

The Spectrum

February 2009

Www.w4car.org

Satellite monitoring of 121.500 over?

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU REMINDS AVIATORS AND MARINERS

THAT SATELLITE MONITORING OF 121.5 MHz ALERTS WILL END FEBRUARY 1, 2009

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau reminds users of emergency locator transmitters used on aircraft (ELTs), and emergency position-indicating radio beacons used on ships (EPIRBs), that such beacons operating on frequency 121.5 MHz will no longer be "heard" by search and rescue satellites as of February 1, 2009. This change results from decision by the international organization overseeing the satellite-based search and rescue system - COSPAS/SARSAT 1 - that it will terminate satellite processing of distress signals from 121.5 MHz ELTs and EPIRBs as of that date. Consequently, users of ELTs and

EPIRBs that send distress alerts on 121.5 MHz therefore must switch to beacons that operate at 406.0 — 406.1 MHz (406 MHz) if the alerts are to be detected and relayed via satellite.

The full url is:

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2009/db0114/DA-09-33A1.pdf

—submitted by Keith KG4ZXX

*Editors Note: According to an article on the ARRL's web site, the 243 mhz frequency will also be phased out.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/02/10606/?nc=1>

JAMSAT announces Amateur Satellite to Venus

AMSAT has received news from Japan that JARL/JAMSAT are collaborating with the Japanese University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC) to send an amateur radio payload into a Venus transfer orbit with the primary JAXA Planet-C Venus Orbiter mission planned for May, 2010.

Get the whole story and details at:

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/january2009/jamsat_satellite_to_venus.htm

Upcoming Events

- Shack Day - Feb 21st 2009

New VBCERT On-Air Net

VBARC.org — A new VBCERT Net will be conducted on the 146.895- W4KXV (VBEARS) repeater. The monthly net will inaugurate on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:30 PM. This new net will be held on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss VBCERT activities, events and other information with regard to CERT issues. The net will be open to all licensed amateurs, particularly those whom are CERT members from the Hampton Roads area.

For more information about VBCERT, or the new VBCERT Net, please .

Upgrade your license with CARS

We have finalized most of our license training class schedule for this year. Most classes will be conducted jointly with the Virginia Beach club to optimize class size and to ease the workload on instructors. This has proven to be very successful for the past two years and we are glad to continue this cooperative effort. All classes shown below will be held in our shack in Great Bridge.

TECHNICIAN - March 7 – 10 – 11 – 12 – 17 – 19 – Test on 3/22

Brief Introductory session on Saturday morning, classes 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

TECH + GENERAL – June 2 – 4 – 9 – 11 – 16 – 18 – 23 – 25 – Test on 6/27

(Tech will be 7:00 – 8:00 pm, General will be 8:00 – 9:30 pm)

GENERAL + EXTRA – Aug. 11 – 13 – 18 – 20 – 25 – 27 – Sept. 1 – 3 – 8 – 10 - Test 9 /12 (General will be 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Extra will be 8:00 – 9:30 pm.)

TECHNICIAN – Late October / mid-November / early December, one or two week accelerated course, exact schedule to be determined.

Here is your opportunity to upgrade as well as bring in some new entry level Hams. Talk it up in your communities – Churches, Fraternal organizations, schools, at work, customers, vendors, etc.

ARRL Technician License Manuals are available from Paul, K4PRB at 25% discount from ARRL prices (and no shipping charges). Similar arrangements can be made for General and Extra License Manuals with ten day's advance purchase.

Of course the CARS' Tech and General study guides on CD are available at no cost, thanks to Sean W5CDR.

And of course it is ALWAYS time for some organized encouragement for VE certification. We have the current VE manual available in the shack for your perusal, and it is also available on line at the ARRL web site. It only takes an OPEN BOOK test, at home, at your own pace, to qualify. If you are a General or an Extra, let me know what we can do to help you achieve this terrific Ham qualification. That examiner's certification badge is a proud testament to your involvement in Ham radio. As the Home Depot ad says, "You can do it – we can help." Then you can help!

To defrag or not to defrag

The other night, I was listening to a recorded 2-meter CARS net. I heard some discussion about defragmenting a USB thumb drive, a.k.a. a memory stick.

A fragmented hard drive is the result of the operating system splitting up your data file and stuffing the different parts into many different empty places on your computer's hard drive. It does this because it can be difficult to find a single contiguous free area on your hard drive to store the data.

What makes a fragmented hard drive an issue is the fact the computer has to locate all the different pieces of your file on the hard drive and put it back together in proper order before the CPU can do anything with it. This takes time. On badly defragmented hard drives, it can make the computer VERY slow.

The solution to this is to "defrag" the hard drive. When you do this, you are telling the computer to reassemble all the related data file pieces laying all over the hard drive. Then you want the computer to save the whole file in one continuous area on the hard drive. This process can take millions of reads and write to the hard drive surface. Generally your computer hard drive has no issue with this amount of work.

But what about thumb drives?

Thumb drives are structurally different. They are all solid state hence no moving parts, quiet and energy efficient.

But the problem with thumb drives is they have a limited life. Some have only 10,000 writes some may have a million writes before they "die". They are limited because the memory chips inside can only handle a certain amount of polarity changes before they wear out and are unusable.

The thumb drive industry has come up with a way of extending the life of thumb drive and other solid state drives, They call this technology "wear leveling". It spreads the writes out across the whole thumb drive instead of the writes being focused in just one area of the thumb drive. When the data writes are focused in just one area, that area will wear out faster making the whole thumb drive unusable.

Remember what I said about "defrag-ing". It can take 100's of thousands or even millions of writes to defragment. Just one defragmenting session can burn your thumb drive out.

If you feel you need to defragment your thumb drive, move the files to your hard disk drive and then one by one move them back. This should convince the computer to lay each file down in one continuous area,

Share your Knowledge

Ever wanted to become a world known author specializing in amateur radio or in another passion you have?

Wikipedia is your answer! Per the Wikipedia website, "Visitors do not need specialized qualifications to contribute, since their primary role is to write articles that cover existing knowledge. This means that people of all ages and cultural and social backgrounds can write Wikipedia articles."

There are subjects covering many aspects of amateur radio. Share with the world all your experience and knowledge. If you can't find the topic you are looking for, start one yourself.

Amateur Radio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio

APRS: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Packet_Reporting_System

QRP: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QRP>

Valentine Bake Sale

On Feb 10 from 10 am - 1 PM the SENTARA HEART LUNG TRANSPLANT GROUP will be in front of the cafeteria at SENTARA NORFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL, holding a Valentine Bake Sale with some Flea Market Items. Featured fleas will be our Special Heart Transplant Stamp on a Special Day of Issue Envelope with a talking Hall Mark "EL TORO BULL of LOVE".

Funds raised are placed in the SENTARA TRANSPLANT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MEDICATION FUND (TEAM) for Heart Lung Transplant patients requiring medication financial assistance.

God bless

Rich
WA4BUE

SENTARA NORFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL HEART TRANSPLANT # 200

K4AMG Memorial Amateur Radio club at Frost Fest

I am excited to tell you that the K4AMG Memorial Amateur Radio club will be trading and selling things at the Frost Fest. Proceeds and trades will take place at table C - R 001. Recipients of this venture will be students from the Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology Broadcast Radio class, (15 KW) WFOS FM 88.7. You can listen to live stream audio on the WEB and the students operate the station when they are in class.

The Broadcast instructor teaches the Technician License material to the class, as a part of their electronic training. The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service and members from QCWA participate in the Amateur Radio testing sessions..

Last year six students passed the test. This spring another 15 students will take the test. The K4AMG Club wants to help get these students on the air using 2 meter radios with tones. This week a TM 271 with power supply and antenna is scheduled to be donated to one lucky student from a SK estate. Please look for us at the Frost Fest in Richmond on February 7th. Our table will be full of old junque. Any donations, radios, or money will be appreciated.

In a couple of weeks, we hope to have pictures of our lucky student receiving his/her first amateur radio.

Any questions, contact me.

God Bless

Rich
WA4BUE

New F.C.C. Enforcement Counsel

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

Why join a radio club?

by Ron Hashiro, AH6RH and the EARC (Emergency Amateur Radio Club) Wireless Dispatch

Tonight, a person asked "Why should a person join a radio club like the EARC? What are the benefits of joining an amateur radio club? The answers may surprise you.

The key benefit of joining an amateur radio club is to join up with other people who have the same interests and have a good time exchanging information and experiences relating to amateur radio. And, it's not only amateur radio, per se, but also an open door to many related and non related activities.

At one recent meeting, there were hams ranging from Novice to Extra class. There were the usual 2m handie and mobile enthusiasts. In addition, there were HF'ers, satellite, packet, tropo, repeater and other enthusiasts present. Those who've rolled their own radios, feedline and antennae to those who seemed to have bought just about every radio around.

Among them were teachers, RF and wireline communications technicians, doctors, executives, computer and networking specialists, the military, nurses, nature enthusiasts, airline pilots, financial experts and university professors. Within that mix, it seems you can understand and solve almost any radio situation with the talent present.

There are chances to try out and expand your radio horizons at the gatherings. Field Day is an excellent time to pitch in and build an HF station from scratch in the field, where one must improvise and leverage every advantage from the terrain. Similarly, at our periodic outdoor gatherings, one gets to see and operate a no-fuss HF, VHF and UHF station that's powered by deep-cycle batteries.

There are other benefits, such as the newsletter, repeater systems and frequent public service events that round out the offering.

Keep in mind that the greatest benefit of joining an amateur radio club is a regular and ready mutual access to experienced technical information, references and learning experiences. The more you pursue and interact, the more you get out of your membership. And that translates to a chance to nurture and grow your knowledge and radio horizon -- whether it's amateur, commercial or personal.

Virginia Emergency Nets



"The Old Dominion Emergency Net (ODEN) is a Virginia Section ARES and RACES, statewide, communications network consisting of one or more discrete HF nets. ODEN exists to provide backup communications during an emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia, ensuring statewide emergency interoperability between: ..."

http://www.aresracesofva.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=65



"The Virginia Digital Emergency Network (VDEN) was established on October 1, 1995 to provide amateur radio-based digital communications for supported agencies during emergencies, exercises, and other public service events. VDEN is designed to route traffic to and from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) or the Virginia EOC (VAEOC) on behalf of supported Eoc's and other agencies. ... " <http://vden.org/>

5% to 10% off Maps

In the past, I have mentioned DealHack.com as a great place to find deals on all different types of merchandise. DealHack.com has come through again!

Per the DealHack.com website, "Get savings of **5% to 10% off** all Maps, Software, Books, and More at Maps.com. Select from a wide variety of maps and other geographic products including wall maps, world maps, USA maps, travel maps, travel guides, atlases, globes, digital map graphics, map software, classroom products, and more. The many maps are typically available in multiple forms including laminated and plain paper as well as framed or mounted. Choose your savings based on your pre-discount order total: "

They also have large wall maps.

Visit the site to get the codes http://www.dealhack.com/archives/2009/02/save_up_to_10_off_all_maps_sof.html

Club Meeting Minutes January 5, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:40 Attendees: 26 members & Guests

Phil WA9KFB moved to dispense with the reading of previous minutes. Seconded and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ARES/RACES Registration was brought to the members attention and registration forms were distributed to those interested.

A request for a volunteer to become the Social Chairman was given to the membership by K4PRB Paul.

CARS ID Cards were distributed to the membership for those that had been photographed and registered as such. Any members not having a CARS ID Card should contact KJ4CCR Vince to make arrangements to have their picture taken so that their cards can be made.

Frost Feat is Saturday February 7th at the Richmond Raceway in the Commonwealth Building.

Training Classes for the General and Extra exams will start in August with a date to be established. A possible training class for the General License may be scheduled in the spring. The test fee is \$15.00

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: The Treasure's Report & Budget was presented by KSVIP Barry to the attending membership. A motion to pass the Budget was brought forth by WA9KFB Phil and seconded by K4DKR Dennis.

KN4SM Gerry gave a presentation on EME I Moombounce.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50

Amateur Radio Magazines

Looking for online amateur radio magazines?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_amateur_radio_magazines

President's Column

Despite our continuing cold weather, our club activities will soon be heating up. Besides Richmond's Frostfest being only a few days away, our own Springfest is less than seven weeks away.

Just four weeks after Springfest we will participate simultaneously in the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure and Chesapeake's Dismal Swamp Stomp fund raising races by providing necessary communications.

These three events require lots of volunteers for CARS to make a successful showing, which in all three cases benefits the club tremendously directly and indirectly. Specifically, Springfest is OUR fundraiser that keeps the club solvent and able to operate. The two races demonstrate our interest in and performance of public service. Along with our support of emergency communications during disasters, they justify the City of Chesapeake's support of the club without which we could not function as well as we do. The City is watching to see how well we perform to earn our keep.

So as we call for volunteers, please participate! Your volunteerism is what makes CARS able to be your club and provided the benefits that you enjoy from the club. We will be contacting you with specific manning needs in the near future. Please help us make these important events successful!

Field Day is not that far away. Do you have a favorite tailgating recipe you would like to try with the club? It is not too soon to start thinking about doing that on June 27.

I'm happy to report that as we have passed the deadline for membership renewals, CARS currently has 64 members. I'm sorry that some folks were not able to renew, but that is a normal part of the process. Some folks move out of the area, some folks develop other more pressing needs, and occasionally one or two just loose interest. I think we all try to keep the latter from happening, but we can't control individuals' thoughts. It is my job to minimize such a loss of interest in CARS, and if anybody has any suggestions as to how to better maintain interest in CARS, please let me know. And please always be on the lookout for new members! If you hear a new call sign in the area, encourage that Ham to look into CARS and see if he might like to join. Show a personal interest in people and they will show an interest in us.

73, Paul K4PRB

CARS Officers and Chairpersons

President

Paul Buckwalter
K4PRB

Communications Officer

Jim Rogers
KG4WOJ

Trustee

Bill Runyon
WF4R

Vice-President

Vince Williams
KJ4CCR

Public Service /ECOMM

Sean Gorman
W5CDR

Past President

Keith Ainsley
KG4ZXX

Secretary

Phil Henline
WA9KFB

Repeater Committee

Chairman
Bill Runyon
WF4R

Webmaster

www.w4car.org
Sean Gorman
W5CDR

Treasurer

Barry Priddy
K5VIP

**Have a
comment or
suggestion for
the newsletter?**

Contact

**Kenneth
Jensen**

ki4rui@arrl.net



Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

P.O. Box 6867
Chesapeake, Va 23323-6867

w4car@yahoo.com

QRM Room / Clubhouse
116 Reservation Drive
Chesapeake, Va 23322-5204

Meetings are the first Monday of each month in the QRM Room

Inside Story Headline

CARS 2 Meter Net
Wednesdays 20:00 Hrs
146.820 MHz (162.2)

CARS 10 Meter Net
Mondays 20:00 Hrs
Excluding meeting days
28.400 MHz

VBARC 10 Meter Net
Thursdays 20:00 Hrs
28.400 MHz

Hampton Roads Public Service Net
Monday through Saturday
146.070 MHz

Portsmouth "Rag Chew" Net
Mondays and Wednesdays
19:30 Hrs 146.850 MHz

Southeastern VA Traffic Net
Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
20:00 Hrs 146.850 MHz

Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net
Fridays 20:00 Hrs
146.850 MHz

VBCert Net
Second Tuesday of the Month
146.985 MHz

QRM

Ever wanted to write your representative in Congress or local and state government?

With the new administration and FCC chairman, you may want to voice your opinions to the appropriate people. Especially regarding amateur radio issues.

Although this article I found focuses on Congress, you can easily use the principles in it to write your state and local representative.

According to the web site, "People who think members of Congress pay little or no attention to constituent mail, are plain wrong. Concise, well thought out personal letters are one of the most effective ways Americans have of influencing law-makers. But, members of Congress get hundreds of letters and emails every day. Whether you choose to use the Postal Service or email, here are some tips that will help your letter have impact."

Article: <http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly/aa020199.htm>

Virginia: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>

House: <http://www.house.gov/>

Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>

FCC: <http://www.fcc.gov/contacts.html>