



GARS Mouth

Volume 52, Number 3

March, 2007

www.Gars.net

Calendar of Events

GARS Meeting
March 21, 2007
7:30 PM—AvMed Building
4300 NW 89th Blvd.
Gainesville

Ham Radio Exams
April 7—1:00 PM
SFCC Rm. P-144

Ham Radio Exams
April 28—1:00 PM
April 29—1:00 PM
GARS Hamfest
Alachua Cty. Fairgrounds

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President's Letter

Susan Tipton

March of Dimes is fast approaching. If you have not signed up to participate, there is still time to email w4ufl@arrl.net or call 375-4386. It is not only a fun event to work, it is one of the ways that GARS gives back to the community. It is a wonderful opportunity to practice your emergency skills by participating in a structured net.

We are going to be having a fund raiser for GARS on March 26th. It will be an easy opportunity for the club to have a get together and to raise funds to support the club repeaters. The rules are simple. Order a regu-

larly priced non-alcoholic item from the NW 13th Street Pizza Hut on March 26th and give them your ticket. They will give 20% of the cost of your bill to GARS. That is it. The tickets are free. You can give them to friends, family, and anyone who wants to support the club. Tickets will be available at both the March board meeting and the March general meeting.

Is anyone in the club interested in attending an informal get together similar to the GARS breakfast or the Friday lunches during the weekend? Perhaps a brunch, lunch, or dinner for those working folks

who do not want to give up their one day to sleep in and have too structured of a schedule for the Friday lunches? If you are interested, email me (furrykids@hotmail.com). Include your top two choices of time/day. If we get something arranged, I will put it on the GARS-FL calendar.

I would like to express my thanks to those who have offered suggestions in amending our by-laws. A copy of the amendments that the board felt most closely mirrored the wishes of the membership follow.

Vice-President's Letter

David Birge

Time, talent and treasure. Those of you who belong to other organizations have certainly heard these terms. They of course refer to the unselfish giving of oneself for the benefit of the organization. It is unfortunate that in many organizations, a relatively few members contribute the vast majority of time, talent and treasure.

While it may be true that no chain is stronger than it's weakest link, an organization such as GARS is stronger than the strongest member. Put another way, the sum is greater than the total of the parts.

My vision is that our club will continue to grow and become progressively stronger. This can

only happen if more of you pledge your time, talent and treasure. It's easy to come to a meeting, sit there and listen and when the sign up sheet reaches you, pass it on. I recognize that we are all busy and that commitment is something many tend to back away from.

GARS needs volunteers to help with so many events. We need leadership and support for the "Get Ready 2007" hurricane awareness project at the Oaks Mall. We need a few more communicators for the "March of Dimes Walk-a-thon" The "Poor Man's Hamfest" is rapidly approaching and we need Chairperson's and workers in many different areas of this event.

"Field Day" is not far off and we need assistance in setup, event communicators, take down and all those things which happen in between. These are just a few of the opportunities available to club members.

There are many more community events which could involve GARS and Ham Radio. The limit to our participation in these events is you. GARS must have willing volunteers available to staff these functions. Are you willing to contribute your time, talent and treasure; or will you just pass the sign up sheet when it is presented? GARS is a really good club. It can be made even better if you will make that extra commitment.

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.

Did You Know?

Attention Butternutters... Owners of Butternut antennas might be interested to learn that there is a Butternut Antennas group on Yahoo! Groups. Log on to <http://www.yahogroups.com> and search for butternut-antennas. Lots of good articles, pictures and info available. *K7LJ Contesters Rate Sheet 07Feb07*

Bleeding Off Static Charges ... Here are two ways of bleeding off static charge from antennas when an RF choke might not work for whatever reason. 1) A shorted, quarter-wavelength length of RG-8 looks like an open circuit to RF at the design frequency, but any dc (static charge) sees a short circuit to ground. 2) Another tried-and-true way is to place a 100 k ohm to 1 M ohm, 2-watt resistor across the feed line. Either will provide a path for static charge while leaving RF unaffected. Note that nearby strike or surge can cause the resistor to overheat or explode so take appropriate safety action. *K4SAV & KA8WFC Contesters RateSheet 07Feb07*

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

President	Susan Tipton	K9PDL	k9pdl@arrl.net
Vice-President	David Birge	KB9UYK	davidcbirge@bellsouth.net
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Director	Randy Kerr	KD4KHO	kd4kho@arrl.net
Director	Mary Stewart	KI4CVH	ki4cvh@arrl.net

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

Jeff Capehart, W4UFL, 3206 NW 56th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32606
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MATERIAL FOR GARS MOUTH

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TESTING. UPGRADING. LICENSING

Jerry Stewart, KR4E, 7803 NE 49th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32609-1135
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From the Volunteer Examining Team

Jerry Stewart

March VE Report

Spring has sprung. Congratulations to all of the new Generals and good luck with your DX adventures on your new privileges.

We had a very successful March test session. We have three new technicians and they are: James Busby, Maureen Busby and Catherine Peritore –

note: two yl's. Those candidates passing their general are: Penny Carr/KD4QHY, Robert Cox/KG4MFH, Thomas Jackson/KI4QNX, Ed Peritore/KE6HNN, and Robert Reinhardt/KF4SQL. We had one candidate that completed an administrative upgrade: Pete Winters/KF4QEV.

The Busby's were awarded the complimentary GARS membership for becoming new techni-

cians.

Thanks to VE's **Larry Ingram/AG4NN, Ed Miller/AI4HN, Mary Stewart/KI4CVH, Keith Hunt/KE4YZE, Jim Carr/KC4MHH, Shannon Boal/K4GLM, John Hughes/KS4XN, Paul Smith/KF4ONH, Herb Kleinman/K4HMK and Laura Kleinman/K4LRK** for their help in administering this

**Make
Amateur
Radio part of
your New
Years
Resolutions!**

Minutes of the March Executive Board Meeting

Board members Randy Kerr, KD4KHO, Shannon Boal, K4GLM, and Warren Croke, NW4C were absent.

19:00 - Call to order with reminder about restrictions on motions and voting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sickness and Health: Kerry, KG4LQX, says his wife is still recovering from a broken foot.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice President: David, WB9UYK, would like to show video footage of Peter One Island DXpedition, but has not found a video. There is no program yet for March.

Treasurer: Kerry, KG4LQK, deposited dues and deposits for the hamfest.

Secretary: Jeff, W4UFL. **Motion passed:** To accept the board minutes as published in the GARS Mouth.

Hamfest: Kerry, KG4LQK, has tickets available for the hamfest for members to sell in advance.

March of Dimes: Susan, K9PDL, reported that the walk will be Saturday March 24th. Contact Jeff, W4UFL, if anyone wants to sign up.

GARS Mouth: Mary, KI4CVH, reported articles are due Saturday.

Repeater: Walt, W4TKE, is trying to coordinate getting a cabinet from the repeater site for Gary, KF4QEX. The 146.685 repeater is having problems with one cavity and needs inspection.

Testing: Mary, KI4CVH, reported 1 needs an upgrade, 3 need the General exam, and 1 has requested a medical accommodation for the General exam to be read.

BY-LAWS REVISIONS:

Additional changes submitted by club members to Susan, K9PDL:

DUES FOR NEW MEMBERS JOINING AFTER APRIL 1ST

ARTICLE FOUR - Section 3

Dues shall be established, and may be modified, by a simple majority vote of the Full Members present at any meeting at which a quorum exists. An increase in dues shall normally take effect at the beginning of the following year. Dues will grant membership privileges to the SOCIETY on a calendar year basis. The dues of New Members joining the SOCIETY shall be pro-rated according to the number of quarters left in the calendar year. New members who join the club in the last quarter shall pay no dues for that quarter and be deemed associate members that year. subsequent to June 30th of any year may obtain membership privileges for the remainder of that calendar year on the payment of an amount equal to one-half of the full year dues. Life Members are exempt from paying dues.

Motion by David, WB9UYK, seconded by Walt, W4TKE, and passed: To present above by-law revision to club.

GRANT BOARD ABILITY TO SET GENERAL MEETING TIME AND PLACE

ARTICLE FIVE - Section 1

Meetings: Regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, at a time and place agreed upon by the membership as published in the newsletter. The Board of Directors shall set the time and place of regular meetings for the membership, and publish such time and location in the official newsletter. To become permanent that change and any modifications presented shall be subject to a simple majority vote of members present at the next meeting including the vote of any member submitting a signed proxy to a board member prior to the meeting.

GRANT BOARD ABILITY TO SET GENERAL MEETING TIME AND PLACE AND PRESIDENT ABILITY TO CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS

ARTICLE FIVE - Section 1

Meetings: Regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, at a time and place agreed upon by the membership as published in the newsletter at such time and place as may be determined by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the President. Notice of any change in the time or place of any regular meeting including

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Minutes of the February GARS Meeting

19:30 - 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: Dues are DUE.

Sickness and Health: KI4MWM, had knee surgery. Kerry's XYL Karen, KI4CVL, is also recovering. KE6HNN's wife Kathy recently broke her ankle. Ariel, W4RHC, lost his mother when she passed away suddenly.

Moment of Silence to remember silent keys

Happy February birthdays to GARS members:

Richard, KG4CHW
Randy, N4AYS
Jane, KI4SBI
Edwyn, NH7XN
Scott, KG4VWD

John, KB4CRT, reported that the BS7H event is coming up in April. See the website at www.bs7h.com

Get Ready 2007 is coming up June 16th. Gary Hunt, KF4QEX is looking for a coordinator of the event.

PRESENTATION:

Jerry Hayes from the Division of Plant Industries gave a very informative presentation on Africanized Honey Bees. The general rule is to run away, at least a quarter mile, very quickly.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice President: David, WB9UYK, is looking for talent for the Hamfest, musically inclined people such as banjo, guitar, flute, violin, or sing. David also found a US Military Museum in Archer and left some brochures on the table.

Treasurer: Kerry, KG4LQK **Motion passed:** To accept the treasurer's report for January. Insurance bill has been paid. The Friends of Five donation will be made this month. Motion passed to donate \$200 to WUFT.

Motion passed: To accept the minutes as pub-

lished in the GARS Mouth.

Secretary: Jeff, W4UFL, reported that GARS events will be posted on the GARS-FL Yahoo group calendar.

Instruction: Warren, NW4C, reported 19 students were in the Element 3 class. Thursday Feb 22 would be the second night. Any interested parties are welcome to join in anytime. If anyone has Warren's General course manual, please contact him at 378-0935.

Testing: Jerry, KR4E, reported one gentleman was newly licensed and was awarded a complimentary GARS 1-year membership. Jerry gave a reminder to Technicians to stay off HF bands until they upgrade. Also, FCC is charging hams a substantial fine if they do not have a current address on file with the FCC.

Hamfest: Ray, W4YTC, announced that holiday pictures from the party in December are on the GARS web site. Hamfest planning is going well. Ray spoke to several vendors at the Orlando Hamcation. Tickets will be available for sale next meeting, as well as a sign-up list for all the jobs. See February's GARS Mouth for details. Volunteers are needed! The Hamfest will be April 28-29, 2007 at the Fairgrounds.

Membership: Ray offered to make membership badges for anyone who needs one.

ARES/RACES: Jeff, W4UFL, reported that 13 hams volunteered 65 hours of public service communications for the Five Points of Life Marathon. The next event will be the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, scheduled for Saturday March 24. About 25 operators will be needed, and so far 23 had signed up. Anyone interested please contact Jeff at 375-4386 or w4ufl@arrl.net to sign up or for more information about the events.

Richard, KG4CHW, reported that Northern Florida Section ARES will not be requiring Red Cross background checks for hams who volunteer at shelters. Hams can be treated as spontaneous volunteers and will not need a background check for the first 3 days. Richard also mentioned that a new district-wide ARES net will be held on Thursday evenings at

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Static Crashes

Warren Croke

Static Crashes March 2007

Feelin' good -- Gettin' better... Recovery from a broken foot has been a slow but sure process for **Karen/KI4CVL**. **OM Kerry/KG4LQK** said the real sign she was getting better was when she began demanding he wait on her hand and foot . .

Lots of Atta-boys go out to **KE4HNN** for being listed on the March ARRL Emergency Communications Course Honor Roll in QST Magazine for passing course levels I, II and III. Not one to rest on these laurels, **Ed's** been upgraded to a full member of **MARS, the Military Affiliate Radio System** with an assigned call sign **NNN0BMD**.

The 82 Food Channel's audience apparently extends well beyond the borders of north Florida. Confirmation came recently when an Orlando station checked in with a comment that they enjoyed listening to the local lunch bunch talk about food and where they were going to eat.

Huh? Now that Morse code is no longer a requirement for ham licenses people are asking when another GARS-sponsored CW class may be scheduled. Go figure

Stout-Hearted Men and Women... 17 hearty souls are enrolled in the GARS-sponsored EI 3 course which will have completed its 4th class and possibly the 5th class session by the time you read this. Five of the 17 aren't licensed and are 'bootstrapping' the Tech material at the same time. Wish them well.

By any other call ... **KI4CVH/AE** should have her new call sign by the time you read this. Soon after passing her Extra Class exam at the Orlando Hamfest Mary applied for the vanity call **NI4O** which she says will stand for "Need Income 4 Orion", the next rig she and **OM KR4E** have their eyes on.

Inspiration... That's what former GARS member **Roy/K2RMA/AE** credits **Mary/KI4CVH/AE** with pro-

viding. According to **Roy**, who now lives in Jacksonville, her upgrading success inspired him to hit the books and take the test—which he did, successfully!

Mr. Fix-It... That's what **Shannon/K4GLM** goes by these days when he does repairs on old time radios. Among his favorites are German receivers such as Grundig and Blaupunkt multiband units from the 40s and 50s which he says still sound good today.

Showing Your Age... A group of Santa Fe students happened to hear **Woody/W3HII** on the 82 repeater talking about picking up some tickets for a weekend **Beach Boys concert** at Silver Springs. The puzzled students were wondering among themselves what group the Beach Boys were 'cuz no one had heard of them . . .

And this closing thought... "Those that live by the sword often get shot by those that don't." **de NW4C**

VE Report (cont)

exam session.

The next scheduled exam session will be on Saturday, April 7 at 1:00 pm at Santa Fe Community College in room P-144, building P. For more information or to pre-register for an exam or upgrade, contact **Jerry Stewart** at 352-336-8065 or kr4e@arrl.net

Jerry Stewart, KR4E

E-board Minutes (cont)

cancellations, and notice of all special meetings, shall be given by mail, telephone, email, newsletter, or other reasonable means at least three (3) days in advance of such meeting. Notice of special meetings shall include a statement of the general purpose of the meeting, but any membership business otherwise valid may be transacted at the meeting.

Motion by Kerry, KG4LQK, seconded by Walt, W4TKE, and passed: To present above by-law revision (#3) to club.

19:43 Adjourn

A Static Crashes Lagniappe

A Rose by Any Other Name

... A professional radio astronomer recently described a weird phenomenon where the amplitude of the signals would increase and decrease in a random fashion. Of course, every ham knows this is called fading or QSB.

However, you might be interested to know that astronomers call this phenomenon:

"Ionospheric induced amplitude scintillation with a periodic variability."

Somehow, QSB just rolls off the tongue a bit better – not to mention the old Morse code key!

Contesters Rate Sheet 07Feb07

Did You Know?

Technical URL -- Those looking for information on the Off-Center-Fed (OCF) Dipole should check out: <http://www.stroobandt.com/antennas/window> The site features an excellent presentation on the subject.

Amateur Radio Shut Down in Iraq

Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, Y1IDZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. He says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners -- including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq. The request to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of a new security plan, Sayah said. He received subsequent confirmation via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to shut down ham radio activity, although he allows for a possible misunderstanding on the part of government officials as to the nature and purpose of Amateur Radio. (Source: ARRL

February Minutes (cont.)

8:30 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan, K9PDL, announced problems with QTH list and GARS mouth delivery. For now, GARS Mouth will be delivered via email using a link to the newsletter on the GARS web site.

BY-LAWS REVISIONS:

Changes passed by the board to be discussed by the membership.

Change #1 (regarding By-Laws Article Three, Section 1):

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the SOCIETY, preside at all meetings, call meetings of the Board of Directors, represent the SOCIETY on all public occasions, enforce the by-laws, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office. The president shall appoint as many standing committees as deemed necessary.

Change #2 (regarding By-Laws Article Five, Section 1):

Meetings: Regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, at a time and place agreed upon by the membership as published in the newsletter. The Board of Directors shall set the time and place of regular meetings for the membership, and publish such time and location in the official newsletter.

Change #3 (regarding By-Laws Article Four, Section 3):

Dues shall be established, and may be modified, by a simple majority vote of the Full Members present at any meeting at which a quorum exists. An increase in dues shall normally take effect at the beginning of the following year. Dues will grant membership privileges to the SOCIETY on a calendar year basis. New Members joining the SOCIETY subsequent to June 30th of any year may obtain membership privileges for the remainder of that calendar year on the payment of an amount equal to one-half of the full year dues. Life Members are exempt from paying dues.

Motion by Shannon, K4GLM, and seconded by ED, N4OVO, to accept bylaws to present to membership in April. Discussion ensued. Motion passed to table until next meeting.

Adjourn 21:30

GARS MOUTH

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MAIL TO:

Editor's Note

Curt Franklin

Welcome back to the busiest season for GARS. Coming off a full testing session, we're heading into the Hamfest—Get Ready—Field Day part of the year that keeps everyone working at full tilt.

When we hit this busy season it's easy to feel like you're doing too much and staying too busy. It's true that GARS is blessed with a large group of people who you'll see at pretty much any event that comes along. That doesn't mean we don't need everyone participating in as many operating, fundraising, and PR opportunities as possible. Let all the event and function chair-folks sleep a little easier in

the coming weeks—let them know as soon as possible that you'll be helping out.

I wanted to take a moment to talk about the PR functions coming up. You know, public relations are part of just about every operating opportunity we have. Amateur radio has a unique opportunity right now; the licensing requirement changes have given the media a reason to talk about us. We should all be prepared to talk about what we do and why, and to let curious visitors sit down and make a contact or two.

I've been involved in a number of discussions on emergency communications

lately—discussions on communications in an emergency, whether or not you're part of an official emergency services effort. More and more people are beginning to understand that they need to be able to care for themselves for at least a while when things go badly, and amateur radio can be a critical part of that understanding.

Disaster preparedness, homeschool lessons, learning about people in other parts of the world—there are a lot of ways to start the conversation. Let's be ready to talk to our fellow hams of the future.

Curt

