



Promoting Amateur Radio In South Mississippi

Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio and Public Safety in South Mississippi

Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club is dedicated to promoting Amateur Radio in south Mississippi.

Officers

Ron Smith - President
Larry Wagoner V-President
Roger Aubert - Treasurer
Janice Wagoner - Secretary

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2009 Begins!

As we enter 2009, the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club faces several major challenges. The election of new officers, setting an agenda for this year, and continuing the push to promote amateur radio all loom large as challenges in the new year.

We closed out 2008 with a very successful Hamfest in December - which in itself presents the club with the challenge of making the 2009 Hamfest bigger and better.

At the same time, we face the challenge of growing our club - as well as our hobby. All of this in the face of a troubled economy, difficult jobs situation and the many other possibilities for entertainment - especially in electronics.

So I put forth this challenge to the membership of the club: during the year - bring two people into the hobby. Friends, family, co-workers - whatever. Talk about our hobby.

Tell them about the emergency services work we do. How about contesting? Learning about electronics is a big deal to many people. Some like digital. Maybe the idea of learning how to communicate in that mysterious "morse code" they have heard about.

Fans of computers may be interested in VOIP and linking the Internet and amateur radio. Satellite and moon-bounce radio. Building your own gear - or running a repeater.

It is a common saying among hams that in our hobby there is "Something For Everyone". I propose that there is a reason for everyone to be a ham. Let's help them find it.

That would be good for everyone.

New Officers Elected

POPLARVILLE - A new set of officers for the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club were selected at January's regular meeting of the club.

Rom Smith (KE5WJL) was elected club president for 2009, while Larry Wagoner (N5WLW) was re-elected to the post of vice-president. Janice Wagoner (Larry's wife) was elected secretary of the club, and Roger Aubert (KE5ELS) was re-elected to serve as treasurer.

The new officers were elected on a single ballot at the meeting.

Committees To Help Make Club Decisions

POPLARVILLE - Another sign of the continuing growth of the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club was evident at the January regular club meeting. The club voted to establish committees to help make club decisions and handle on-going club activities.

Four committees were set up initially - the Ham Fest Committee, the Repeater Committee, the Field Day Committee and the Fund-Raiser/Public Relations/Website Committee.

Selected to serve on the Ham Fest Committee were Jay Stevens (WB5OXE), Jim Searcy (WA5WRE), Larry Wagoner (N5WLW) and newly-elected Club President Ron Smith (KE5WJL).

The Field Day Committee is made up of Tim Helgerson (KB7PGT), Roger Aubert (KE5ELS), and Dan Beavers (KE5WJN). The Repeater Committee will consist of Searcy and Aubert.

The Fund Raiser/Public Relations/Website Committee will be made up of Stevens, Beavers and newly-elected club treasurer Janice Wagoner.

Committees will report to the club at regular meetings.

Tech Class Set

GULFPORT - If you know someone who wants to become an amateur radio operator or wants to upgrade to General class, the opportunity is approaching.

Technician and General classes will be starting during the month of January

There will be an organizational and registration meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 14 in the cafeteria of the Garden Park Medical Center, 15200 Community Road, Gulfport. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

The class is free, as the instructors are licensed volunteers from the Magnolia DX Association. The only cost to the students will be \$25 for the manual and about \$15 for the examination.

Being a licensed HAM radio operator is not only enjoyable and interesting, it is educational and provides a beneficial service to communities during times of emergency and disaster.

Anyone interested in attending, please e-mail your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to

Repeater Roundup

Location	Frequency	Offset	Tone
Poplarville	145.210	-	136.5
Millard	145.150	-	136.5
Hillsdale	145.410	-	136.5
McHenry	147.165	+	136.5
McHenry	147.375	+	136.5
Wiggins	145.270	-	136.5
Kiln	145.330	-	open
Bay St. Louis	29.640	-	136.6
Bay St. Louis	53.650	-	136.5
Biloxi	146.730	-	136.5
Biloxi	146.790	-	136.5
Hattiesburg	146.775	-	136.5
Hattiesburg	147.315	+	136.5
Hattiesburg	145.370	-	136.5
Hattiesburg	145.190	-	136.5
Hattiesburg	442.725	+	open
Hattiesburg	444.775	+	136.5
Hattiesburg	443.700	+	136.5
Collins	146.985	-	136.5
McComb	146.940	-	103.5
McComb	444.875	+	100.0
Pine, La.	145.430	-	107.2
Slidell, La.	147.270	+	114.8
Slidell, La.	444.425	+	114.8
Slidell, La.	443.950	+	114.8
N.O., La.	146.860	-	114.8
Covington, La.	146.715	-	open
Hammond, La.	147.000	-	open
Hammond, La.	145.130	-	107.2
Hammond, La.	145.010	HMU	Digi
Hammond, La.	444.250	+	107.2

Net Assignments

January 8	Jim Searcy
January 15	Bobby Graves
January 22	Ron Smith
January 29	Dan Beavers

Full Slate Of Events Set For Year 2009

POPLARVILLE - The year 2009 will be a busy one if the proposed calendar of events approved at the January regular meeting is any guide. The schedule includes some regular events, as well as a few new activities.

The club will start in January with a class on building a QRP transmitter taught by Jim Searcy (WA5WRE). The class will be held Saturday, January 24 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Emergency Operations Center in Poplarville. The class will cost \$35. Anyone wishing to take the class needs to contact Jim at world@datasync.com or (601) 795-6583.

In February, an outdoor event is planned - with details to be announced later. In March, another class on a radio topic will be held.

In April, the club will again take part in the Picayune Street Fair.

June will be the annual Field Day event - which is a centerpiece of activity for the club.

In August, a event is planned to allow club members to try their hand at contesting.

In October, the annual Jamboree On The Air event is scheduled - and the club will try to work with local scouting groups to expose kids of all ages to our hobby.

Finally in December, the crowning event of our year - the Ham Fest. Also in December is the regular Christmas Party.

Additional events and information will be released during the year as committees complete their work and the club makes final arrangements for some of the events planned.

It should be an exciting year!

Ham Dying? Not According To These Figures

For some time it has become almost accepted on its face that Ham Radio is a dying art - with ever-shrinking numbers and reduced real impact on life. But is that really true?

Not according to facts presented by American Radio Relay League Media and Public Relations Manager Allen G. Pitts.

In fact, the numbers released by Pitts reveal a hobby actually growing.

According to figures released at a management meeting of the ARRL recently, ham radio operators actually increased by 1.2% during 2008 - an increase of 28,066 hams over the previous year.

The ARRL - the national organization for ham radio - brags an increase of 1,100 members over 2007.

Hardly the picture of a dying hobby.

And - as hams all know - our work in emergency communications and national disasters is not only valuable - it is irreplaceable.

That is the reality - but it is up to each and every one of us to let the truth be known. There is a reality to the old saying that perception becomes truth.

Corrections Made To Earlier Meeting Report

POPLARVILLE - South Mississippi District Emergency Coordinator Tom Hammack has released a correction to an earlier report about a meeting of Emergency Coordinators and other staff held during the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest.

"What I was talking about was not that we did not want folks to register and operate as RACES units for drills, etc.," he said. "It is essential that the RACES program be strong and I encourage every ham who is interested in emergency communications to register as both ARES and RACES."

"What I was trying to indicate was that if we are operating officially in a declared RACES emergency, we could only handle the traffic given us by the government agencies, usually through the EOC. Those restrictions on operations can be a problem in "normal" emergencies."

"Because of that we do not want to encourage MEMA to declare a RACES emergency. Just let the RACES operators operate in the established emergency nets. The other side of the coin is that if we have a declared national emergency of such magnitude that the hams are ordered off the air (as was done in WWII) it is essential that we be in RACES so we can continue to function, albeit with the restrictions."

Thanks For The Service

POPLARVILLE - The Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club offers thanks and congratulations to our out-going officers of the club.

Tim Helgerson (KB7PGT) is the out-going president of the club. He led the club through 2008 - a year which saw increased membership, numerous activities and a greatly expanded Hamfest, among other things.

Tim declined to run for re-election, noting work pressures and other time constraints.

He is succeeded by Ron Smith (KE5WJL) of Picayune.

Jim Searcy (WA5WRE) has served as acting secretary since the resignation in mid-year of Carolyn Nelson. He is succeeded by Janice Wagoner - wife of club Vice President Larry Wagoner (N5WLW). While not yet licensed, she has expressed interest in the club and the hobby.

Black Creek Site Eyed For Field Day

POPLARVILLE - After two years of holding the annual ARRL Field Day event at the Poplarville City Park, the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club is considering holding this year's Field Day at Black Creek Water Park in Lamar County.

Out-going club President Tim Helgerson floated the idea - noting that while the Poplarville site has many advantages, the Black Creek location would allow more activities for families and others not directly participating in the Field Day operation.

The park offers fishing, cabins, walking trails and other recreation, and will offer excellent opportunities for the club to set up communications.

Seen At The Meeting ...

POPLARVILLE - The regular January meeting of the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club drew only light attendance Tuesday night, mostly due to the inclement weather - but the club was glad to welcome two members who are rarely able to attend events here.

Pete Liuzza (WB5ERM) and Alan Travis (KE5HXA), both of Tangipahoa Parish, La., and the Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club (SELARC) joined the club last year and attended last night's meeting. Both said after the meeting that they enjoyed visiting with us. We hope to see them again soon and often!

Also at the meeting were:

Larry Wagoner (N5WLW)
Ron Smith (KE5WJL)
David Moore (N5ELI)
Janice Wagoner

Dan Beavers (KE5WJN)
Jim Searcy (WA5WRE)
Tim Helgerson (KB7PGT)

TECH TALK

Tech Talk, is a creation by WA5WRE, that we hope will help develop some interest in the "hands on" end of Amateur Radio. It will consist of daily happenings in the shack, and in all of the Amateur community in Pearl River County. It will relate to construction projects, and helpful hints pertaining to the hobby.



Happy New Year to all - and may 2009 be better than the year just passed. With 2008 behind us, and all that we accomplished (Field Day, Hamfest, and many other projects), I have a new surge to try to bring the new members to Amateur Radio closer to its roots and teach those willing to learn how their forefathers created such a wonderful hobby. In doing so, hopefully, we will create radio operators, and have fewer "appliance operators."

Over the years, I have been fascinated by operators (both old and new) that seem compelled to make broadcast stations out of their Amateur equipment rather than use it for what it is intended.

By this I mean they will spend endless hours asking each other if certain levels are making a difference in either their power or audio quality. You comments like "Do I have enough treble," or "Is my Bass too low," or "Are my right and left channels OK?"

Of course I am poking fun, but you would think they are adjusting a stereo amplifier, rather than a SSB transceiver.

If you have a built in spectrum analyzer built into your radio, learn to use it. Depending on someone else's hearing is a waste of time. No one has perfect hearing, and we all suffer from losses in a range of frequencies.

For example, when I was doing radio and television work, my XYL used to scream at me when I had a horizontal oscillator running off frequency (usually around 16Khz). I couldn't hear it, but she sure could. If you want a true mode that you can adjust for beautiful audio, go to AM. And these Heil microphones, don't get me started...

Now that I have totally pissed everyone off, and you have shut down your computer, I will get into this month's Tech Notes. I have had numerous questions asked about the use of multi-band dipoles, and what effects they have as far as transmission and characteristic impedance.

First of all, let me say that they have no real gain (other than their design gain of three db) unless you provide directors for them, so that the RF power can be concentrated in one direction. Since a dipole is considered a flat three db, if you try and calculate a power ratio with it (or what is known as ERP), keep this simple statement in the back of your mind.

For example: If you hooked your five-watt radio into a three-db gain antenna, thru a 50-foot coax cable having a total loss of -3db, the gains and losses would cancel, and you would have an ERP of five watts.

Center-fed dipoles present low-impedances near the FO (frequency of operation), or its odd harmonics, and high impedances elsewhere.

This lets us construct simple multi-band systems that automatically select the appropriate antenna. Consider a 50 ohm resistor connected in parallel with a 5,000 ohm

resistor. A generator connected across the two resistors will see 49.5 ohms, and 99-percent of the current will flow through the 50-ohm resistor. When resonant and non-resonant antennas are connected to the same feed-point in parallel, the non-resonant antenna takes little power and has little effect on the total feed-point impedance.

Thus, we can connect several antennas together at the feed-point, and power naturally flows to the resonant antenna. Basically what this is telling you is if you have five dipoles tied together and fed with the same coax, and say they are tuned for 10-meters, 15-meters, 20-meters, 40-meters, and 80-meters, then the transceiver will select on its own each individual antenna as you change frequency of operation. In other words, if you are on 10-meters and you change to 20-meters, the transceiver will look at only the 20-meter dipole.

There are some limits, however. Wires in close proximity tend to "couple" electromagnetically and produce mutual inductance. In parallel dipoles, this means that the resonant length of the shorter dipoles lengthens a few percent. Shorter antennas don't affect longer ones much, so adjust for resonance in order from longest to shortest. Mutual inductance also reduces the bandwidth of shorter dipoles, so a Transmatch (antenna tuner) may be needed to achieve an acceptable SWR across all bands covered.

These effects can be reduced by spreading the ends of the dipoles.

Also, the power-distribution mechanism requires that only one of the parallel dipoles is near resonance on any amateur band. Separate dipoles for 80 and 30-meters should not be parallel connected because the higher band is near an odd harmonic of the lower band ($80/3 = 26.66$ Mhz, or rounded off 30Mhz) and center-fed dipoles have low impedance near odd harmonics. (The 40 and 15-meter bands have a similar relationship.)

This means that you must either accept the lower performance of the low-band antenna operating on a harmonic or erect a separate antenna for those odd-harmonic bands. For example, four parallel-connected dipoles cut for 80,40,20,10-meters (fed by a single tuner and coaxial cable) work reasonably on all HF bands from 80 through 10-meters.

In closing - I hope this has explained the operation of multi-band dipole systems and their relationship to each other. If not, just drop me an E-Mail, and I will try a new way of explanation.

Also, coming on the 24th of this month, I will be teaching a class on transmitter basics. Class members will actually build a working QRP transmitter.

The cost of the class is \$35 - which is to cover the costs of materials only. There is no cost for the class itself. If you wish to attend, please E-Mail me at world@datasync.com and arrange for your payment. It's going to be fun, it will be educational, and you will have a new piece of equipment to use at your own QTH.

I would also like to remind everyone to check our web page, we have new officers for the club, and if I am not wrong, club dues are due. The past two years have been fun, but they will not even compare to 2009.

A lot is going to happen, and if you want to be part of it, show your support and make the meetings and events. Just remember, you are the future of Amateur Radio (if it is to have one), and if you aren't educated to its purpose and operation, then it will surely fall.