

ALBANY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

W4MM

Newsletter

<http://www.w4mm.com>

July 2009

Next Club Meeting

July 28th
7:00PM

Palmyra Hospital
Training Room

W4MM Repeaters

146.820- 1110.9
146.700-
146.730-
444.500+

W4MM-15 Digipeter

144.390 MHz
QTH of WB4TFW
The coordinates are:
31°34.057' N Lat
84°05.077' W Long

W4MM-12 Digipeter

144.390 MHz
Emergency Comm
Trailer

CLUB OFFICERS

President

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MONDAY NIGHT NET

Every Monday at 9:00PM Local Time on the 146.820 Repeater

GA ARES HF NET

Every Sunday at 6:00PM Summer, 5:00PM Winter on 3.975 MHz

SW GA ARES VHF NET

Every Sunday at 4:00PM on the 146.820 Repeater

JULY BIRTHDAYS

N4ZWE	Linda Walters	2nd	KB4OMV	Dan Tyson	12th
AD4HF	Don Adams	6th	KA4KCC	Joyce Jones	16th
AF4TJ	Tommy Justice	10th	KF4ZNL	Kevin Page	24th

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Pat Grange KJ4MWO** (XYL of Jerry W5VRV) and **Ray Wilson KJ4MWP** on getting their new Technician licenses.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009

July 1-5 Original 13 Colonies Independence Day Special Event
July 11-11 IARU DX SSB Contest
Aug. 8 Ellijay Hamfest
Oct. 3 LaGrange Hamfest
Nov. 7-8 Lawrenceville Hamfest



CYCLIST, 80, TO RIDE 100 MILES

For his 80th birthday on Saturday June 14th, retired nephrologist **Dr. Gene Clark W4AYK** rode his bike on a 100-mile trip from Quincy, Fla. to Albany with family and friends.

On Sunday, he plans to bike back to Quincy. "This is my birthday party," laughed Clark. "I'm just hoping I will be able to complete it."

Gene said that he got the idea for his birthday ride a few years back. "It's going to be fun," he said. According to Gene, his son Bob will be joining him on the road on Gene's old bike. "I bought me a new one so he will be riding the one I got in Tallahassee," he said. Gene's partner and fellow nephrologist Dr. Hasan Rizvi will also be riding with him. Gene said that he is looking forward to his birthday ride and says that he feels he is in better shape at 80 than he was when he was practicing medicine. "I am way stronger than I was when I quit my practice," said Gene. "I realized that between 70 and 80 you can gain muscle mass and strength." He said that although he rides regularly and feels he can successfully complete the ride, the heat and the hills might pose a problem. "That one in Quincy is a pretty good hill," said Gene. "I'll do what I can. We (cyclists) don't call it quitting, we call it cross-training when we have to get down and walk. I will finish it though."

Gene said that he will continue riding bikes as long as he is able, but has no wheeling plans yet for future birthdays. "I hope I can still ride," he said.

Gene said that he is grateful for his friends and his family and the ability to spend his birthday with them. "I'm grateful and God has blessed me in so many ways," he said. "I'm in this stage right now and I can't wait for what is in the future."

In addition to riding with the Pecan City Pedalers, Gene also serves as the section manager for Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARRS), which he says is his "real passion."

He is credited with opening the first dialysis center in Southwest Georgia in 1976 and in February the Gene Home Training Center on the 1200 block of North Jefferson Street was dedicated and named in his honor.



FIELD DAY 2009

We had about 20 people to participate in Field Day at Camp Osborn. It was definitely **HOT** but we had a great lunch and a lot of good fellowship. There were 3 stations in operation and they made a lot of contacts. We would like to thank Art N4WOY for all of his hard work in getting the club's Communications Trailer out to the site and back and to Bob K44PHE for cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs.

Here are a few photos of this year's Field Day.



Lunch Time



David KK4PQ on QRP CW



Amber K4AMB, Ron KB4UNL and Ken K1KBA



Ken K1KBA and Kevin KI4NDK

RESTRUCTURING: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

The days of Navy and Marine Corps MARS may be fast coming to an end. This, according to a directive released by the commander of the Naval Network Welfare Command. One that says that this branch of the Military Affiliate Radio Services will terminate all operations at the end of this summer.

According to the May 16th directive, the commander of the Naval Network Welfare Command has decided to sunset the Navy's MARS mission effective September 30th. Sunset in this case means to terminate and disband. As a result, the Naval Network Welfare Command has requested that all military and civilian positions be deleted and left un-funded after that date.

Navy and Marine MARS is a joint operation. One of the consequence of this decision is that all Navy MARS Area Directors have been ordered to close their offices no later than the September 30th deadline. The directive also says that none of the equipment located at Area Director Stations can be transferred to Navy MARS members. It can however be given over to other official Navy organizations to help start or equip military recreation stations. However, approval for this will be on a case by case basis.

And what about all the radio gear out there in the hands of MARS members? Also, the equipment that may have been disposed of over the years by the families of Silent Key Navy MARS operators? Will the Navy be seeking its return? As we go to air, nobody we have contacted seems to have any answers to these and other questions related to the imminent termination of U-S Navy MARS.

There is one caveat. As you are likely aware, all three MARS services operate under the mandate of the Department of Defense and that mandate is still valid. While the Army and Air Force have stated their desire to continue their respective MARS programs, only the Navy has requested to opt out. For that to happen requires approval up the Department of Defense chain of command. If that permission is not given the Navy says that its MARS program will continue, but without any Area Directors.

LOW-FREQUENCY RADIO TIME SIGNALS



WWVB Ft. Collins Colorado

Several national physics laboratories operate radio transmitters that broadcast a time code signal. The following transmitter operates in the 40–80 kHz range and are used to synchronize radio clocks over areas several hundred to some thousand kilometers across:

WWVB, 60 kHz, 50 kW ERP, Ft. Collins/Colorado/USA (40° 40' N, 105° 03' W),

This station is received throughout most of mainland USA. Advantages of LF time-signal broadcast. Compared to other time-signal transmissions in higher bands (WWV, GPS, etc.) long-wave signals have a number of advantages. They can go around obstacles such as mountains or buildings. Since no line-of-sight is necessary between the transmitter and receiver, a single very powerful station can cover a huge geographic area. Long-wave signals even penetrate the walls of most buildings quite well. Propagation happens mostly in the form of a ground wave, such that transmission delay is less affected by the variability of the ionosphere.