



# THE FLUTTER

## February 2009



The Monthly Newsletter of the Mobile Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

The monthly meeting will be held on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. on the USA campus.



S.W. Alabama ARES meets at 7:00 p.m., prior to the MARC meeting, in the back of the MARC meeting room.

**DUES – PLEASE, do not procrastinate!**  
**It's E-Z to pay online!**

We are not asking renewing members to fill out membership forms. Please help us keep our records accurate by informing the Secretary of any changes to your roster information, and please list all enrolled family members with call signs when sending in a family membership. If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer. Thank you.

Dues shall be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year for a **REGULAR** membership. For a **FAMILY** membership the dues are forty dollars (\$40.00) per year for a family regardless of the number of members in the family, as long as the members are **LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF**. **ASSOCIATE** membership dues shall be twenty (\$20.00) per year. All dues are due, and payable, January 1 and any member whose dues remain unpaid after the first regular meeting of the membership in the month of March shall be considered delinquent in his dues and no longer a member in good standing. Members who become delinquent will be refused the right to vote and/or the right to be heard in a business meeting until such delinquent dues are paid and membership in good standing is restored. Dues for **FULL TIME** students in Elementary School, High School or College shall be twenty (\$20.00) per year.

("Living under the same roof" is meant to indicate family members whose primary residence is the same, and includes unmarried college or boarding school students who are attending school away from home, but normally reside with, and are dependent upon, their parents.)

*Mobile Amateur Radio Club By-Laws, December 2007*

**Please pay your dues at the next meeting, online at [w4iax.com](http://w4iax.com), or mail to MARC, P.O. Box 81791, Mobile, AL 36689. (Late renewals will not be prorated.)** If you have already paid, many thanks!!!

## THE FLUTTER

Editor: Charlotte E. Naylor, KF4RPB; [secretary@w4iax.com](mailto:secretary@w4iax.com) ; 473-6965

THE FLUTTER welcomes contributions of articles on amateur-related topics; news of local hams assisting in emergencies, involved in public service, or earning awards; listings of items for sale; as well as ham or general humor (family reading only, please). The Editor reserves the right to edit for length or content or to refuse items that are unsuitable or lengthy. ARRL allows their e-letters & bulletins to be reprinted with proper acknowledgment; items from other sources may be under copyright. You may send a summary of such items; please include source documentation. Items that are not date specific may be held over to a future edition if space is an issue.

Graphics: Graphic files may be submitted by email or on disc in one of the widely used formats. Paper documents are also welcome as the Editor does have a scanner.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed by the Editor or by contributors or stated within articles from other sources do not necessarily reflect the policies and positions of The Mobile Amateur Radio Club, Inc., its membership or Board.

This newsletter is a benefit of club membership; we need your help to keep it interesting and informative.

Submission deadline: All submissions for the Flutter must be received by the Wednesday of the week preceding the week of the regular monthly meeting (1 ½ weeks prior) so that they may appear in the printed version (for those who do not have email) as well as the E-Flutter.

### MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. (MARC)

#### OFFICERS:

*President:* Chuck Miller, KD4NGA – 341-1004  
*Secretary:* Charlotte Naylor, KF4RPB – 473-6965

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2009

*Vice-President:* Marvin Waller, KJ4BBT – 661-7239  
*Treasurer:* Basil Smith, KD5UJH – 679-0900

#### TRUSTEES:

*W4IAX Station Trustee:* William Autry, KI4YZC  
Larry Early, WB4YOR – 391-0600  
Janet Gardner, KF4JIG – 648-2239  
Gary McDuffie, KC4MIX – 661-8806  
Jerry Myers, KG4YIA – 473-5813  
Clyde Napp, AG4QO – 649-2892

Brian Naylor, KF4IRC – 473-6965  
Bobby Smith, KG4KNR – 344-4933  
Garrett Thompson, KI4VKL – 401-3583  
Pete Thompson, AB4QW – 401-3583  
Karen Williams, KI4ZCO – 344-6844

MARC D-Star Coordinator: Jason Jordan, KI4IHD – 666-2615, [ki4ihd@jordannetwork.com](mailto:ki4ihd@jordannetwork.com)

MARC Net Manager: Clyde Napp, AG4QO – 649-2892, [ag4qo2@bellsouth.net](mailto:ag4qo2@bellsouth.net)

MARC Webmaster: Doug Roberts, KI4EYO – 589-6202, [webmaster@w4iax.com](mailto:webmaster@w4iax.com)

MARC Historian: Stuart Luckie, KI4KXY – 654-1623, [stuartyluckie@bellsouth.net](mailto:stuartyluckie@bellsouth.net)

**ELMERS** – “Elmer” is a traditional term for someone who enjoys helping newcomers get started in ham radio on a one-to-one basis. These MARC members are willing to answer your questions and help with equipment problems, and know whom to call if they cannot help.

Larry Early, WB4YOR – 391-0600, [wb4yor@aol.com](mailto:wb4yor@aol.com)  
Gary McDuffie, KC4MIX – 661-8806, [kc4mix@bellsouth.net](mailto:kc4mix@bellsouth.net)  
Charles Miller, KD4NGA – 341-1004, [kd4nga@arrl.net](mailto:kd4nga@arrl.net)  
Philip Tims, KD4QZP – 476-0006, [prtqzp@bellsouth.net](mailto:prtqzp@bellsouth.net)  
Chick Wohlert, K4ANX – 478-8570

**CAVEC TESTING:** 1st Tuesday of every 3<sup>rd</sup> month at 7:00 p.m. at the Moorer Branch of the Mobile Public Library, on McGregor Ave. Prior notification with confirmation is needed. For more information, contact Larry Galey, KC4JPD, 625-0235, [lgaley1@bellsouth.net](mailto:lgaley1@bellsouth.net), or David Robinson, WA4AVC, [wa4avc@comcast.net](mailto:wa4avc@comcast.net). Other sessions will be held as necessary and requested.

# PRESIDENT'S PRESS

In keeping with the Club's membership input, we have a contest of a different kind. We invite all members to get out the crayons, color pencils or computer program and submit a design, or designs for a new Club Logo. The design should be centered around a 3" round size or shape. All entries must be submitted to the Club on or before the March general membership meeting. The Officers will select three finalists, and present them to the general members to vote on in the April meeting.

As we restructure the Club's organization the various chairpersons and coordinators will be needing members to serve on their committees. As stated in the January's Flutter we need members to take an active part in their club. We need you help to make the Club more interesting, provide a better service, and value for us all. Please support your club and each other by joining the team.

If you have not already been called on the phone to participate in an Amateur Radio Interest Survey, you will. Please help us by answering the questions as openly and completely as possible. The results when compiled will also help the Club leadership to provide a program and service that the majority wants.

Please feel free to come to me or any of the other Officers or Board Members with your input.

Respectfully,

Chuck Miller - KD4NGA

## DITS & DAHS

THE ELECTRONICS CLUB: [www.kpsec.freeuk.com](http://www.kpsec.freeuk.com) Learn how to solder and build projects, find out how to identify components including resistors, capacitors, diodes and LEDs. Test them with the component tester project. Follow the section on studying electronics and learn the circuit symbols. *A very good site to learn basic electronics. The Soldering Guide (available as a PDF) was a hand-out at the recent ARES Training. Good diagrams, how to's, first aid; great for the beginner.*

HAM UNIVERSE: Antennas, code, computers, electronics, hints, humor, news, study, music, repeaters, satellites, shortwave, SSTV, and more. [www.hamuniverse.com](http://www.hamuniverse.com)

## AMATEUR TELEVISION (ATV) LINKS

*Amateur Television Articles & Equipment Links:* <http://www.hampubs.com/atv.htm>

"Ham TV – Fun and Inexpensive!" What is ATV? [www.hampubs.com/pdf/hamtv.pdf](http://www.hampubs.com/pdf/hamtv.pdf)

*Amateur Television Info:* Comprehensive list of links to clubs, equipment, websites, and references [http://hamradio.arc.nasa.gov/amateur\\_tv.html](http://hamradio.arc.nasa.gov/amateur_tv.html)

*Amateur Television Links:* [http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Operating\\_Modes/Amateur\\_Television](http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Operating_Modes/Amateur_Television)

*Amateur Television Network (ATN):* Repeater, nets, streaming ATV on the web

<http://www.atn-tv.org/ATN.htm>

## SLOW SCAN TELEVISION (SSTV) LINKS

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/sstv.html> <http://www.kent.net/ve3rdn> <http://cobalt.junct.com/ramon>

WHERE ARE ALL THE NEW HDTV TRANSMITTERS? Hello to all. Here is a nice web site that will tell you where the new HDTV transmitters are. Just add your zip code and it will show you all the new stations in your area plus give you a compass heading and more! Take a look and get prepared for the next 100 years ! BYE BYE NTSC and HELLO HDTV! *Danny Carpenter N4UXY*  
<http://www.tvfool.com/>

SOLAR STORM STORY: <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=85819> Possible global problems if a major solar storm disrupts our increasingly technological society. *Link sent by Bud Stacey, KC4HGH. Ed. Note – this website carries science articles from a particular viewpoint.*

HISTORICAL TIDBIT: Thomas Edison proposed marriage to Mina Miller by tapping “Will you marry me?” in the palm of her hand using Morse Code. (Her overbearing parents would not leave the couple alone together.) *From the Jan/Feb 2009 edition of Victoria Magazine.*

## CALENDAR

February 6: ARES Meeting at 7:00 p.m.                      MARC Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
February 8: N. American CW Sprint  
February 9-13: School Club Round Up  
**February 14: Valentine's Day**     ♥  
February 13-15: Southeastern Division Convention, Orlando FL (See below for more information)  
February 14-15: CQ WW WPX RTTY  
February 15: N. American Phone Sprint  
February 21-22: ARRL International DX Contest - CW                      N. American QSO Party - RTTY  
                    CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest  
February 21 & 28: General Class Course  
February 27: MARC Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 28: Dalton GA Hamfest     [www.w4drc.com](http://www.w4drc.com)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Smith	Bobby	KG4KNR	06-Feb
Sells	Ray	N5UOB	08-Feb
Carpenter	Danny	N4UXY	09-Feb
Thompson	Peter M.	AB4QW	11-Feb
Cook	Chris	N4SVA	12-Feb
Turner	Almon C.	N4OKG	13-Feb
Puel	Andrew F.	W4JVG	18-Feb
Naylor	Brian	KF4IRC	21-Feb
Daniel	Joe	N4UXU	23-Feb

## BEAT THE WINTERTIME BLUES WITH THESE TWO EXCITING EVENTS!

I am happy to remind you of two big events happening in our ARRL division next month. The 63rd Orlando HamCation Hamfest, 2009 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention! February 13-15 2009     Location: Central Florida Fairgrounds     ARRL Northern Florida Section Sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club  
See <http://www.hamcation.com> for all the details.

Talk-In: 146.160/146.760 (no tone during HamCation)

The Desecheo Island DXpedition! February 12-26, 2009

The DXpedition team will be led by Mike Thomas, NA5U, Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ and Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Desecheo Island is located about 14 miles off the Puerto Rican coast. The team applied for and was issued a Special Use Permit by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge office for this special event. See <http://www.kp5.us/> for operating frequencies, maps, logs, news and many more details. Contact Desecheo Island on as many bands you can, visit HamCation and find more Southeastern Division Hamfest information at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html> .

See you at HamCation!

73, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Director, ARRL Southeastern Division

**CQ-CQ-CQ**                    **Ham-Com 2009 - the BIGGEST Hamfest in Texas!** (Plano, TX)

June 12-13, 2009

*(Sent to the W4IAX email box.)*

<http://www.hamcom.org/> Indoor and outdoor flea market tables go on sale via the Ham-Com website beginning on Sunday, February 1, at 9:00 a.m. All purchases must be online; no FAX or mail orders will be accepted.

Tables are available on a "first-come, first-served" basis. There is a limit of three (3) tables per person for indoor tables (no exceptions, please!) and a five (5) table limit for outdoor tables (no exceptions, please!). The outdoor tables are in shade. There are 60 indoor flea market tables (\$38.00 each\*) and 40 outdoor tables (\$28.00 each\*) plus space for "pop-up" shelters in the courtyard of the Plano Centre.

The tailgate market location has been moved closer to the Plano Center building. Please view the parking layout map for complete information. Up to 100 spaces will be made available for the tailgate market. Tailgaters with campers or camping trailers can park overnight at the Plano Centre. You may not arrive before 5:00 p.m. on Thursday and must depart by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Two area amateur radio clubs will host the tailgate market. The tailgate market opens at 7:00 a.m. each event day. Space is allocated on a "first-come, first-served" basis" so there are no advance sales or reservations. The fee will be \$8.00 per space per day. All proceeds go directly to the clubs.

To ensure a good turnout, Ham-Com will be giving away a Yaesu FT-897D each day plus one 5 Watt VHF HT every hour during the event.

We're looking forward to seeing you at Ham-Com 2009 - the BIGGEST Hamfest in Texas!

\* The cost of indoor/outdoor flea market table includes one (1) general admission ticket. Please note that Ham-Com does not refund the price of general admission tickets for multiple table purchases.

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The Lone Star DX Association is pleased to sponsor the 2009 W5DXCC DX Dinner in conjunction with Ham-Com. The dinner will be Friday evening, June 12, at the Plano Centre in the Windhaven Room. This is the same location as 2007. The evening will begin with a cash hospitality bar in the Plano Centre from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner activities will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. This year we will have a served meal of char-broil prime rib with salad, rolls, baked potato, seasoned vegetables, and cheesecake for desert. A vegetarian option will be available upon request. Reserved seating for

groups will be available. Please email requests for group seating and/or the vegetarian option to [n5ty@arrl.net](mailto:n5ty@arrl.net) . The DX dinner program for the 2009 W5DXCC will be the 2009 KP5 Desecheo DXpedition, [www.kp5.us](http://www.kp5.us) . Desecheo is very rare being the sixth most-needed DXCC entity worldwide. On October 1, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) selected the KP1-5 Project team led by K4UEE and W0GJ to be the first USFWS-approved DXpedition to Desecheo Island in fifteen years. DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, will present what promises to be a very interesting program. Several major door prizes will be given away again this year. A list will be available on the LSDXA website, [www.dxer.org](http://www.dxer.org) , as soon as prizes are firmed up. Ticket price is \$40 and can be purchased via the "Admission" link on the Ham-Com website, [www.hamcom.org](http://www.hamcom.org). Because of the banquet room capacity, a maximum of 200 tickets will be sold. Tickets must be ordered before midnight, May 30 and can be picked up at the Lone Star DX Association booth prior to the event.

### **SOUTHEASTERN D-STAR NET A SUCCESS**      *(From The ARES E-Letter for January 21, 2009)*

The Southeastern D-STAR Weather Net was created using the D-STAR digital voice and data technology to allow amateurs to link systems and communicate across the southeastern US, an area prone to severe weather conditions. With the rapidly growing number of D-STAR users and repeaters across the Southeast, the ability to use these systems to communicate across the wide area and support emergency communications has been created. Alabama was an early leader with a statewide deployment of D-STAR repeaters. Georgia is creating a statewide network of D-STAR repeaters using the television towers of Georgia Public Broadcasting. South Carolina plans to overlay their existing statewide network of analog repeaters with D-STAR repeaters. Many areas of Florida are already covered with D-STAR systems.

The weekly net allows training in net communications over a wide area digital network of linked repeaters. Check-ins are facilitated using the "quick key" format. Since call signs are automatically included with each D-STAR transmission, users simply key for one second to send their call. Net Control sees all call signs and recognizes each station. The net was used during last summer's hurricane season linking several EOCs across the southeast. During the winter "off season" for severe weather, a short program is being presented every other week during the net on topics such as repeater linking and the D-RATS data software. Each week, 35 to 40 stations on 17 to 25 repeaters across the southeast check into the weekly net. The net takes place each Sunday evening beginning at 9:00 pm ET, 8:00 pm CT. D-STAR users should check with their local D-STAR repeater operators to see if they participate in the net. More info or contact John Davis. – John A. Davis, WB4QDX, District Emergency Coordinator - GPB, Georgia Section ARES

### **ALABAMA HOSPITAL PROJECT TO ADD AMATEUR RADIO CAPABILITY**

*(From The ARES E-Letter for January 21, 2009)*

Alabama Section Manager Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, announced at the 2008 Montgomery Hamfest a project four years in the making: 108 hospitals across the state will soon add new state-of-the art, Amateur Radio communications equipment to enhance their emergency communications programs. The Alabama Hospital Association, the Alabama State Department of Public Health and Alabama representatives of the ARRL obtained a grant for \$500,000 to add the radio equipment. Each hospital will have two radios, an HF radio and a VHF/UHF D-STAR equipped radio. – Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Southeastern Division Director

## ARRL BULLETIN 001 W1AW 2009 Winter Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST); 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)  
(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri	
2100 "	"	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 "	(5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 "	(6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 "	(7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 "	"	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 "	(8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 "	(9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 "	(9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 "	(10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 "	"	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 "	(11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz)

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CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555  
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555  
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST)

Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the January 2009 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .

**FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE** (From The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 3)

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

New Amateur Totals  
2006 through November 2008

Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019
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Totals:	21,112	26,728	28,066
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Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

Novice:	18,500	Advanced:	62,000
Technician:	322,500	Extra:	115,500
General:	145,000	Total US Amateurs:	663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected,

the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction." – Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A

## **LOOK FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX**

*(From The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 3)*

The February issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of things that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Rick Campbell, KK7B, presents a homebrew project in the first of his two-part article "Designing and Building Transistor Linear Power Amplifiers." Juan Antonio Fernandez Montana, EA4CYQ, and Pedro Perez Alvarez-Cienfuegos, EB4DKA, look at "A Better Way to Work Low Earth Orbit FM Satellites." If you are concerned about how to get the best bang for your buck when it comes to your antenna system, be sure to check out "Keeping Current with Antenna Performance" by Eric P. Nichols, KL7J. Speaking of antenna systems, you won't want to miss the helpful pointers provided by Ray Fallen, ND8L, in his article, "Homeowners Insurance and Your Antenna System." Robert Gulley, AK3Q, shows how a group of Kentucky hams brought Amateur Radio to a young audience in his article "Amateur Radio and Public Education Make a Bright Future." And just as hams light the way for young people to get involved in ham radio, each year, the ARRL offers teachers a chance to get in on the fun, too! Find out more in "The ARRL Teachers Institute 2009," by ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME.

ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, reviews Tele-Post's LP-PAN Software Defined IQ Panadapter. According to Hallas, "The LP-PAN and associated software add a high performance panadppter and interactive computer control to the Elecraft K3 [reviewed in the January 2009 issue of QST] at a reasonable cost for those with a radio connected PC and quality sound interface." Be sure to check out the product reviews for the DV Dongle D-STAR Adapter and a variety of battery operated soldering tools, also in the February issue of QST.

If it's February, it must be time for the ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html> . This is a great opportunity to contact many stations all over the world. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, explains in "This Month in Contesting" that you really don't need to win a contest to have fun. The results of the 2008 ARRL UHF Contest are in. Find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral and mark your contest calendar for 2009.

Of course, there are the usual columns you expect in the February issue of QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. *(Find out what John Wayne and APRS have in common, and how a cold solder joint shut down the Large Hadron Collider in Eclectic Technology.)* Look for your February issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join> .

*Read about the early history of the Vibroplex semiautomatic key (or "bug") on page 58. The first plant was in a small town in Georgia. Mitch Mitchel W4OA purchased The Vibroplex Company in 1994, and they are now made right here in Mobile. <http://vibroplex.com> .*

## **2009 ATLANTIC TROPICAL STORM NAMES** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Sent by Gary McDuffie, KC4MIX)*

Ana	Fred	Joaquin	Nicholas	Sam
Bill	Grace	Kate	Odette	Teresa
Claudette	Henri	Larry	Peter	Victor
Danny	Ida	Mindy	Rose	Wanda
Erika				

## **NIMS CHANGES NOTED** \_\_\_\_\_ *(From The ARES E-Letter for January 21, 2009)*

According to a press release, last month the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) FEMA released a revised National Incident Management System (NIMS) – the national standard for incident management. NIMS establishes standardized incident management processes, protocols, and procedures that all federal, state, tribal and local responders will use to coordinate and conduct response actions. See the FEMA Fact Sheet, What's New, and FAQs. According to DHS, it has clarified "existing NIMS concepts, better incorporating preparedness and planning and improving the overall readability of the document. The revised document also differentiates between the purposes of NIMS and the National Response Framework (NRF) by identifying how NIMS provides the action template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the policy structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management." – Thanks, Les Rayburn, N1LF, via the Emergency-Management Group at Yahoo.com

The updated National Incident Management System (NIMS) course is now available <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700a.asp> . - Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager

## **FCC REPORTS DECLINE IN BPL CUSTOMERS**

On January 16, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission released data, as of December 31, 2007, on the services used for high-speed Internet access in the United States. According to the data collected by the FCC, as of that date there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months. In sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers, Broadband over Power Line (BPL) utilization apparently declined during the period. According to the FCC figures, the category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later. It is not known how many of these are "Power Line" and how many are "Other."

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/> , yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees." The 27-page FCC report may be found at on the FCC's Web site [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf) .

**PASS THIS ON TO EVERYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD!!!**

*(Forwarded by Dave Roberts, WB4SWG)*

I'm sure all of you know about this, but it is a reminder on how quickly a fire can get out of hand. Kitchen Fire I never realized that a wet dishcloth can be a one size fits all lid to cover a fire in a pan! How to deal with a common kitchen fire ... oil in a frying pan. It's a real eye-opener!! At the Fire Fighting Training school they would demonstrate with a deep fat fryer set on the fire field. An instructor would don a fire suit and using an 8 oz cup at the end of a 10 foot pole toss water onto the grease fire. The results got the attention of the students. The water, being heavier than oil, sinks to the bottom where it instantly becomes superheated. The explosive force of the steam blows the burning oil up and out. On the open field, it became a thirty foot high fireball that resembled a nuclear blast. Inside the confines of a kitchen,..... the fire ball hits the ceiling and fills the entire room. Also, do not throw sugar or flour on a grease fire. One cup of either creates the explosive force of two sticks of dynamite.

**PASS THIS ON TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW**

*Forwarded by Danny Carpenter, N4UXY*

I received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician (could also be Telus) who was conducting a test on the telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine(9), zero(0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up. Luckily, I was suspicious and refused to do it. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number. I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails and prisons! DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE! The GTE Security Department urged sharing this information with EVERYONE I KNOW. After checking with Verizon they also said it was true, so do not dial 90# for anyone !!!!! PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!

Account transactions		MARC Checking	12/1/2008 through 12/31/2008	
Num	Date Payee	Category	Amount	Running Balance
Opening Balance as of 12/1/2008				4968.9900
Month Ending 12/31/2008				
2008-12-03	Withdrawal - USPS 0107830361	Postage and Del : Postage	-19.0000	4949.9900
2008-12-09	Check Card Debit - STAPLES	Supplies, Bus	-23.8900	4926.1000
3028 2008-12-12	Larry Early	Christmas Party	-129.4700	4796.6300
3029 2008-12-12	Eunice Warsh	Christmas Party	-14.4900	4782.1400
2008-12-16	Check Card Debit - HONEYBAKED HA	Christmas Party	-86.0400	4696.1000
2008-12-16	Split/Multiple Categories		133.6000	4829.7000
3030 2008-12-16	TLC Storage	Equipment storage	-360.0000	4469.7000
2008-12-30	Check Card Debit - STAPLES	Supplies, Bus	-25.2900	4444.4100
Total Month Ending 12/31/2008			-524.5800	
Grand Total		-524.5800		4444.4100

**MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. (MARC)** An ARRL Affiliated Club Established October 1933

P.O. Box 81791, Mobile, AL 36689

CLUB WEB PAGE: [w4iax.com](http://w4iax.com) EMAIL ADDRESS: [w4iax@arrl.net](mailto:w4iax@arrl.net)

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month (except on major holidays) at 7:30 p.m. in the Engineering Laboratory Bldg. on the USA campus.

W4IAX EMERGENCY TRAINING / CLUB NET is held every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.82 repeater

#### **Local Nets**

Mondays 7:00 p.m. on 147.165 (136.5) – Stone Co. MS ARES & Skywarn Net (Perkinston, MS)

Mondays 8:00 p.m. on 144.225 USB – Two meter SSB (Mobile Amateur Radio Club - MARC)

Mondays 8:00 p.m. on 147.090 – South Baldwin Amateur Radio Club Net

Mondays 8:00 p.m. on 147.225 (203.5) – Greene Co. (MS) Emergency Communications Net

Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. on 146.94 – S.W. AL ARES / RACES Net

Tuesdays 7:45 p.m. on 53.030 – 6 meter FM (MARC)

Tuesdays 8:00 p.m. on 50.130 USB – 6 meter SSB (MARC) (*following 6 meter FM net*)

Tuesdays 8:00 p.m. on 146.94 – S.W. AL EchoLink Net

Tuesdays 8:00 p.m. on 145.430 (123) – North Baldwin Amateur Radio Club Net

Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. on 146.82 (203.5) – MARC / W4IAX Emergency Training/Club Net

Trader-Tech Net immediately following

Thursdays 7:30 p.m. on 444.50 (123) – 70 centimeter (Mobile County Emergency Club Net)

Thursdays 8:00 p.m. on 147.300 (100) – Swap net (Cantonment, FL)

When needed on 146.82 (203.5) – W4IAX Skywarn Net

#### *D-STAR NETS on the MARC D-Star Repeater:*

First Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. on 145.390 (D-STAR) Digital Data Net

First Wednesday of the month 7:30 p.m. on 145.390 (D-STAR) Digital Voice Net

First Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. on 444.900 (D-STAR) Digital Data Net

First Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m. on 444.900 (D-STAR) Digital Voice Net

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**P. O. Box 81791**

**Mobile, AL 36689**