



THE FLUTTER

April 2009



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

The monthly meeting will be held on Friday, April 3rd, 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.

MARC 2009 HAMFEST – LOCATION CHANGE!!!

The 2009 Mobile Hamfest will be at The Elk's Club on Dauphin Island Parkway, same as last year. Continued construction delays and irresolvable issues preclude the use of The Boys and Girls Club Auditorium. The Elk's Lodge has done some restoration work since last year and I expect that it will be in great shape and it wholly meets our needs. Thank you, Larry Early, Hamfest Chairman. I think we are pretty much back on track and on schedule, many have jumped in to help and it has all been appreciated. Larry

THE FLUTTER

Editor: Charlotte E. Naylor, KF4RPB; 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)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2009

OFFICERS:

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

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

TRUSTEES:

W4IAX Station Trustee: William Autry, KI4YZC – 633-6853
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
Garrett Thompson, KI4VKL – 401-3583
Pete Thompson, AB4QW – 401-3583
Karen Williams, KI4ZCO – 344-6844
** OPEN POSITION **

MARC Public Information Officer: James Koblas, KJ4JCW – 957-1066, jkoblas@centurytel.net

MARC D-Star Coordinator: Jason Jordan, KI4IHD – 666-2615, ki4ihd@jordannetwork.com

MARC Net Manager: Clyde Napp, AG4QO – 649-2892, ag4qo2@bellsouth.net

MARC Webmaster: Doug Roberts, KI4EYO – 589-6202, webmaster@w4iax.com

MARC Historian: Stuart Luckie, KI4KXY – 654-1623, stuartyluckie@bellsouth.net

MENTORS – Formerly called “Elmers,” these experienced hams enjoy helping newcomers get started in amateur radio on a one-to-one basis, and using their knowledge of a particular facet of the hobby to guide hams in trying something new. These MARC members are willing to answer your questions and help with equipment set-up and problems.

Larry Early, WB4YOR – 391-0600, wb4yor@aol.com
Gary McDuffie, KC4MIX – 661-8806, kc4mix@bellsouth.net
Charles Miller, KD4NGA – 341-1004, kd4nga@arri.net
Philip Tims, KD4QZP – 476-0006, prtqzp@bellsouth.net

CAVEC TESTING: 1st Tuesday of every 3rd 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, or David Robinson, WA4AVC, wa4avc@comcast.net. Other sessions will be held as necessary and requested.

THE MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

February 27, 2009 Board of Trustees Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Chuck Miller (KD4NGA). He is still requesting members to submit MARC logos and vision statements. The position of Equipment Custodian is still open, and Bobby Smith (KG4KNR) has resigned his Trustee position, leaving a vacancy.

Webmaster Doug Roberts (KI4EYO) was present to give his report. The hosting bill of \$29.94 for 6 months has been paid. Anyone may post news items on the website, and any trustee wishing to do other postings may be given increased editorial access.

The county will need to be contacted as to whether the field behind the Jon Archer Center is available for this years Field Day activities; even if available, we may not have access to the other facilities due to a conflicting event.

The D-STAR repeater router issue has been solved. Jason Jordan (KI4IHD) must do some finalization to bring it online so that it can be approved by the D-STAR trust server and put on the network. He should be able to do this remotely from his house.

Vice-President Marvin Waller (KJ4BBT), reported that his attorney friend is still planning to give a presentation on Robert's Rules of Order at the March general meeting. He will contact Danny Carpenter (N4UXY) about giving a demonstration on ATV in April.

At the request of the Secretary / Newsletter Editor (Charlotte Naylor, KF4RPB) a motion was passed stating that, in view of rising postage and copying costs, only those members who are unable to receive an electronic newsletter will be sent a paper one via the US Postal Service.

Treasurer Basil Smith (KD5UJH) will print membership cards for 2009; these must be picked up at club events – they will not be mailed.

The Board approved purchasing a \$30 plaque from ARRL to present to the University of South Alabama in gratitude for allowing us space for our meetings for many years.

Special Olympics will be held on March 14th (rain date March 21st) – volunteers are asked to be at the UMS/Wright stadium at 7:00 a.m. with HT's. David Robinson (WA4AVC) will be asked for the name of an Azalea Trail contact person.

Gary McDuffie (KC4MIX) has talked to the Hamfest Chairman and reports that things are coming together for the 'Fest. Purchase and rental of tables and delivery still needs to be arranged.

The Tailgator will be held at Wright Park in Satsuma on March 7th. This one is un-affiliated with any club; Bud Stacey (KC4HGH) and Gerald Jones (KD4DLJ) are coordinating and future such tailgators will be listed as MARC functions.

The planning calendar was reviewed and future holiday postponements and cancellations of meetings were added.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charlotte E. Naylor, KF4RPB, Secretary, Mobile Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

March 6, 2009 General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by President Chuck Miller (KD4NGA) who welcomed visitors and made the following announcements:

- Any member who does not pay dues by this meeting is delinquent.
- Bobby Smith (KG4KNR) has resigned from his Trustee position, leaving an opening which all members in-good-standing for at least a year are asked to consider volunteering for. We also need a Trustee to serve as Equipment Custodian.
- The Satsuma Tail-Gator takes place this Saturday, March 7th.
- The Board has passed a motion stating that, in view of rising postage and copying costs, only those members who are unable to receive an electronic newsletter will be sent a paper one via the US Postal Service.
- Members are asked to visit the MARC website regularly, check out the various links, and see what is new as the site evolves.
- Philip Tims (KD4QZP) is now unemployed. He is working on the 6 meter repeater. The Board authorized paying him a reasonable amount (\$15 an hour) for his service in repairing and maintaining our equipment. This is only fair, as having repeaters and radios serviced is

- expensive, and we are very fortunate to have Philip handling the job.
- Since new hams and the general public are not familiar with what an “Elmer” is, ARRL is now using the term “Mentor.”

The Treasurer gave the financial report, which was accepted as read: February 1st – \$5,266.64; February 28th – \$5,773.28. He is printing membership cards for 2009; these will not be mailed but will be available at meetings and other events.

Larry Early (WB4YOR) reported that the Hamfest is going as expected. He suggested that we try to find a Chairperson for the 2010 Hamfest before this year’s event, so that person can be on hand to meet the vendors and see how things work. He will finalize the tables this month. The pre-paid ticket packages will be available for pick-up at the door. The tickets have been printed, and he has a list of prizes for the Treasurer to order.

Chuck was approached by some members suggesting that the MARC logo be updated. Members are requested to submit logos, as well as vision/mission statements, before the Board has its business meeting at the end of the month.

A 2009 Field Day location has not yet been settled, as there may be a conflicting event at the County Arena behind the Archer Center.

The adult track & field events for Special Olympics will be held on March 14th (rain date March 21st). Volunteers are asked to be at the UMS/Wright stadium at 7:00 a.m. with HT’s.

After a break, the following new members were voted in: James Garside (KJ4JCU), David Ridderson (KI4TBL), and John Roberts (KJ4JCR).

The drawing for a radio was won by Marvin Waller (KJ4BBT).

Ken Watson, an attorney who serves at Deputy Attorney General for the AL Dept. of Transportation, gave a presentation on Robert’s Rules of Order. He received a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charlotte E. Naylor, KF4RPB, Secretary, Mobile Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

DITS & DAHS

MARC MEMBERSHIP CARDS: 2009 MARC Membership Cards are now available to paid members. Please pick up your card from the Treasurer at a club meeting or other event. Cards will not be mailed.

RECENTLY HEARD ON THE SCANNER: A Mobile Co. Fire Dept. call to a fire at the Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory, Hershey and Gumdrop, M+M0. THIS IS A (hot chocolate?) DRILL!

MEDIA HIT: Sr. Lucindia Claghorn, KI4ZCJ, was recently profiled in Catholic Weekly for her work as an advocate for those with mental illness. Sister is becoming quite a celebrity!

CALENDAR

04/03/09	7:00 p.m.	ARES Meeting	Engineering Lab Bldg., USA
04/03/09	7:30 p.m.	MARC Membership Meeting	Engineering Lab Bldg., USA
04/04/09	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	ARES Quarterly Training	TBD
04/10/09		Good Friday	
04/11/09	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	MARC Hamfest and Computer Show	Elk's Lodge, Dauphin Island Pkwy.
04/12/09		Easter	
04/18/09		World Amateur Radio Day	
04/24/09	7:30 p.m.	MARC Board / Business Meeting	Engineering Lab Bldg., USA
04/25/09	8 a.m.-1 p.m.	Headland, AL Hamfest	www.wb4zpi.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Waller	Marvin E.	KJ4BBT	02-Mar
Moses	Robert Paul, Jr.	WE4RPM	11-Mar
White	Richard	KJ4CSJ	26-Mar
Koblas	James	KJ4JCW	05-Apr
Ridderson	David	KI4TBL	08-Apr
Drews	Rick J.	KJ4HRG	11-Apr
Jordan	Jason A.	KI4IHD	16-Apr
Miller	Ann	KI4TBM	19-Apr
Mears	Shirley	KI4ZCQ	21-Apr
Claghorn	Sister Lucindia	KI4ZCJ	27-Apr
Holberg	Ralph	N4RX	01-May

"TAIL-GATOR" A SUCCESS!

I just wanted everyone to know that the March 9 Satsuma "Tail-Gator" was a success! Thank you to the Mobile Amateur Radio Club for it's assistance in advertising, as well as all of you who mentioned it on the area nets.

We had perhaps 25 vehicles with "tailgates down" and at least twice that many participants browsing around, looking at the goodies. Several tailgaters SOLD OUT and several more sold nearly everything they had. I, personally, had a dual-band mobile J-pole that was bought by a young Ham...later, I heard a young voice calling on the 146.82 repeater and made contact with him...it was the young man that had bought my J-pole, testing it! What a cool thing to happen!

Ben Baldwin, WX4MOB, was gracious enough to bring doughnuts, coffee and orange juice, which was enjoyed by many....and Johnny Lightcap, KD4ORO, was on-hand at nearly every Wednesday night Swap Net, advertising the "Tail-Gator"...thanks to my co-conspirators!

The target date for the next "Tail-Gator" will be ideally the last Saturday in September. I will confirm this and let everyone know.

Again, thanks for attending the "Tail-Gator"!!!!

Bud Stacey, KC4HGH

SPECIAL OLYMPICS REPORT *(Charlotte Naylor, KF4RPB)*

On the morning of March 14th, 10 MARC members gathered at the UMS/Wright stadium for the SW Alabama District Adult Special Olympics track & field events. Despite the forecast of a high-percentage chance of rain, coordinator Frank Barragan was determined that the games would go on. He has worked with the adult Special Olympics in this area since about 1981 and has only been rained on once. The various events were completed ahead of schedule, and only a brief rain shower caused everyone to huddle under the nearest shelter. It was quickly over and the games resumed. The overcast sky meant wonderful, comfortable weather for the activities, and the event was a great success. It is heartwarming to see the dedication and good humor of these athletes (many of whom could leave us hams in the dust) and to observe the friendships among the participants and volunteers which have developed over the years. Many thanks to all who helped: the volunteers who coordinate this event greatly appreciate our involvement. Even though the PA system was in use this year, the announcer needed a ham (Sister) to relay which events were starting, and other announcements from the various venues. The hams would also have been needed to relay requests for medical assistance, which fortunately was not needed. Beside Sister, the two hardest workers were probably Brian and Garrett, who manned the start and finish line, respectively, as the finish needed to know how many runners for each race and in what lane, the start needed a heads up when the timers were ready, and the timers need to hear the starting gun. Good job to all, and hope you will be back next year. This is a great chance to shine for Amateur Radio.

Sister Lucindia Claghorn, KI4ZCJ
Rick Drews, KJ4HRG
Claude Fillingham, KI4ZCM
Janet Gardner, KF4JIG
Gerald Jones, KD4DLJ

Brian Naylor, KF4IRC
Charlotte Naylor, KF4RPB
Bobby Smith, KG4KNR
Garrett Thompson, KI4VKL
Pete Thompson, AB4QW

ARE YOU NEW TO THE CLUB OR, NEW TO AMATEUR RADIO? *Chuck Miller, KD4NGA*

While the Mobile Amateur Radio Club provides new members a welcome packet, sometimes there are other things that would be nice to know. Add to that, if you are new to Amateur Radio, then most everything is new. For someone totally new to HAM radio it can be overwhelming. The trick is to watch, observe and as needed ask questions. The Amateur Radio Community has a program called "Mentor", formally called ELMERS. This program by design recruits older (more experienced) HAMS and partners them up with someone new to the hobby. Also, even if you have been a HAM for years, if you decide to try a facet of amateur radio that is new to you. Mentors who have experience with that portion of HAM radio can help guide you into this new area of fun. We encourage the more experienced HAMS to consider being a Mentor. We hope that you will remember how it was when you entered this hobby. If you think back, someone helped you at different stages of your growth into the fun that you now enjoy. We encourage the new folks to seek out guidance and help from other HAMS. Take advantage of all training that is offered. Participate in nets and actives, you learn by doing. For more information you can contact the officers of the Club, or, go to www.arri.org and search for ELMERs and or Mentors.



Welcome to the ARRL Mentor page. This page is going to be the central hub for all things that deal with mentoring or Elmers and clubs. We have already posted an initial set of resources to make navigating the site easier for everyone and especially the new ham.

There has been a bit of question as to why we are using the term mentor as opposed to the traditional term Elmer. Ham radio does have its share of tradition and lore, and to a lot of folks it seems that we are breaking from tradition and discarding the affectionate term Elmer. Not so. Most folks outside of Amateur Radio do not recognize what an Elmer is, but they do know what a mentor is. And because this program is geared toward the new ham we don't want to confuse anyone.

Now that you have found this page we will take a moment to tell everyone where the term Elmer is derived.

Origin of the term "Elmer"

The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in *QST* in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world: "Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."--*Rick Lindquist, N1RL*

As you can see, the term is not very old. Prior to the first use of Elmer as the one who guided and encouraged us, what were these folks called? I have received a lot of suggestions; teacher, mentor, tutor, guide, helper, sage? All are appropriate but my guess would be that first and foremost they were called friend.

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

2009 ALABAMA QSO PARTY

Greetings all!!

The 2009 Alabama QSO Party will be the 1st weekend (6th and 7th) of June 2009. Please use the link below for the latest rules. There have been changes, so please look them over closely. Also check out the county abbreviations as they have also changed. If you have any questions, please askJim, KC4HW, know at kc4hw@alabamagsoparty.org .

<http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/2009/2009Rules.pdf>

If you are planning a mobile operation please let Jim, KC4HW or myself w4nbs@arrl.net , know your plans. We would like to know if you will be part or full time, CW or SSB or both and the county/counties that you will be activating.

Hope to hear all of you on the bands.

73, Tom, W4NBS Alabama Contest Group

SPRING TRAINING *(This item and the following from The ARES E-Letter for March 18, 2009)*

Spring training is in full swing, and here's what operators should be pursuing as training at a minimum:

- ARRL ARECC Level 1
- Red Cross Adult CPR/First Aid Basics
- Red Cross Introduction to Disaster Services
- FEMA IS-100A (Introduction to Incident Command System)
- FEMA IS-200A (ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents)
- FEMA IS-700 (National Incident Management System)

Except for the first two, courses are free of charge, and CPR/First Aid may be free to members of the Red Cross. CPR/First Aid is the only course that requires periodic refreshers; and skills must be demonstrated in person rather than on the Internet. The American Heart Association also has excellent courses available for CPR. (The AHA certifies me as a Registered Nurse in CPR and Advanced Cardiac Life Support -- ACLS -- protocols). These recommendations are pursuant to the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee report to the Board of Directors Annual Meeting, 2007. Get with your Spring training!

TIP: DOWNLOAD CRITICAL INFO REGULARLY

If your ARES team keeps configuration or setup information, radio frequency lists, rosters, maps, etc on an Internet server, encourage all members to regularly download the latest versions to their home PCs and laptops. In the case of a power or Internet outage, files will be unavailable from the host. This can be made easier by packaging all of the files into compressed archives (such as ZIP files) that can be downloaded in one operation. Enlist a volunteer to maintain the sets of files and announce when new versions are created. The filename of the archive should include both the date and a version number (eg, "ARES documents - Version 2A - 1 Jan 2009") so that it's easy to tell what version of information a person has.— *Ward Silver, NOAX, AEC Vashon-Maury Island ARES, Western Washington*

FCC SPECIAL COUNSEL LAURA SMITH VISITS ARRL HQ

(Excerpted from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 9)

Laura Smith visited ARRL Headquarters on March 5 and 6, her first official visit as Special Counsel. Smith was named to the position earlier this year, filling the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008. . . . Spending all Thursday afternoon with ARRL Lab staff, Smith discussed power line noise and how it can affect Amateur Radio. "Since Riley had retired last year, very little had been done at the FCC with regard to the power line noise enforcement," said

ARRL Laboratory Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG. "The Lab staff discussed the status of the ARRL-FCC Cooperative Agreement on power line noise with Laura and how best to proceed forward." . . . Gruber also briefed Smith on some power line noise basics, including a demonstration of some professional grade locating equipment. Using a Model T spark coil as a noise source, Gruber was able to show Smith how a utility can locate power line noise - in many cases, without too much difficulty. . .

Smith, a lawyer, is no stranger to the FCC or Amateur Radio. She . . . knew Hollingsworth through her father-in-law Richard M. Smith, former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau, at the time responsible for all FCC field engineering and enforcement activities. Richard Smith led many investigations of illegal uses of the radio spectrum, including the successful apprehension of "Captain Midnight" who overrode a satellite television broadcast signal http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_Midnight_%28HBO%29 . Smith also served as Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET). "Riley worked for my father-in-law for years," Smith said. "My father-in-law was the Chief of the Field Operations Bureau at the FCC for 25 years. So enforcement is actually something that is a long-standing family tradition. A member of my family -- the Smith family -- has worked at the FCC continuously since 1964: Myself, my husband and my father-in-law." Calling Hollingsworth "irreplaceable," Smith said what he did for the Commission and for the amateur community was "amazing. He volunteered for that job. He stood up and said, 'I'm an amateur. I love this community and I want to give back to it.' This position needs to be filled by somebody who is interested in doing it long-term. This [job] is not a stepping stone; it's not a short term process. This wouldn't work if I were trying to be Riley. I'm not going to be Riley. We're very different people. But we both have the same goal: To make the amateur community better."

Smith emphasized that an Amateur Radio license is "a privilege, not a right. When you come to the FCC and you sign up for a license and you get that license, you have agreed to abide by those Rules. That is inherent in the application process. As an applicant and a licensee, you have said, 'I will hereby comply with the Rules that have been enacted by the FCC.' So you have said, 'I will adhere to that.' And if you choose not to, then you are subject to losing that privilege."

Smith is not yet a licensed amateur. She said that she will get her license "someday," but that she did not want to get her license just because her job involves Amateur Radio: "I didn't want to come into this job and become a ham, saying, 'I'm getting this job so I'm going to be a ham -- not because I'm interested in being a ham, but because it looks better on paper.' So ultimately I will become a ham." Smith said that her father-in-law, when stationed in the FCC's Field Office in Los Angeles, used to administer the Morse code test to prospective licensees: "So he has challenged me that before I can become an amateur on any level, I must learn Morse code and I must pass the test with him administering the Morse code. So I have a challenge. I am going to begin learning Morse code this summer. He is going to start teaching me, so once I have sufficient proficiency, then he will let me take the [Technician] test."

QSLs UP, UP AND AWAY! *(Excerpted from the February 2009 newsletter of the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club)*

POPLARVILLE, MS - What started as just a passing thought turned into another fun event for the Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club Monday as club members held a "Balloon Launch". Ham radio contact cards - "QSL Cards" were attached to helium-filled balloons with tethers and set adrift with the hope that whoever finds the cards will send back a message about how far the card was

carried by the winds. "What was thought to be a speck of dust, turned out to be a dust storm," commented local ham Jim Searcy (N5WLW) - who spearheaded the event. "Who would have guessed?" "This was tremendous fun, and as always, it is a beautiful thing to see, as an object disappears into the wild blue," said Searcy after setting the balloons adrift. "It was almost like slow motion. First the balloons lifted very slowly, but then as they grabbed the upper wind currents, it was 'goodbye sally'". "Just the thought of these balloons reaching great heights, bursting, and then the QSL card riding in the upper wind currents to fall to who knows where, kinda makes me fill like a little kid again." With a crew of helpers . . . the balloon launch was carried out under partly-cloudy skies and cool temperatures Monday. . . . A net monitoring operation was set up on 7.240 Mhz. for stations to check in and report possible sightings. As launch time (approached and) QSL Cards are attached to balloons and released . . . nerves were running high, but the lift off - or maybe drift off - was accomplished without problems. The 40-meter frequency was monitored from 1 p.m. (1300 hrs CST) until 5 p.m. (1700 hrs CST), when the radios were switched to 3.980 Mhz., on the 80-meter band for better copy. Stations from around the country responded to the check-in and promised to keep an eye out for the balloons.

Stations checking in included (Ocala, Fla., Jackson, Mo., Homosassa, Fla., Roanoke, Va., Palos Heights, Ill., Smyrna, Tn., Islamorda, Fla., Bradenton, Fla., Bradenton, Fla., Cairo, Ga., Danville, Va., McAllen, Tx., Ft. Myers, Fla., and Poplar Grove, Ill.)

Of the stations who checked in, three identified themselves as officers of their own local radio clubs, and said they were excited to see such a venture. Each of them said they were thinking of doing similar events. Seven QSL cards were released at the balloon launch. . . . Over the next several days, Searcy said he hopes to receive confirmation through the mail or on air of the cards being found. Local hams are asked to monitor 7.240 Mhz. and 3.980 Mhz. for reports, check in to the monitoring net and of course, be on the look out for the balloons. If you find one - be sure to report in. Nor will this be the last launch. Plans are in the making for sending up some "serious equipment", which might include a camera for taking pictures, a weather-sending unit, an altimeter and "whatever else we can dream up." . . .

ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

(From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 9)

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few. You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire. Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html> .

MAN SHOOTS TELEVISION AFTER DTV TANTRUM *(Sent in by Gary McDuffie, KC4MIX)*

It was reported by NBC KARE-11 that a Missouri man peppered his TV with bullets because he was unable to get his new DTV converter to work. His wife said he had been drinking. The 70 year old man was taken into custody after a brief stand-off.

A RECIPE FOR YOUR EASTER DINNER

HOW TO COOK A HAM

"Is it hot in here or is it just me?"

Ingredients:

- 1 ham, fully seasoned, (Tech, general or higher)
- 1 parabolic reflector (100ft diameter)
- 1 megawatt transmitter
- 1 FCC (experimental permit)
- 1 pound brown sugar

Procedure:

- Place ham into main lobe of dish
- Cover with brown sugar...move back
- Tune transmitter to 100ghz cw,
- Apply full power until eyes of ham
- Start glowing green.....or any other color for that matter.....
- Continue roasting until he yells

ANIMAL PUN ROUTINE

The following routine won first place in the "Punniest of Show" competition at the 25th Annual O.Henry Pun-Off World Championships in Austin, Texas several years ago.

There's a little known animal that begins with the letter X. It's actually a Greek swordfish, spelled X-I-P-H-I-I-D-A-E, and it's pronounced ZIFF-EYE-IH-DEE. As Paul Harvey might say, "Now for the rest of the story." I'd like to present an ABC primer on animal puns. AARDVARK a million miles to put 26 animal puns in alphabetical order. I'd BADGER you and I'd keep CARPING on the subject, until I have no i-DEERs left. I'd have no EGRETS, however, as I FERRET out more animal puns. If necessary, I'd even GOPHER broke. Some may say it's a HARE-brained attempt; but, IGUANA tell you, I'm no JACKASS – and I KID you not. I'm not doing this for a LARK (although maybe just a MITE). So don't NAG me. In fact, you OTTER try to PARROT me. But don't QUAIL from the challenge. After all, you don't have to be a RACCOON-teur. So just SALMON up some courage, before you take a TERN for the worse. Don't be afraid of people saying to you, "UNICORNIest person I know." Stop crying and VIPER nose. Then say, "WALLABY a son-of-a-gun," and start singing, "Zip-a-dee doo-dah, XIPHIIDAE ay." Soon you'll be a YAK-of-all-trades, and can put all of these animal puns in a book called "Who's ZOO".

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 EMAIL ADDRESS: w4iax@arrl.net

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the 1st 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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