

MILLEDGEVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

W4PCF/WB4DOJ

=====

SEPTEMBER 2006

NEWSLETTER

=====

Club Officers/Coordinators:

President – Charles Pennington (K4GK)
Vice President – Hurb Ingles (W1DOG)
Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Mills (KC4AA)
Repeater Trustee – Hurb Ingles (W1DOG)
FCC Volunteer Exam Coordinator – Otis Murphy (W4OY)
MARC Web Page Designers – Jimmy and Dawn Garner (KD4NGC and KG4NBX))
2007 ARRL Field Day Coordinator – Bill Mills (KC4AA)

President's Message:

With the beginning of our series of amateur radio training classes, now, becomes a great time to recruit newcomers into our wonderful avocation.

If each member of MARC would only bring just one newcomer into ham radio this fall, what a success our club would be.

Potential recruits may come from many walks of life; young and old, rich or poor, or, educated and not so educated. We welcome all into our hobby.

Now is the time to use our personal contacts, relatives, co-workers, fellow church members and neighbors, to tell about this rare opportunity **to become involved in amateur radio.**

Our September meeting will serve as an **orientation meeting** for potential members of Bill Mills' (KC4AA) Amateur Radio Technician Class.

Please bring any and all, to this important meeting. **Visitors are always welcome at our club meetings.**

With 73,
Charles Pennington
K4GK
President

MARC Meeting Minutes:

The 19 August 2006 MARC meeting minutes are attached. All members are encouraged to review the minutes and see what is happening at the MARC monthly meetings. If you have corrections or additions to the minutes, please contact: Bill Mills (KC4AA) 478-452-2957 or millsend@alltel.net.

Treasurer's Report:

The MARC financial status is:

	\$	
Balance as of: 14 Aug 2006:	625.16	
Additions (member dues, donations, raffle, etc.):	+ <u>94.00</u>	
	Sub Total	719.16
Less Expenditure:	-	<u>238.50</u>
Balance as of: 12 Sep 2006:	Total	480.66

Bill Mills (KC4AA)
MARC Secretary/Treasurer

2006 MARC Annual Member Dues:

The first six months of year 2006 club member attendance at the monthly meetings has been sparse which has resulted in no payment or late payment of club annual dues. The club operates a 2 meter repeater (WB4DOJ) and we depend on member annual dues to fund the repeater maintenance/operation. **If you have not paid your MARC 2006 dues,** please attend the September club meeting or send a check made out to the "Milledgeville Amateur Radio Club" in the amount of \$20.00 (single member) or \$25.00 (for a family) and mail to Bill Mills, 188 Ellis Mill Road, NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061-9020. Thanks in advance for your continued support of the Milledgeville Amateur Radio Club.

New Members/Guests:

MARC welcomed the following guests at the MARC August meeting: Barbara Frost and Charles Randle (KC4ZGV).

MARC Monthly Newsletter:

The MARC monthly newsletter with the minutes of previous month's MARC meeting will be sent to club members electronically via the Internet. Using the Internet to transmit the monthly newsletter is a big cost savings to the club as well as quickly received by MARC members. For those members who **do not** have Internet e-mail access or who would prefer to have the newsletter sent by U.S. Postal Service, you will receive your MARC monthly newsletter via a U.S. Postal Service mailing.

Estate Sale – Bill Reeve (WB9DVV):

Bill Mills (KC4AA) is assisting John Shinall (K4YK) in selling the radio estate of Silent Key (SK) Bill Reeve (WB9DVV). A detailed list of 44 radio items will be available at the September meeting for MARC members and guests to review. A wide selection of radios (HF and VHF transceivers), antennas (HF and VHF), power supplies, antenna tuners, speakers and other related radio accessories are available for purchase. All items have been checked and are reasonably priced. Should you have questions, please call Bill (478-452-2957 or millsend@alltel.net).

Technician License Class Offering:

A FCC Technician Class license preparation class will be conducted by MARC in September. For those individuals interested in obtaining a FCC Technician Class license, an orientation meeting will be held on 16 Sep, beginning 10:00 AM. Class room instruction will be held on 30 September beginning 8:30 AM. Both meetings will be held at the Baldwin County Main Fire Station, Allen Memorial Drive, Milledgeville. If you have questions, contact Bill Mills (KC4AA) 478-452-2957 or millsend@alltel.net.

2006 MARC Programs:

The following programs will be presented at the year 2006 MARC monthly meetings:

Sep - License Prep Class Orientation/Demonstration

Oct - Member Show and Tell

Nov - QSL Cards and QSLing Techniques

Dec - Christmas Party

WB4DOJ Repeater Status:

The VHF Engineering repeater (AKA: "Old Boat Anchor") is on line. The VHF Engineering repeater has been off line since 2004. The dust is off and the beep tone is on. We now have a repeater! We have narrow coverage but the old repeater is performing well though with limitations. The back up repeater covers Baldwin County quite nicely.

The limitations are: non-resonant transmit antenna and 4 watts of RF output power. The MARC 2 meter antenna and/or RF feed line on the water tower are defective thus providing a high VSWR. We are currently using the WB4DOJ 2 meter vertical antenna as the repeater receive antenna. For the repeater transmit antenna, we are currently using the Baldwin County Sheriff Department 150 MHz vertical antenna with antenna tuner to reduce the high VSWR.

As it stands, the following are the identified priorities to return the WB4DOJ repeater to full functionality:

- 1st – Purchase and install a new 2 meter antenna and RF cable for the repeater transmitter.
- 2nd – Obtain a volunteer climber (no cost) or hire a professional climber hired to climb the water tower.
- 3rd – Purchase and replace the Hamtronics exciter board.
- 4th – Troubleshoot and repair the Henry 100 watt 2 meter amplifier.
- 5th – Reset the repeater clock announcement. Does anyone know how to set/reset the repeater announcement clock???

Estimated MARC expenses to bring the WB4DOJ repeater to fully operational status are:

1. Purchase a Hamtronics exciter PA assembly board.
2. Purchase a high gain 2 meter vertical antenna.
3. Purchase several high-power RF transistors for repair of the Henry Radio 2 meter amplifier.
4. Hire a professional antenna tower climber.

MARC 2 meter repeater summary of activities to date:

1. An updated Hamtronics receiver PCB was installed in the repeater. Action: W1DOG
2. Repeater site antennas and RF transmission lines were identified and VSWR curves run. Action: W1DOG and KC4AA
3. The Hamtronics repeater was installed and tested. It was found the transmit side of the repeater had distortion and erratic RF output power. Action: W1DOG, KC4AA and KI4GSR
4. The backup repeater (VHF Engineering) was repaired and installed. Action: W1DOG and XYL.
5. A temporary 2 meter vertical ground plane antenna (6 dB gain) was erected near

- the repeater shelter. The antenna is connected to the repeater transmitter. The repeater receiver is connected to the Baldwin County Sheriff 150 MHz antenna. A low power (20 watt) 2 meter amplifier was installed on the repeater transmitter. Action: W1DOG and KC4AA
6. Hamtronics has been notified on the defective repeater exciter board. W1DOG is negotiating the price of a replacement exciter board. Action: W1DOG
 7. A potential tower climber has been identified at a cost of \$100.00. Action: W1DOG and N4LC
 8. The Henry 100 watt amplifier has been opened and initial troubleshooting show a defective RF power transistor. The defective transistors need to be removed and replacements ordered and installed. Action: W1DOG

Hurb Ingles (W1DOG)
WB4DOJ Repeater Trustee

MARC Meeting Dates:

MARC meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Baldwin County Main Fire Station, Allen Memorial Drive, Milledgeville. Meetings will be held on the following dates:

16 Sep

- 21 Oct
- 18 Nov
- 16 Dec

Mark your activity calendar and plan to attend a club meeting and/or activity. At the 19 August meeting, the club conducted a raffle which netted the club a total of \$34.00. The club will **conduct a raffle** at the monthly meetings. Help support MARC by bringing a raffle item to a club meeting. I am sure all of us have an item or two in our “ham shack” (radio room) junk box that we no longer need and can donate to the club. The club monthly raffles will bring in income to the MARC bank account for funding of club projects/activities.

Radio Contest Dates:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTEST</u>
23-24 Sep 2006	CQ WW DX RTTY
28-29 Oct 2006	CQ WW DX SSB
25-26 Nov 2006	CQ WW DX CW
02-03 Dec 2006	ARRL 160 Meter

9-10 Dec 2006 ARRL 10 Meter
23-24 Jun 2007 ARRL Field Day

VE Test Schedules:

The MARC Volunteer Exam (VE) test team conducts FCC test sessions at the Baldwin County (Mary Vinson) Library on the second Saturday of the month. The test sessions begin at 10:00 AM. Walk-in individuals interested in sitting for the FCC amateur radio exams are welcomed. The cost of taking a FCC test is \$14.00. If you have questions, please contact Otis Murphy (W4OY) 478-452-6394 or omurphy@alltel.net.

Vanity Callsign Issued:

The FCC recently issued Ed Kirkpatrick an amateur radio vanity callsign, N4LC. Congratulations Ed on the new callsign!

Ham Fest Dates:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
30 Sep	Ten-Tec Hamfest, Sevierville, TN
14 Oct	Augusta Hamfest, Evans, GA
04- 05 Nov	Stone Mountain Hamfest, Lawrenceville, GA

MARC Net:

When: Thursday Evening
Time: 8:00 PM
Frequency (MHz): 146.700 (Currently: 147.135)
Callsign: WB4DOJ (Currently: KE4UWJ)

Other Nets:

	<u>Baldwin County ARES</u>	<u>GA State ARES</u>	<u>Old Capitol</u>	<u>PARES</u>
When:	Tuesday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
Time:	8:00 PM	6:00 PM	9:00 PM	7:30 PM
Frequency (MHz):	146.700	3.975	147.135	147.090
Callsign:	WB4DOJ	K4GK	KE4UWJ	