They are approximately 61 feet tall and 70 pounds with seven guy rings. A number of them may be available for sale to club members. Perhaps a push-up pole refurbishment party is in order.

21:27 Adjourn

The DXer

Oh I'm the type of HAM who likes to
tune around,
I'm never in one place, I spin the dial
around,
I hunt 'em and I chase 'em, 'cause to me
they're all the same,
I find 'em and I work 'em, and they don't
even know my name,
'Cause I'm a DXer... I'm a DXer... I tune
around-around-around-around-around-
around

Well Ten is a good band, and Fifteen it's
all right,
And Forty is the band that I'll be on to-
night,
But when they ask me which one I love
the best,
I tear open my shirt, and there's a
Twenty on my chest,
'Cause I'm a DXer, I'm a DXer, I tune
around-around-around-around-around-
around-around.

Chorus:

Well I roam from band to band,
I go through logs without a care,
Got QSL cards in my hand,
Then a flip of the switch and I'm on the
air.

Oh I'm the type of HAM who likes to
tune around,
I search for pile-ups, I love to hear that
sound,
But when I find myself, a-gettin' on some
list,
I grab a-hold of that VFO and give a little
twist.
'Cause I'm a DXer, I'm a DXer, I tune
around-around-around-around-around-
around,
Yes I'm a DXer, I'm a DXer, I tune
around-around-around-around-around-
around....

*Will we see You
at the Picnic?*

Field Day Photos



The PSK Crew

K4GLM and
K14CVS on 80
meter SSB



DINNER!!

Field Day Photos



Low-band Wire Pile Antenna

Yes, there's CW at Field Day. AG4NN and NN4DF.



Let's Hear it For the Cooks

The 80 meter SSB crew



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Editor's Note

Curt Franklin

Another month, and another issue of the GARS Mouth. My thanks to Mary, who once again did super work while juggling many critical tasks, and to Warren Croke, who contributed many words and photos to this issue.

I was saddened to hear that Norm Craig, KT4SU, had become a silent key. There is an wonderful remembrance of Norm in Static Crashes, and I won't try to compete with those words. I will say that his passing is a reminder that, for all the technology we touch in amateur radio, this is still a service and a hobby that centers on communications between people. We

hams can be a fractious lot (there are good reasons for the language restrictions on our bands), but I've found genuine friendship to be at least as great a reward as technical accomplishment in the work that we do.

Speaking of that work, the FCC continues to support the idea that BPL might just be better than sliced bread. It will behoove all of us to stay aware of, and educated about, the political and technological developments that threaten the pieces of the spectrum we use. We will all also benefit from remaining active on those bands to develop our technology and demonstrate that our activities benefit society at large.

In the welcomed absence of a major hurricane so far this year, involvement in training exercises and efforts to develop strong relationships with other organizations can pay tremendous benefits when it comes to public relations, and they help keep us sharp and involved with services where our skills and talents are needed to help protect life and health.

I'm still waiting for go-kit photos, and I'm looking forward to another wave of articles on your favorite activities within amateur radio. Don't worry about your writing skills—Mary and I will help out. It's what radio amateurs do.

