

# ALBANY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## W4MM

Newsletter

<http://www.w4mm.com>

August 2009

### Next Club Meeting

August 25  
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

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

KF4TJP	Robert Guzman	14th	KI4RYA	Ashlyn Tyson	24th
N4PCB	Bill Pawley	17th	N4HUL	Burt Thomas	24th
KF4YED	Susan Davis	20th	KK4PQ	David Furman	27th
KI4NDK	Kevin Smith	22nd	K2SYK	Robert Glover	29th

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009

Aug. 8 Ellijay Hamfest  
Aug. 15-16 Huntsville, AL Hamfest  
Oct. 3 LaGrange Hamfest  
Oct. 10 Augusta Hamfest  
Nov. 7-8 Lawrenceville Hamfest  
Nov. 14-15 Montgomery, AL Hamfest  
Dec. 5 Albany Christmas Parade



### AF4FO Wins Award

Three deserving hams won awards in the Southeastern Division. Georgia SM, **Susan Swiderski, AF4FO**, was awarded the Joe Knight Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes "exceptionally notable contributions by a Section Manager to the health and vitality of the League." Congratulations Susan.

Congratulations Susan.

### News From Our GA Section Manager

Well, I already let the cat out of the bag about **GENE CLARK, W4AYK**, taking over as SM on the first of October, (at NOON, to be perfectly precise) so I believe I'll let another kitty out and let y'all know that also on October 1, **MIKE BROWN, KE4FGF**, will be taking over Gene's current position as our next SEC. Mike has done an extraordinary job as our DEC in SW GA, and I know he'll continue to shine as our SEC. He's already hard at work to make sure that our SET in October is a real winner. So, all of you DECs, be prepared to hear from him in the very near future.

### Barry (Hugh) Beall, WA4KCL SK

He was a member of the club in the '70 and '80's. He helped with events as time permitted. He was a road salesman for a Hercules bumper company in Pel-

ham. The bumper company was sold to a Northern company and it took Barry further away from the area and eventually leaving the new company. He was married to Glenda Council whose call is WA4KCK. Her family owned the bumper company in Pelham. The councils own a lot of property across from the MCLB on Fleming Rd. Maybe some of you ole time club members remember Barry.

### Special Bonus Section Added To "ARRL Ham Radio Licensing Manual"

The most common question asked by new radio amateurs is "Now that I have my license, what kind of radio should I get?" The ARRL, in an attempt to help newcomers to Amateur Radio answer that very question, has added a bonus supplement to the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9639>. "Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" is aimed at the new Technician licensee ready to acquire a first radio, a licensee recently upgraded to General class and wanting to explore HF or someone getting back into Amateur Radio after a period of inactivity.

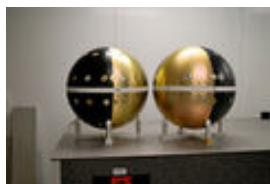
The guide features two main sections -- one covering gear for the VHF and UHF bands, and one for HF band equipment, including a VHF/UHF and an HF glossary of terms you will encounter. The guide also urges you to discover just what you want to do with Amateur Radio and where you want to do it from. Do you want to be a "big gun" HF contester? Do you want to ragchew on your local repeater system? Maybe you want to join your local ARES unit and help provide communications support in times of emergency. This guide will help you select the right rig for what you want to do.

"Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" isn't a traditional "buyer's guide" with feature lists and prices for many radios. Manufacturer's Web sites and catalogs from radio stores have plenty of information on the latest models and features. As such, you won't find operating instructions or technical specifications here, but many manufacturers' Web sites will let you download brochures and manuals directly.

Second only to "What kind of radio should I get?" "What kind of antenna do I need?" is the most common question asked by the new amateur. Don't worry! "Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" talks about all kinds of antennas -- from "rubber duckies" to verticals to dipoles to Yagis; it even explains rotators and antenna gain.

An explanation of power, filters and digital signal processing (DSP), as well as special features commonly found on VHF/UHF and HF radios are also included in the guide. ARRL members who are logged on to the ARRL Web site can view the guide online <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/choosingaradio/>.

### Space Shuttle Endeavour to Deploy Student-Built Satellites



The space shuttle Endeavour is due to land Friday, July 31, but before it leaves orbit it will deploy four student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter, or 70 cm, amateur bands.

The twin spherical satellites -- named Castor and Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE). Both satellites will transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz. Hams are encouraged to submit telemetry reports with special QSLs and mission patches planned (check the ANDE Web site for updates).

In addition to Castor and Pollux, Endeavour will also deploy student satellites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 will launch as one unit and then separate to collect position data and test a new NASA Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON.

BEVO-1 will transmit Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 will beacon at 436.250 MHz. The satellites will primarily transmit 9600-baud packet telemetry when over the United States. As with Castor and Pollux, reception reports are welcome.

Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.