

GROUNDWAVES

February 2010

The Coastal Amateur Radio Society
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www.w4lhs.com

News and Notes

February CARS Meeting

Monday, February 1, 2009 at 7:00 PM
White Bluff Presbyterian Church Education Building

VE Session

Saturday, February 20, 2009 at 9:00 AM
Hoskins Building, Memorial Hospital
Please bring all your pertinent documentation including CSCEs and a copy of your license if upgrading.

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Please E-Mail articles, items for swap or sale, announcements, or any other submissions for Groundwaves to:

groundwaves@cars-savannah.org

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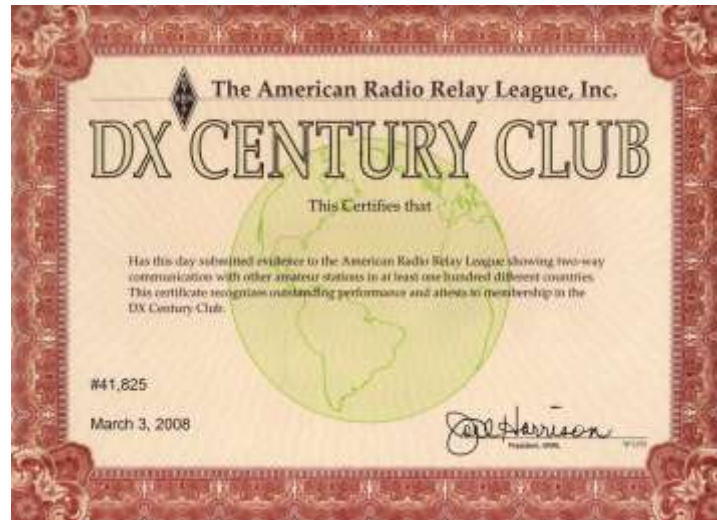
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The DX Century Award or *How do I get one of These?*

Jere Connan, KT4ZB



The **DX Century Club**, or **DXCC**, is an amateur radio award earned by **making contact with 100 or more geographic entities or countries** around the world. The award is granted by the **American Radio Relay League** and radio amateurs worldwide are eligible to apply. Applicants from the United States, its possessions and Puerto Rico must be ARRL members. **Proof of two-way contacts, either in the form of QSL cards or via digital entry into Logbook of The World (LoTW), must be submitted to the ARRL to qualify.** Each DXCC award certificate is dated and individually numbered.

The basic certificate is awarded to those amateur radio operators who successfully complete and confirm amateur radio communications with land based amateur radio stations located in at least 100 different entities on the DXCC List. These entities are often, but not always, countries. Each entity contains some definable political or geographical distinctiveness. For example, although Hawaii is not a separate country from the United States, it is a separate DXCC entity due to its distance from the rest of the United States. There are currently 338 active entities.

The DXCC Honor Roll

A radio amateur who has **confirmed contacts with 329 or more entities** on the current DXCC List is eligible for the DXCC Honor Roll. Honor Roll qualifiers receive an Honor Roll endorsement sticker for their DXCC certificate and are eligible for an Honor Roll lapel pin and an Honor Roll plaque. Mode-based Honor Roll awards are Mixed, Phone, CW and RTTY.

A radio amateur who has confirmed contacts with all 338 entities on the current DXCC List is eligible for the #1 Honor Roll plaque. #1 Honor Roll qualifiers receive a #1 Honor Roll endorsement sticker for their DXCC certificate and are eligible for a #1 Honor Roll lapel pin and a #1 Honor Roll plaque. Mode-based DXCC #1 Honor Roll awards are available for same modes as above.

Logbook of the World

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. Currently these matches are valid for various ARRL awards including the DXCC, WAS, WAC and Triple Play awards. **Over 30,000 hams have uploaded contacts and there are 250 million QSOs in the database!**

To minimize the chance of fraudulent submissions to LoTW, all QSO records must be digitally signed using a digital certificate obtained from ARRL. Obtaining such a certificate requires verification of the licensee's identity through mail verification for US amateurs.

Instructions for downloading the ARRL software and obtaining the certificate for use can be found on the ARRL website. There is an excellent PowerPoint presentation there. Use of the LoTW program is very cost effective when compared to mailing QSL cards and waiting for a return. This is especially true when attempting to qualify for 5 Band awards. LoTW is free for all amateurs to use to upload logs and look for matches. There is however a small fee for each QSO when you select it to be applied for an award. **Join in on the fun and collect QSL cards the traditional way and round out needed confirmations using Logbook of the World.**

B-17 Restoration Project

Guy McDonald, K4GTM

We have a very unique opportunity to contribute to restoration of a piece of American history. We were contacted a couple weeks ago about our interest in helping to restore the radio compartment of the B-17 that is currently undergoing a thorough restoration at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum here in Savannah. Wow, of course we're interested! The B-17 has been at the museum now for a full year and the focus has been on a very detailed cleaning. Now the team is ready to begin planning for the restoration. On January 20th Mac, KF4LMT and Guy, K4GTM went over to the museum to meet with Jerry McLaughlin who is the Project Manager of the restoration. Jerry and Marshall Brooks took us onto the aircraft where we got a good look at the radio compartment. Afterwards, we went into the artifacts room to check out all of the radio equipment and associated gear. Wow, what a treasure. We then spent some time with Jerry and Marshall discussing how we might be able to contribute to this effort. Some of the next steps will be to research what exactly should be in the compartment, determine the feasibility of making some of the radio gear operational, helping the museum acquire any missing equipment, and of course installing the equipment in the radio room. Whew, lots to do. This should be an extremely rewarding project. Stay tuned for more information. Learn more about this project on the Mighty Eighth website at www.mightyeighth.org.





2010 Club Committees

Please take a look at the list of committees that we have for our club and let Guy, K4GTM know which one(s) that you'd be inclined to serve on in 2010. The committees will be discussed during the February meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Survey the area served by the Society and recruits Amateurs and those persons interested in becoming Amateurs as members; recommend to the Board of Directors the action to be taken on applications for membership in the Society.

PROGRAM: Provide appropriate programs at all Regular Meetings; conduct raffles, auctions or other activities at Regular Meetings.

ACTIVITIES: Coordinate participation by the Society and individual members in any operating contests officially recognized by the Amateur fraternity; plan special operating activities for the Society members.

EDUCATION: Set up programs for the education in Amateur Radio of any person wishing to study for an Amateur license or, if already licensed, to study for upgrading.

TECHNICAL (REPEATER): recommend to the Board of Directors the purchase, sale and repair of Society equipment; supervise the installation of such equipment; ensure that security and adequate safeguards exist over equipment, including the purchase of necessary insurance; maintain good relations with hosts who provide sites to set up and operate Society equipment; maintain Society equipment in good operating condition and assist the Trustee in the education of members in the proper procedures for the use of such equipment.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: Accept proposals from any General Member for amendments tot the Constitution or By-Laws, put them in proper form, and recommend to the Board of Directors the action to be taken on the proposals.

EMERGENCY: Cooperate with local authorities, Civil Defense, American Red Cross, A.R.E.S. and other disaster relief organizations to provide Amateur Radio Operators and equipment in the event of local, regional or national emergencies of any type.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Maintain good relations with media representatives in order to publicize Society activities and to present Amateur Radio in a good light, emphasizing work done by Amateurs in the public interest, especially in emergencies.

NEWSLETTER: Send to each member and others as appropriate, a monthly newsletter. The newsletter should announce Society meetings and activities; news of and about members; information of interest, and may contain specialized columns covering all phases of Amateur interest. Advertising may be solicited for its support.

FIELD DAY: Arrange for and support the participation of the Society in Field Day exercises.

Nets

Coastal Amateur Radio Society Net – Sundays at 9:00 PM, 147.330- (CTCSS 203.5)

Georgia State ARES Net – Sundays at 5:00 PM, 3.975 LSB

Statesboro Amateur Radio Society Net – Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, 147.105+

Chatham ARES Net - Thursdays at 8:00 PM, 146.970-

Simplex Net – Thursdays at 8:45 PM, 146.550

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah Net – Thursdays at 9:00 PM, 146.970-

February NCS Schedule

February 7 – Guy McDonald, K4GTM

February 14 – Robert Owen, KJ4HAL

February 21 – Bob Harman, W4WTO

February 28 – Russ Pierce, K4YGD

Repeaters

146.700- (CTCSS 100) Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah

147.210+ (CTCSS 100) Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah

147.330+ (CTCSS 203.5) Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah

442.700+ Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah

Important Repeater Announcement:

The 147.210 repeater is off the air until further notice due to interference issues. Please use the 146.700, 147.330 and 442.700 repeaters while it is off the air.

146.970- Amateur Radio Club of Savannah, Savannah

146.880 - Amateur Radio Club of Savannah, Savannah

146.850- American Red Cross, Savannah

146.745- (CTCSS 97.4) Effingham County ARES, Springfield

147.105+ Statesboro Amateur Radio Society, Pembroke

145.300- DSTAR Statesboro Amateur Radio Society, Pembroke – KJ4GGV C

440.700+ DSTAR Statesboro Amateur Radio Society, Pembroke – KJ4GGV B

Coastal Amateur Radio Society Social Networking

Mac McCormick III, KF4LMT

The Club now has a social networking/social media presence on the internet: we have a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Working hand in hand with the Club's website (soon to go live), Facebook and Twitter will help us promote CARS and our activities. Facebook will provide a good, easy way to keep not only club members, but prospective club members and the community at large up to date with what we've done and what we're doing. After only a few weeks of being up, our Facebook page has 52 "fans" that follow us. Twitter can be a great way of keeping up with what CARS is doing. It works particularly well for mobile applications; there are Twitter clients available for many phones and smart phones. We can easily send updates on events even *during* and event with Twitter and those "on the go" can keep up with us even when they're not around a computer. The current J79WW operation from Dominica illustrates a good use of Twitter; the operators are using Twitter to pass along when and on what frequency they are operating and are also corresponding with stations they've worked using Twitter (including me!) I'll be able to answer any questions you have at the February meeting or at kf4lmt@comcast.net.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coastal-Amateur-Radio-Society/244722709116?v=wall#>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CoastalARS>

ARES Notes

Guy McDonald, K4GTM, Chatham County ARES Emergency Coordinator



Thanks to everyone in Chatham and surrounding counties for your continued participation in the ARES program. Here is a summary of some of those activities and a look at some upcoming events.

1. In early January Doug, KF4EFP performed a monthly test of the N4CEM station at the CEMA Annex EOC.
2. On December 7th Guy, K4GTM met with the Director of the Garden City EMA regarding assisting them in developing a plan to leverage amateur radio operators in disaster or emergency situations.
3. On December 9th Guy, K4GTM tested the W4LHS club station at the Southside Fire Station.
4. We performed our monthly communications test of the K3SRC Savannah Red Cross station as well as the satellite internet and voice over IP system on January 13th. Thanks to Peter, KJ4FAW for his assistance.
5. On January 14th David, K4DJD tested the K4MUM station at Memorial Medical Center.
6. Thanks to Jerry, W4SGA and Dan, KF4MND for their continued work in testing various configurations of the Echolink nodes in support of our ARES effort.
7. Steve, K4SDJ and Guy, K4GTM attended the annual Georgia statewide ARES meeting on January 23rd at the GPSTC in Forsythe, GA. I'll summarize at our next ARES meeting.
8. We will be having a Chatham County ARES meeting here in Savannah sometime in late February. Stay tuned for details.

9. Weekly Chatham County ARES Net is held at 8:00pm each Thursday evening on the 146.970 repeater. Remember to check in on emergency power the first net of the month. That'll be February 4th.
10. Weekly Savannah Area Simplex Net follows the ARES Net each Thursday evening on 146.550 simplex. This net gives us some great practice in working a net without the benefit of our local repeater system.
11. Check in to the Georgia statewide ARES Net every Sunday at 5:00pm on 3.975.
12. Check in to the Lowcountry Skywarn Net every other Tuesday night at 9:00pm on the 146.715 repeater. This net is sponsored by the National Weather Service in Charleston.
13. Stay up to speed with what's going on in the Georgia Section ARES at www.gaares.org.

Although our name says that we are "Amateurs", its real reference is to the fact that we are not paid for our efforts. It need not imply that our efforts or demeanor will be anything less than professional. "Professionalism" means getting the job done efficiently, with a minimum of fuss. (from the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course)

Operating Opportunities

Contests

VT QSO Party, Feb. 6, 0000Z - Feb. 7, 2400Z, 160-10 Meters, 6 Meters +, RST and State

Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party, Feb. 6, 0001Z - Feb. 7, 2359Z, 10 Meters, Callsign, Name, QTH, 10-10 number

MN QSO Party, Feb. 6, 1400Z - Feb. 6, 2359Z, 160-10 Meters, 6 Meters +, Name and State

DE QSO Party, Feb. 6, 1700Z - Feb. 7, 2359Z, 160-10 Meters, 6 Meters +, RST and State

NM QSO Party, Feb. 7, 1500Z - Feb. 8, 0300Z, 160-6 Meters, Callsign, Name, and State

School Club Roundup, Feb. 8, 1300Z - Feb. 12, 2400Z, 160-10 Meters, 6 Meters +, RST, Class, and State

NH QSO Party, Feb. 13, 0001Z - Feb. 14, 0001Z, 160-10 Meters, 6 Meters +, RST and State

LA QSO Party, Feb. 13, 1500Z - Feb. 14, 0300Z, 80-10 Meters, RST and State

ARRL DX Contest (CW), Feb. 20, 0000Z - Feb 21, 2400Z, 160-10 Meters, RST and State

AM QSO Party, Feb. 20, 2300Z - Feb. 21, 2300Z, 80-20 Meters, RS, Name and State

The ARRL website keeps updated information on Contests and Special Event Stations. You can check the League's website throughout the month to keep up to date with operating activities:

Contests

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

Special Events

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

Another source of contest information is *CQ Magazine*: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

FM Simplex Contest, 6 Meters – 70cm, Feb. 21, 1900Z – Feb. 21, 2130Z, Callsign and Grid Square

CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest, Feb. 26, 2200Z – Feb. 28, 2200Z, 160 Meters, RST and State

MS QSO Party, Feb. 27, 1500Z – Feb. 28, 0300Z, 80-10 Meters, 6 Meters – 70cm, RST and State

North American QSO Party, Feb. 27, 1800Z – Feb. 28, 0600Z, 80-10 Meters, Name and State

Special Events

Feb 4-Feb 10, 1800Z-1800Z, Honolulu, HI. United States Islands Awards Program, N7I. 16th Anniversary of the US Islands Awards Program. 28.460 14.260. QSL. John Reisenauer, Jr, KL7JR, 3705 Arctic Blvd #1830, Anchorage, AK 99503. www.usislands.org

Feb 6-Feb 7, 1600Z-2100Z, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, NI8G. Celebrating Edison's birthday in Milan OH. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Thomas Edison Radio Club, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. ni8n1@yahoo.com

Feb 20, 1500Z-2200Z, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club, W0FSB. 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima & the Flag Raisings. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Vernon Mc Nulty, 4015 Independence Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703. t-mc-nulty@msn.com

Feb 20-Feb 21, 1500Z-2100Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday. 28.415 14.280 7.240 7.035. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com

Winter Field Day 2010

Guy McDonald, K4GTM, Photos by Guy and Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE

We took advantage of the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) sponsored Winter Field Day on January 30th to get outdoors and operate in "other than normal conditions". I had breakfast with the normal crowd at 0700 then stopped back by the house to pick up some stuff and fill a thermos with coffee. It was already about 61 degrees at 0800 and it was raining like the dickens. It was just a miserable day to do anything outdoors but we decided to press on with our activities. After all, in the event of an emergency or a disaster, we're not going to be able to pick the weather! I headed over to the MWR office at Hunter Army Airfield to pick up the key to our reserved shelter out at the Lott's Island Recreation



Area, got over to the island around 0930 and began to setup my radio station. Did I mention it was raining? But at least it was warm. Before anyone else showed up I had my Kenwood TS-440 powered up and a 20 meter dipole antenna strung up between two trees at about 40 feet. Shortly, Mark, KA4CID and his son Nicholas showed up as did Matthew, KG4NKE. Eventually Philip, KA4KOE and his son Jordan arrived as did Kevin, KW4B. Philip set up his military man pack and bumper mounted vertical antenna. Philip and I began to operate and started racking up several contacts all over Europe on 20 meters. The radios and antennas seemed to be working fine. The field day contest started at noon and we started making contacts with other winter field day stations from Florida up to

Canada, out to Texas and Arizona, and all thru the upper Midwest where we talked to a guy in Duluth, Minnesota that was operating in an ice fishing hut where it was -14 degrees! Bob, KG6MUQ stopped by for a while as did Lester, KF4JBQ.

Peter-KJ4FAW arrived and brought a nice lunch of bar-b-que sandwiches and Brunswick Stew for us all. Boy did that hit the spot. Thanks Peter! Once we finished with chow, Peter set up his homebrew buddi-pole antenna and began to operate on his Icom 706. That antenna was no more than 10 feet off the ground but it was reaching out all over the upper Midwest and Canada!

We also had a chance to see Kevin's new homebrew air powered "line launcher". Wow, he launched the projectile over about an 80 foot tree with just 30 psi. It is an awesome contraption.

Well as the afternoon wore on the temperature began to drop dramatically and the wind began to pick up; we went from t-shirts to coats, hats, and gloves. There was a total of a 20 degree drop from 0930 to 1630. It was cold and wet but we hung in there. It started to get dark so we packed everything back up, cleaned up the shelter, and headed our separate ways. I never get tired of setting up and operating a station in a new location with minimal resources and talking all over the world on 100 watts and a piece of wire.



CARS Calendar – February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 CARS Meeting 7:00 PM	2	3	4 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550 Tech Class - 6 PM	5	6 Charleston Ham Fest
7 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330	8	9	10	11 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550 Tech Class – 6 PM	12 Orlando Hamcation	13 Orlando Hamcation
14 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330 Orlando Hamcation	15	16	17	18 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550 Tech Class – 6 PM	19	20 VE Session Hoskins Bldg, Memorial 9 AM
21 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330	22	23	24	25 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550	26	27
28 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330						