

# ALBANY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## W4MM

Newsletter

<http://www.w4mm.com>

May 2009

### Next Club Meeting

May 26th  
7:00PM

Palmyra Hospital  
Training Room

### W4MM Repeaters

146.820- 1110.9  
146.700-  
146.730-  
444.500+

### W4MM-15 Digipeter

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

### W4MM-12 Digipeter

144.390 MHz  
Emergency Comm  
Trailer

### CLUB OFFICERS

#### President

Ken Adams K1KBA  
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#### Vice President

Dr. Gene Clark W4AYK  
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#### Secretary

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#### Treasurer

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#### Editor

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#### WEBMASTER

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### MONDAY NIGHT NET

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

### GA ARES HF NET

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

### SW GA ARES VHF NET

Every Sunday at 4:00PM on the 146.820 Repeater

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

W4PFC	James Bair	3rd	K4PGY	Marvin Banister	18th
N4TPZ	John Wiggins	4th	W1SOG	Lan Skalla	19th
KI4YCV	Alan Hitchcock	12th	KD4WTD	Mark Walters	26th
KJ4EXS	Connie Hardison	13th	KA4AFL	Fred Jones	28th
KE4VPD	George Young	13th			

### CLUB NEWS

#### Welcome

We would like to welcome a new member to the Albany Club, **Connie Hardison KJ4EXS**. Connie lives in Leesburg.

### MARCH OF DIMES WALK

Thanks to following club members for their help with communications during the March of Dimes "Walk for Babies". Ken Adams K1KBA, Richard Morefield WB4TFW, Ron Vargo WB4MEQ, Bob Smith K4PHE, Arthur Shipley N4GPJ, Connie Hardison KJ4EXS and Leon Perrett K4GCR.

### JD GOINGS, AA4P SK

JD Goings, AA4P, who was a charter member of the Colquitt County Ham Radio Society, passed away April 22nd. He was 89. I don't know if all of you knew him, but he, and Dale, W1BPP, were the lifeblood that kept the Moultrie club alive for many years. He was also active in Georgia Baptist Relief and helped them acquire their first Communications trailer.

### POSTAL RATE INCREASE

On May 11th the price for a 1-oz. 1st Class stamp will increase from 42¢ to 44¢.

First Class 44 cents

Postcard 28 cents

US to Canada 75 cents

US to Mexico 79 cents

US to International 98 cents

IRC \$2.10

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009

May 2 Birmingham, AL Hamfest  
May 9 Heart of Georgia Hamfest, Byron, GA  
MAY 15-17 Dayton Hamvention  
June 6 Atlanta Hamfest, Marietta, GA  
June 28-29 Field Day  
Aug. 8 Ellijay Hamfest

### NCVEC QPC SEEKS INPUT ON REVISED TECH EXAM

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators is now reviewing the Element 2 Technician Class question pool. This, as part of a regular process in which each question pool is reviewed on a four-year rotation. The next Technician Class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

### ARRL ISSUES MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO POLICY STATEMENT

The idea of banning cell phone use or texting while driving is gaining support from police agencies and insurance companies. The ARRL board adopted a policy encouraging those backing these bans to exclude mobile amateur radio operations. The message is clearly aimed at state legislators and community leaders. The policy statement focuses on the concept that cell phones are full duplex devices - meaning the user is focusing on listening and conversing directly. Amateur radio communications, on the other hand, the policy statement notes, require more listening and less transmitting and each cannot occur simultaneously. The ARRL is worried that regulating cell phones and text messaging while driving casts such a broad net that amateurs who provide public service could be blocked from lending a hand to their communities in times of need. You can read more at the League's website: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). The ARRL Policy Statement does recognize the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicles. It says that safety has to be a top concern at all times. (ARRL)

### MORSE EXCEEDS SSB IN 2008 CQ WORLD WIDE DX CONTESTS

Even with the poor propagation, more than 10,000 logs have been submitted for the 2008 running CQ World Wide DX Contest. This, according to Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, who says that's a new record for the event. But here's the real surprise for those who think that Morse is dead or dying. Cox reports that the number of CW logs have exceeded the number of phone logs for the first time in more than 20 years. A total of 5013 SSB logs and 5272 CW logs submitted.

### THE SOLAR CYCLE: NASA CALLS IT A SPOTLESS SUN

The lack of High Frequency propagation could continue. This, as NASA has announced that the sun has plunged into the deepest solar minimum in nearly a century. According to the space agency, Sunspots have all but vanished and consequently the sun has become very quiet. It notes that in 2008, the sun had no spots 73% of the time,. That was a 95-year low. Now, in 2009, sunspots are even more scarce, with the "spotless rate" jumping to 87%. How long this downward sunspot spiral will continue is unknown. (Spaceweather)

### HAMVENTION LIVE BROADCAST AGAIN

For the 7th year now, W5KUB.COM will be broadcasting live streaming video and audio of the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. New this year, we have lots of prizes to give some lucky viewers. We will go live Wednesday May 13 at 1300GMT and broadcast our 500 mile drive live. We will continue broadcasting on Thursday as we set up in the Fleamarket, possibly tour the Air Force Museum, and then for the entire Hamvention. In addition to the video, the site has a chat room where you can chat with other hams around the world. We have viewers on in over 150 countries. The site is up 24 x 7 x 365 days per year with recorded ham videos when not in the live mode. The site is <http://wa5kub.com> or <http://w5kub.com>. you can also check out the prizes at <http://tmedlin.com/2009prizes.html>.