



# GARS Mouth

Volume 53, Number 4

April, 2008

www.Gars.net

## Calendar of Events

GARS Meeting  
April 16, 2008  
7:30 PM—AvMed Building  
Gainesville

Ham Radio Exams  
No May test—1:00 PM  
SFCC Rm. P-144

Hamfest Exams  
April 26—1:00 PM  
Alachua Cty. Fairgrounds

Hamfest  
April 26 & 27, 2008  
Alachua County Fairgrounds

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## NWS Trains Dozens at Skywarn Storm Spotter Class

*Jeff Capehart*

Angie Enyedi from the National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Jacksonville, Florida, came to the University of Florida on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 for a double session of training for the Skywarn Storm Spotter class. This is a national program sponsored by the NWS, but designed for everyday citizens. Ham radio operators have long had a part in Skywarn programs and the ARRL even has a memorandum of understanding with the NWS to provide trained ham radio operators to support Skywarn through the ARES® program.

The presentation was excellent and Angie is a terrific instructor. If you have never had

a spotter class taught by Angie, you should make a special effort to get to the next class. You will learn severe thunderstorm development features and how to identify some of the key signs that make thunderstorms severe, such as penny sized hail. Other key points include differentiating between tornado and straight-line wind damage. Angie's enthusiastic style and presentation skills make this a fun and informative class!

UF is training spotters as one of the requirements towards achieving StormReady certification. FSU was certified last year, so the Gators are playing catch-up! The day-time class provided an opportunity for six

of our ARES® hams to get trained while at work. The evening class was open to community members and over 45 people signed up, including another half-dozen hams. All together, more than 80 people were trained as storm spotters.

Alachua County Emergency Management is forming a storm spotter group, and will soon hold a meeting and invite the spotters who were trained. For those waiting for the next spotter class, there is not one currently scheduled, but check back in about six months. You can always check the NWSJAX web site schedule for the next .

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/skywarn.shtml>

## Vice President Letter

*David Birge*

My January 2008 VP letter touched on the need for member participation in events in order for our club to grow and prosper. I say this having just 24 hours ago returned from the GARS Board Meeting. There are, as many of you know, a number of events coming up this Quarter. We have our all-important "Poor Man's Hamfest", April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Following that is "Get Ready 2008" at the Oaks Mall on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Field Day, "This is not a contest", will be June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. All of these

events provide the opportunity to "expose" Amateur Radio to those who are not Hams.

Each of these events requires the dedication of time and talent from all of our members. Sure we can always depend on select members to "step up", but these relatively few individuals can only do so much. Again referencing the January VP letter, my vision is to grow our membership in 2008. There are many Hams, some active, some not so active, in our area that are not GARS

members. Further, there are hundreds if not thousands of "Geeks" who are completely emerged in technology.

These individuals if exposed to Amateur Radio might well become members of GARS.

We have all seen the merging of our transceivers and computers. I think we need to merge hobbyists in these fields as well. The events mentioned above provide a near perfect catalyst to accomplish this goal. But.....we need your help. We need commitment from members who can spread

*(Continued on page 2)*

## DX Corner

If all went as planned the **YK9G/G3SXW** el al DXpedition to semi-rare **Syria** had a successful 6 day run and went QRT on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a CW-only affair—yet another reason to know this so-called ‘outmoded’ mode. QSL G3TXF.

Keep your ears open for another on the semi-rare list, **Wake Island. WA2YUN/KH9** is now operating from Wake with low power and a wire antenna. Latest word is he’s putting up a beam and will be getting some ‘boots’ shortly in the form of a KW amp. He plans to be active from 1.8 to 28 MHz.

The ‘biggie’ for this month is rare **3B6/Agalega** Island down in that Indian Ocean RF Black Hole between S7/Seychelles and FR/I Tromelin. Single-op **Rachid/3B6FQ** says it’s a working trip but he’ll be on as much as possible in his off-time on 80-10 meters, mostly SSB with some CW.

All those unusual **French prefixes** got you confused, TM, TO, Tx, et al? Go to <http://ferracci.org/?p=166> and get the real skinny.

## Warren Croke

### DX Bulletins via CW

Want to keep in the ‘DX know’ while at the same time get in some CW receiving practice? Tune in Mondays at 0200Z – that’s 10 p.m. in ED time – to the **W6TI DX Bulletin** which is ‘simulcast’ on both 14002 and 7016 MHz.

### A Fun Game For DXers

OK DXers, how well do you know your DXCC entities? This Web page is not only fun and educational, but great for the kids. Go to the following link and click on "WORLD". The "Traveler IQ Challenge" URL address is: <http://www.travelpod.com/traveler-iq?9b43=3D0622>

**Finally...** To paraphrase Abe Lincoln...You can please some of the DX-ers all of the time, and all of the DX-ers some of the time, but you cannot please all of the DX-ers all of the time. Amen.

## VP Report *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 1)*  
the word. We need members who can talk, one on one at the Oaks Mall event. We need operators who can communicate, not only on the radio, but also with visitors at the “GOTA” station (Get on the air) during the Field Day exercise.

There are so many facets to Ham Radio. Think about all the functions within ARES, Traffic nets, Search and Rescue, Digital communications, Satellites, Storm spotting and so on. The list is practically endless and it all starts with introducing that individual to Amateur Radio. This is an area where every member of our club can make

a difference. So please, give your time, give your talent and participate in the events that expose our wonderful hobby to those who are not yet Hams.

73, and see you at the April meeting.

## ARES Report

*Jeff Capehart*

March was a busy month for ARES® members as they responded to severe weather, participated in communications drills, and provided public service. **In total they contributed** over 240 hours of volunteer service. The Thursday evening net is quite active, averaging 26 check-ins weekly. Thanks to all ARES® members for your support!

On Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, the day of the Lake City tornado, severe weather struck Alachua County. A tornado warning was issued, and both hams and storm spotters tracked the progress of the tornado via Doppler radar reporting its movements over the net. Fortunately there was not a touchdown in our area. Over 20 trees were reported down causing power failures throughout Alachua county.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, ARES® members staffed EOC's at three hospitals in Gainesville. A coordination net was held between Columbia and Alachua counties and the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Tallahassee. Amateur radio operators met the emergency coordinators for Shands at UF, Shands at AGH, and North Florida Regional hospitals. Thanks to KE6HNN, KI4UJE, K9PDL, KI4MWM, KG4JCC, N6WVPV, and KE4WBQ for participating. Our largest public service event of the year, March of Dimes, was held on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>. A total of 24 hams from GARS, GARC, and ARES® provided communications support for the "Spirit Sta-

tions" on the "March for Babies" walk. This year's event went very well. Thank you to all who participated – well done!! The Alachua County volunteer Search & Rescue team held a joint training on March 29-30 at the Gainesville Regional Airport. Seven hams participate on the Alachua County team, and they joined six ARES® hams from Tallahassee and Putnam County SAR teams. The visiting hams got a look at the SAR trailer and the APRS trackers. Other hams practiced calling in search team reports using their hand-held ham radios. At our March ARES® training meeting, a software program for reporting severe weather called weather spots (WxSpots) was demonstrated with 15 ARES® members in attendance. Alachua ARES® meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month at the Alachua County EOC. Our April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting program topic will be an overview of the Emergency Support Functions (ESF). Emergency Manager David Donnelly will attend and I encourage all ARES® members to come out for a strong showing from our group.

A District-wide ARES® forum is planned for the Gainesville Hamfest on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. Come meet the Section and District leaders and local Emergency Coordinators for the counties in the Suwannee District ARES®.

Jeff Capehart  
3<sup>rd</sup> EC/RO Alachua ARES®/RACES  
ne

**Good Food, Good Fellowship, chatter- ALL ARE WELCOME--JOIN US!**

GCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association)

4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month, 6:30 PM at Shoney's, 3857 SW Archer Road in Gainesville.

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  
Michael, KI4MWM; Mike, K4MPL; Ed, KE6HNN; and Jeff, W4UFL are net control

Suwannee District Emergency Preparedness Net  
Thursdays, 8:30 PM K4GNV Repeater 146.22/82  
Richard, KG4CHW net control



## Need to Make a Coax Coil? Here's How...

For anyone who uses a coaxial balun on their G5RV, Mystery Antenna, beam or Windom here is a neat tip..

**Parts needed:**  
2-Liter pop bottle (empty) with its top on.  
Coax  
Super Glue

Baking soda (you'll see why)

**What to do**

1) Wrap the coax around the pop bottle

2) Adjust coax for neatness

3) Apply superglue between the turns

The last step is the baking soda -- sprinkle a pinch on the wet

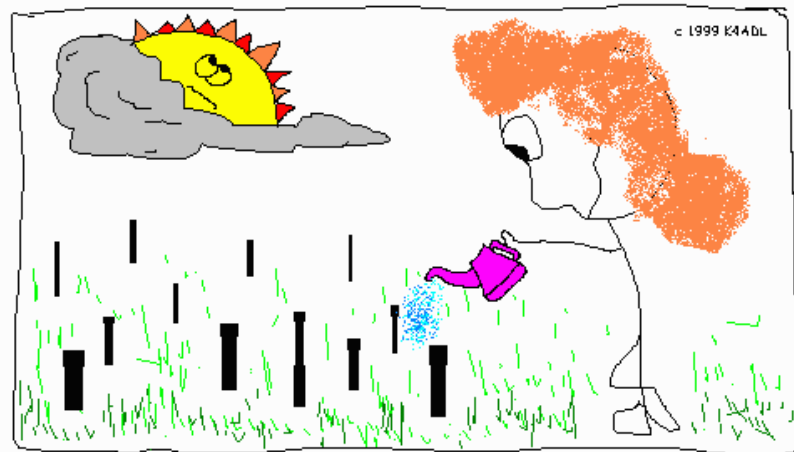
superglue joints and bingo!

Glue is dry.

**Afterwards**

When you're done, open the pop bottle and crush it to get it out of the coil.

Last step -- stand back and look at the beautiful coil you just made. ...



THE RUBBER DUCKIE ANTENNA FARM

## 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	Earl Sloan	KI4OXD	ki4oxd@gmail.com
Vice-President	David Birge	KB9UYK	davidcbirge@bellsouth.net
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Director	Jeff Capehart	W4UFL	w4ufl@arrl.net
Director	Randy Kerr	KD4KHO	kd4kho@arrl.net
Director	Ed Peritore	KE6HNN	retiredheat@yahoo.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 89<sup>th</sup> 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

Cathy Peritore, KI4UJE, 343 Turkey Creek, Alachua, FL 32615  
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Telephone (352) 494-9551

### MATERIAL FOR GARS MOUTH

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### TESTING.UPGRADING.LICENSING

Jerry Stewart, KR4E, 7803 NE 49th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32609-1135  
E-mail: kr4e@arrl.net or twohams52@msn.com

## From the Volunteer Examining Team

*Jerry Stewart*

### April VE Report

Congratulations to all the upgrades on Saturday.

We had 4 successful candidates at our test session on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The successful candidates passing for upgrades to general were: Amir Abdullah/W2KZC, Williston; Joshua Saunders/K1KWG, Longwood; Angel Rodriguez/KJ4CTY, Dunnellon and Raymond Hicks/KI4QNY, Newberry.

Thanks to VE's: **David Allan West/WA4JD, Bob Lightner/W4GJ, Warren Croke/NW4C, Herb Kleinman/K4HMK, Laura Kleinman/K4LRK and Mary Stewart/NI4O** for their help at this exam session.

The next scheduled exam session will be held at our hamfest on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Alachua County Fairgrounds. We will not hold an

exam session in May. For more information or to pre-register for an exam or upgrade, contact **Jerry Stewart** at 352-336-8065 or [kr4e@arrl.net](mailto:kr4e@arrl.net)

**Jerry Stewart, KR4E**

## Minutes of the April Executive Board Meeting

GARS Board Meeting: April 3, 2008

Board members present:  
 President: KI4OXD, Earl Sloa  
 Vice-Pres: WB9UYK, David Birg  
 Secretary: KI4UJE, Cathy Peritore  
 Director: W4UFL, Jeff Capehart-  
 Director: KD4KHO, Randy Kerr  
 Director: KE6HNN, Ed Peritore-  
 Past Pres: K9PDL, Susan Tipton  
 Director: W4TKE, Walt Johnston  
 Guest: KF4QEX, Gary Hunt and  
 Carolyn Hunt

19:12 - A board meeting was called to order at the Avmed Bldg.

SICKNESS AND HEALTH: none mentioned

### OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice President: David, WB9UYK, had nothing to report

Treasurer: Susan, K9PDL, reported that almost half of the members have not paid dues. We need to send Gerard Aissing, KI4HPS a thank you letter. He has paid 2008 dues plus a \$50 donation to the club

Secretary: The minutes from the March Board Meetings needed to be accepted. Ed, KE6HNN, moved to accept the minutes as published in the GARS Mouth. Jeff, W4UFL seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

President: Earl, KI4OXD, discussed SFCC is not available because those that can sponsor our group will not be around that weekend. The crank tower can not come back on campus. There was a communication breakdown, the club never got the word and the tower came back the following year.

ARES: Jeff, W4UFL reported the AREA had a good month for service hours (243 person hours of service) The Weather Spotter class was well attended. TV 20 came out for their May production on hurricanes. The hospital drill went well. The March for Babies was a success. Earl, KI4OXD commended Susan and Cathy for the net control for the event. There will be a district meeting at the Ham Fest. Come meet the voices we hear on the air.

Repeaters: Walt, W4TKE, spoke on the 985 repeater. It had some problems; he took it apart and reassembled it. That seemed to cure the issue. Everything else is working ok.

Old Business: Walt, K4TKE contacted Gary Kirkland to be the Public Relations Officer for the club. It was brought up that he is not a member. Earl will speak with him.

Field Day: Jeff, W4UFL, reported on the availability of the Farmer's Market location on the corner of Hwy 441 and 34<sup>th</sup> St (Hwy 121) for Field Day. There are covered areas, restrooms, electricity, etc. The tower trailers can be brought over. Several antennas can go up. The Alachua County Fire Rescue's MARC unit can be brought in. There is a large park nearby, a chain link fence around the area and RV parking. We would need permission from the County to set up tents. There is not a charge for the use of the facility. We could put up signs on Hwy 441 and 121 advertising the event and inviting the public. Our GOTA station would have a lot of visibility to the public. Shannon, K4GLM had mentioned the EOC to Jeff. Access to the building would be limited, only a few members have key access to the restrooms, etc. The area would be difficult to secure.

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**Make  
 Amateur  
 Radio part of  
 your regular  
 activities!**

## Minutes of the March GARS Meeting

### GARS Monthly Meeting

March 19, 2008

The meeting was call to order at 1930 hours at the AvMed Bldg.

#### PLEDGE

**INTRODUCTIONS:** 28 people in attendance

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Sickness and Health:** Shannon (K4GLM) and Debby (KI4CVS) Boal's new grandson, Timmy, was born on March 17, 2008; weighing 5lbs, 14+ oz, and 18+ inches long. Congratulations! Carole Amsbury (KD4PPS) is in the hospital waiting for a knee replacement. Earl Tonjes (W4NG) contacted Nick Koenigstein (K4NIK) to give him equipment. Earl (W4NG) seems to be doing well. He was on his way to a doctor's appointment. Moment of Silence to remember silent keys

#### March Birthdays:

Ray Forester  
Carolyn Franklin  
Daisy Freeman  
Karen Grubel  
Noah Jaffe  
Richard Mann  
Harold Saive  
David Vogt

#### OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORT

**Secretary:** Kerry Grubel (KG4LQK) moved to accept the minutes from the February General meeting as posted in the GARS Mouth, Ed Peritore (KE6HNN), seconded. The motion carried.

**Treasurer:** Pete Winters (KF4QEV) reminded the membership that 2008 dues are now past due. We have \$1100 more than we had in the treasury at this time last year. There is \$400 more to deposit from dues collected. He paid the General Liability on March 1. He has Hamfest tickets for sale \$5 pre-sale and \$7 at the door. He left them at home. Walt Johnston (W4TKE) questioned how the phone

bill was being paid. He had not received a bill for this month. Kerry (KG4LQK) has placed the bill on an automatic deduction from the GARS checking account. The phone bill is now paperless. Auction money is in the March receipts. Kerry (KG4LQK) explained why the Hills Mini-storage is so high. The amount was paying for the past three years. There had been some confusion about the billing. This is now straightened out. Hills Storage has increased their prices. Kerry (KG4LWK) moved to accept the treasurers report as presented, Walt (W4TKE) seconded the motion. Motion carried

**Testing:** Earl (KI4OXD) reported on the testing for Jerry Stewart (KR4E). SFCC will not commit to the use of a room after June. Warren Croke (NW4C) mentioned that the testing will move to the Division of Plant Industry (DPI), Doyle-Conner Building on SW 34th Street. Warren Croke (NW4C) mentioned that there will be testing the first weekend of April and at the Hamfest.

**Food Committee:** Earl (KI4OXD) reported for Mary Stewart (NI40). The meat has been ordered for the Hamfest. We need volunteers to help; cashier, servers, etc.

**ARES/RACES:** Jeff Capehart (K4UFL). We need two (2) more volunteers to cover stations for the March for Babies on the 29th of March. Skywarn training will be held at the Reitz Union on April 1 from 6-8:30 for the general public and 1:30-4 for UF employees. There is free parking in the lots from 3:30 -5 pm. Check the lot for the time on that particular lot. SAR training on March 29 at the airport - this is a joint exercise with Tallahassee. There will be an ARES meeting at the Hamfest with the district manager and state coor-

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

## March Minutes (continued)

*(Continued from page 7)*

dinator. Saturday, April 12 there is a Red Cross Drill in Jacksonville.

**Education:** Warren Croke (NW4C) the General class has been completed. Most of the students were from out of town. Warren is retiring as the Education Chairman. Shannon (K4GLM) and Ed (KE6HNN) will co-chair the committee. Earl expressed the club's thanks for Warren's service to the club for the past 12 years and to Shannon and Ed for taking on the task.

**Repeater:** Walt Johnston (W4TKE) told the membership about the 146.985 repeater locking up and the possible reasons for this happening. Members have offered to help maintain the repeaters: Randy Kerr (KD4KHO) on the 146.985; Larry Ingram (AG4NN) on the 222; Jerry (KR4E) and Mary (NI40) Stewart on 146.82; Earl Sloan (KI40XD) on 444.925; Walt (W4TKE) on 685. Walt will get with Kerry (KG4LQK) to seek his assistance.

Walt (W4TKE) spoke with Gary Kirkland (KR4AV) about taking on the Public Relations position that has been discussed. Ed (KE6HNN) has offered to help. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Walt (W4TKE) is checking on a new power supply for the tower site. When the power is interrupted, we will lose the 985 repeater. Walt asked about repeater coordination. This is the responsibility of the treasurer. Walt will get the information to Pete.

**Hamfest:** Ray Forrester (W4YTC): We need volunteers to advertise the Hamfest on the traffic nets for the HF bands and the VHF bands. Kerry (KG4LQK) offered to work on the weekend traffic nets. Walt Johnston (W4TKE) will help. Nick Koenigstein (K4NIK) will contact the North Florida Net which meets at 7:30 pm, on 3950.

Ray needs help with parking. David will help with the camping. Ray (W4YTC) has tickets for pre-sale. The tables are slowly beginning to sell. Some of the previous vendors are coming with new items for sale. The volunteer list will be circulated. We need 2 volunteers at the front gate, one with a radio.

**Old Business:** Susan Tipton (K9PDL) discussed the email lists. QTH was used originally because Yahoo was not as sophisticated as it is now. Some members did not like the advertising that pops up. QTH is difficult to use, limited in what it will do and temperamental. We consolidate the members and friends of GARS list to the one Yahoo list. It can support calendars, pictures, and more complicated text. As soon as Susan gets an updated list with the members in "good standing" she will make the necessary transfer of information.

**New Business:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours with a motion from Walt Johnston (W4TKE) and a second from Rosemary Jones (KI4QBZ)

We all enjoyed a presentation from Mike Robinette (W4UAD) with Eyes Overhead.

## April Board Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

We could ask for additional law enforcement patrol for the area we select for the Field Day exercises.

During emergencies the CSW is the staging area. Susan, K9PDL said the Market area will give us a chance to show what the group can do. There are two pole barns on the site, one is condemned, so don't climb on the top. It is the structure with the wooden poles.

Earl, KI40XD and Shannon, K4GLM will take on the leadership for Field Day.

David, WB9UYK, moved to move forward with the Farmer's Market site for Field Day, Ed 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Gary, KF4QEX said he needed help with "Get Ready 2008" on June 14, 2008. He is asking someone to spearhead the event; his doctor's have asked Gary to slow down. The Emergency Management website is becoming more adult friendly. The March meeting was uneventful. The emphasis will be on structural preparedness. Gary suggested we put out what we can do for the general public: let them know we can report their condition to relatives and find out about family.

David, WB9UYK mentioned that the literature Jeff showed will give us exposure. Earl said he will get Gary help.

Jeff, W4UFL mentioned that the Gator Amateur Radio Club is having a Satellite Day on April 18. There will be an open house during the event. A test of the text alert system at UF will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Jeff, W4UFL showed the new exhibit kit. David asked that Pete reimburse Jeff for the labels for the handouts.

New Business: David, WB9UYK asked if we want to invite the candidates to our next meeting. If they can't come, maybe they can send a representative. Should the club endorse a candidate?

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2023.

## Static Crashes

*Warren Croke*

### Static Crashes

**Stormy Weather Updates...Susan/KG4VWI** reports the tornado warning a few weeks ago in Gainesville created some interest in ham radio at her Doyle Conner building workplace. **Jeff/W4UFL** was on the 82 repeater updating the tornado's movements and people were coming to **Susan's** office to listen because the information was more up to date than commercial radio reports. In addition, **Mary/N140** used the Doyle Conner building's loudspeaker system to announce the tornado warning.

**Staying afloat...** There is a leak somewhere at the **W4TKE** QTH and **Walt** says no one has been able to find it. "With all the water turned off you can still hear water running through the pipes...and watch the meter go 'round and round!" **Walt** says the entire house is being re-piped and hopefully that will take care of the problem.

**Remember Stefan/KI4JTA?** He's the fellow who bicycled all the way from Tallahassee to Gainesville several years back to spend Christmas with the **Boal** family, and in particular, with **Kelly/KI4HPU**. Word now is **Stefan** has finished basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C. and may apply for airborne school. That figures. Instead of cycling in

for a visit with **Kelly** he can now parachute in.

**Life's Too Short for QRP...Herb/K4HMK** had a chance recently to operate **QRO** with a TenTec Titan amp at the **KR4E QTH** recently. It was his first experience using a legal limit kilowatt amp. Afterwards **Herb** renamed **Jerry's** station "The Voice of America". (Editor's note: Jerry's hardline-fed Force 12 atop a 136-foot tower helps out a little bit, too.)

**Speaking of QRO...** **Richard/KB4HF** has never been known to skimp on wattage when DX he really wants to talk to is on frequency. However, **Richard** confessed his surprise to fellow DXers at a recent DX HOGS luncheon when he worked the **9X0 Rwandan DXpedition barefoot** on his dipole because he'd forgotten to turn his amp on! BTW, **Richard** now has one amp more than he needs, a Heath SB200. Contact him if you're interested.

**Some Weak Signal DX...Larry/AG4NN** recently got on 2M SSB running 20 W to an 11 element beam at 50 feet. He reports his best distance so far is about 175 miles into Cape Coral. That's 8.75 miles per watt! Although **Larry's** heard SC and MS he says he hasn't been able to raise them with 20W. Ever the optimist, **Larry** also has a 6M beam on the ground and

is waiting for good weather to get it up on the tower and to try some VHF weak signal work on the 'Magic Band' this summer.

**New HF Beam...** The smiling faces at **K4EAC**, are primarily due to that shiny new **5-Band Force 12** that adorns the 65-foot tower at the SFCC gym. The installation was interrupted by a bomb scare and the campus was ordered evacuated and locked down. The install crew, **Bob/W4GJ** and **Jerry/KR4E**, along with ground-bound supervisor-kibitzers **Laura/K4LRK**, **Herb/K4HMK** and **Warren/NW4C** used the lockdown interval to go get lunch...

**More on antennas...** And just in case the **K4EAC** gang gets too full of themselves over their shiny new skyhook **Shannon/K4GLM** advises them to take a look at the **9AIP installation** in Croatia (<http://www.9aip.com/pics/4el40m.jpg>) which is being touted as that country's largest... BTW, **K4EAC** now has a **5-band quad** for sale.

**New Cheaper Source for Radio Parts...** **Randy/N4AYS** reports he's found a company in Canada that sells antenna baluns for a very reasonable price. They also had a resistor for my folded dipole HF antenna there. Randy notes

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## Static Crashes

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a Florida company sells a similar part for \$115 while the Canadian company sells the same part for \$20. The web site for the Canadian company is

[www.conceptionrb.com](http://www.conceptionrb.com)

**Kudos to the ARES bunch...**and in particular to net control **Susan/K9PDL** for the group's dedication and work in providing communications for the recent "**March of Dimes March for Babies**".

**Better listen to the lady...Ed/KE6HNN was describing to XYL Cathy/KI4UJE that he was thinking about running a feed line to an antenna installation he had in mind and that it would entail cutting a hole in the roof. There was a (very) brief pause before Cathy's responded: "Cut a hole in my roof? Over my dead body." You might ask her how she really feels about this before you do anything, Ed...**

**CW's demise is taking longer than**

**expected...**The FCC continues to deny petition after petition to reinstate CW as a ham radio license requirement. Surprising as it may seem, one can still get an invective-laced shouting match started on most of the Ham radio-related message boards simply by making a pro or con CW statement. This is a hobby, right?

**Meanwhile, Bill/NY2FL** continues his code studies in an effort to get his speed up to where he can pass a 2<sup>nd</sup> class commercial telegraph license which required 20 wpm proficiency. **Bill** hopes eventually to land a job as a shipboard communications officer on a cruise liner.

**Finally...**If it ain't got that swing it ain't got that thing. **Phil/KE4URR** asserts he has a hard time copying 'perfect' computer code because he learned by listening to someone sending with a **Viroflex 'bug'**. **Phil** says code has to have a *rhythm* before he can copy it...

And so it goes...**de NW4C**

## Waterproofing Coax Cable Connections

We are now in what passes for a rainy season in North Florida. If you are doing any antenna work knowing how to waterproof your coax cable connections is something you need to know.

To give you some direction on how a good waterproof connection can be done here's an interesting article "WATERPROOFING 101" at

<http://www.directivesystems.com/waterproofing%20tips.htm>

After you digested all that check out this nice set of pictures at <http://www.groundcontrol.com/galileo/ch3-waterproofing.htm>

Hopefully, this won't be more information than you really wanted to know.

## GARS MOUTH

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### Editor's Note

*Curt Franklin*

Wow. Another month, another late GARS Mouth. The membership needs to know that the staff of the GARS Mouth — assistant editor Mary Stewart and editor-at-large Warren Croke did everything right — they got their work in on time and forwarded it to me (even when I was in California). No, the late filing is all mine. I apologize to everyone who's been waiting for the issue.

It's amazing how busy life can get. I had thought that things would calm down a bit when KG4ISR got out of high school and took off for the great world beyond our walls, but life has managed to fill the

hours to overflowing. Much of the over-flowing has been activity of a good and wonderful nature, but it's been overflowing, nonetheless.

I won't bore you with a list of the things filling up my time — we all have busy lives — but it's become obvious that the GARS Mouth deserves an editor who's cup might overflow just a little less. That's why this will be my last Editor's Note as I hand the keys to the GARS Mouth off to the next editor.

I've greatly enjoyed the opportunity to watch GARS improve the lives of its members and the community through all the activities of the society. While no one

could argue that the membership is filled with people capable of being, well, ornery is as good a word as I can think of, those ornery members come together for great fellowship, real friendship, and true service to the community. It says a great deal about amateur radio that it's able to bring so diverse a group together so effectively.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Mary and Warren. They've been wonderful to work with. I owe an additional debt to the membership — you've put up with me for quite a while. I look forward to being able to serve once again in the future.

Curt

