



# THE ARCLITE

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 09 [146.66, 442.7 BOTH PL 110.9] SEPTEMBER 2007

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN BY ALLEN YODER NG5Y



September is here and with it some monsoon rains and some cooler temperatures. I have talked to Ralph and he tells me the controller for the new repeater is on order. By the time you read this he may already have it and be in the process of programming and configuring it. Since we purchased the controller out of the repeater fund that account is now depleted. It has something in the neighborhood of \$26 dollars in it. This account will continue and we will continue to have fund raisers to try and build it up. The 442.7 repeater needs to have the antenna taken down, cleaned and adjusted. I think both of the coax runs to the old repeater need to be replaced myself. That coax is about 15 years old. Yes it is coax and not hard-line. Ralph says he has some hard-line but no connectors. The distance from the old repeater to the antenna is less than 100 feet. So if we use high quality coax I think hard-line is overkill anyway. All of the above on coax and antennas is on the old repeater site that houses the backup 146.66 repeater and the 442.7 machine. You might have heard me mention at the meeting that the Raytheon club had a extra RC850 controller that they were thinking of loaning the GARC. They are thinking of selling it now and I think the GARC should try and get this so we have it for the portable repeater we were using as a backup repeater. We can re-crystal that portable repeater and then it will be of great use at emergencies and at race a thons and special events. Speaking of special events, Charlie Myers KE5NRF will one of several stations putting the following event on the air:

Special Event Radio day Procedures guide call-sign **K8K**

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Surprise!

Hurricane Humberto, a Category 1 hurricane and the first hurricane to make land-fall in the US in two years, came ashore in Texas on Thursday, September 13 not even 50 miles from where Hurricane Rita hit in 2005. Stronger than initially expected, Humberto continued eastward toward Louisiana and Mississippi, where flood warnings were in effect.

## Minutes of the August 2007 Garland ARC meeting as submitted by EH Nail\*

The meeting was called to order by President Allen Yoder at 7:30 PM. The participants jointly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Allen acknowledged Garland Newman's, W5IDN, impending birthday with congratulations from the attendees.

N5QNJ, Terry Overby, was acknowledged by Allen for having brought and offered to the members surplus electronic gear displayed in the rear of the meeting room.

Allen asked for any new GARC applicants. N5QNJ had signed up and Randy, KC5QHH, motioned from the floor to accept N5QNJ's application. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**Treasurer** – Wayne, WT5J, reported Repeater Fund = \$1,292.93 and General Fund = \$860.96 .

**VP** – Swank, WA5GNT, outlined programs for future meetings. He mentioned the Auction to be held during the October Meeting. Allen requested input on including the sale of non-ham related items with 10% of the sale price being donated to the Club.

**Com Officer** – Ralph described the repair and update of the antenna at the ECC with assistance from the GFD equipment.

**Education Officer** – Bill confirmed the new Class to be started on September 25 for 5 weeks.

Allen turned the floor over to Randy, KC5QHH for commentary on his recent attendance of the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference in Alabama.

Allen then acknowledged N5GAR, Tom Blackwell, for updates on the ARRL activities.

Allen asked Ralph, KA5KVF, to outline the Club's options for a new Controller to be used on the new repeater. A motion by KG5OO, Rick Beckemeyer, to accept Ralph's recommendation for a CAT Controller was accepted and the motion passed.

Break

Program on Bio-Terrorism presented by James Saunders, KB5GKR.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

## REPEATER SUPPORT GUILD



We have a new goal! You can help by donating your used printer and toner cartridges to the club. Your old cell phones and equipment are also acceptable. Of course you can always just make a donation as many have done!

The other ways you can help are to join the Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program (#11636) or ask a club officer for a Kroger Share Card. We are starting over now!

## Special Event K8K DE Charlie Myers KE5NRF

*(Continued from page 1)*

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 68th anniversary and ISAR 2007

**Saturday September 29, 2007 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.** I think he will operate from the GARC's ECC as we have a much better antenna arrangement than he does at home. I am very excited about this because Charlie is a new ham and for him to take on running a special event station by himself takes lots of courage and enthusiasm. He is planning on keeping a paper log since he does not have a notebook computer or any logging software. I would like to see the GARC offer him as much encouragement as is possible. If we have some extra class operators available to be control operator for him that Saturday that would allow him to operate on more HF bands. Contact myself or Charlie and we can work out who will be where. We will have a special treat for our September meeting. Bill Engel "K5DHY" will give us a presentation on "Log Book of the World".

So until meeting night, 73's NG5Y

## FREE

This has to be a ham's favorite word. Trouble is every since EH said "there is no such thing as a free lunch" these marketing types say the word "free" but it just is not so. Well I have some good news for you. I have found something that is both useful and is free. Well mostly anyway.

If your not into computers at all you need read no further unless reading the article gives you a reason to finally adopt some new technology. For those of you who are ham radio purest you may wonder why an article devoted to something that is all computer? Well it's simple really. Ham Radio to me is like peeling an onion. The more you peel off the more layers there seem to be.

Ok enough of an intro, here is what is free. It's ITUNES. No don't roll your eyes just yet until you see where I am going with this. Yes ITUNES is a music service from Apple that runs on **both** Windows PC's and Apples, but it is really much more. Downloading and running ITUNES is absolutely free. Now here comes really cool part. In ITUNES there are a media type called 'POD CAST'. There are a a great number of these that are both free and also ham radio related. They also come in versions that are either strictly audio or even ones with full video. You can download them and listen to them at your convenience including programs (podcast) like the evening national news and then watch it at your convenience. Well, where does the no free lunch work into this as EH says? Well if you want video, you might really want broad band internet access. If you want more than 30 seconds worth of the music in the ITUNES store your going to have to pay for that too. If all you want is to find some cool ham radio related shows to listen to and even watch, not to mention computer related shows and even the news then this is your free ticket( er lunch)! If you splurge and buy an IPOD so you can even take the shown with you. But that is optional, ITUNES will work just fine with out an expensive IPOD.

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*A man at an auction sale started bidding for a parrot. The bidding went higher and higher, but finally the man bought the bird. Then he realized that he didn't even know if it could talk, so he asked the auctioneer.*

*"Of course it can talk," he replied. "Who do you think was bidding against you?"*

## Notes from the "Good Natured Texan"

**This is really important to follow-up so that the GARC might be GIVEN a nice van.**

You have until Sept 27 to Go to <http://www.klrv.com> & click on the Allen Samuels "Miles of Smiles" yellow diamond logo to VOTE for the Garland Amateur Radio Club ~ [www.k5qhd.org](http://www.k5qhd.org)  
Tell all your friends to vote for the GARC !

*Hmmm... Computer programmers don't byte--they may nibble a bit.*

Dick Talley ~ [dicktalley@texasbaptistmen.org](mailto:dicktalley@texasbaptistmen.org) ( Logistics/Recruitment Director ) of the Texas Baptist Men has asked that GARC members be available to operate during the next large Hurricane from their Pleasant Grove location : 5351 Catron, Dallas, TX 75227 214-828-5355 Office // 214-707-4780 Cell

It's kind of amazing to see the ingenuity of some Hams to make things really work, or work better. If you have a sub-par Wi-Fi signal, here is how one guy bolstered his connection. He basically converted an omni-directional Belkin antenna into a directional antenna. He did it with a near-parabolic reflector from the kitchen. Yes, he took a kitchen food strainer, also called a sieve, and with very little effort, he had a directional Wi-Fi antenna . He could be giving up lots of gain if it is not a true parabolic, but any dish is better than no dish. Because it is directional, he must point it directly at the source of the Wi-Fi signal. An alternative form of a directional antenna would be the "can-tenna" - mount the USB Wi-Fi adaptor through a slot in the side of a Maxwell House coffee can or a Pringles can. You're basically concentrating the outgoing microwaves from your adaptor into sort of a flashlight beam towards the source which sees their signal as well. Both designs can work great for picking up distant remote signals that which otherwise wouldn't even show up. If you decide to construct one of these, remember that you point your modified antenna at the source of the signals. For more info click on [DIY Wi-Fi antenna reception booster](#).

*Hmmm... Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.*

Have you heard of "atree"? The UM-10, by atree, is a slick-looking Korean product that fits nicely in your hand and is a lot more than a pocket dictionary. It is also a media player for MP4, WMV, MP3, WMA and OGG files. But wait, there's more - a television tuner, FM radio, E-book reader, voice recorder and a personal organizer to sync with Microsoft Outlook. Take a look at the many cool pictures on this Korean web site. About \$190 if it ever comes to the US.

*Hmmm... Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "Lisp"?*

Did you know ? ... The Disaster Reporting System as proposed by the FCC includes data templates for different communications sectors such as wireless, wireline, broadcast, and cable. Companies would initially log onto the system to input their emergency contact information for all individuals in each firm who would be providing information on the status of communications equipment in the event of a disaster. This information will be secured by the commission and protected from public release. Once this is done, the companies that serve areas affected by disasters will be able to voluntarily submit information regarding, the status of their communications equipment, restoration efforts, power — such as whether they are using commercial power, generator or battery — and their access to fuel. The information will be treated as confidential for security reasons.

*Hmmm... Science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.*

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

With all the earthquake activity going on, you may want to take a look at the USGS Earthquake Notification Service (ENS) at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/ens/> .

Amateur Radio & the Internet are closely related to each other ! Right now, Congress is debating the future of the Internet. Wireless is now the service of choice for more than 243 million wireless Americans who can now access mobile Internet content, email, music, video and gaming on-the-go. Passage of H.R.743, the "Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act of 2007," would keep wireless access to Internet content TAX-FREE for good, like it should be! The good news is that national lawmakers in Washington, D.C., have successfully protected Internet access from being burdened by federal taxes, ensuring that all Americans have easier access to this incredible and ever-evolving resource. The bad news is that the laws that keep Internet access tax-free will expire on November 1, 2007. Congress should protect American consumers and achieve the bipartisan goal of ensuring affordable Internet access and commerce to all Americans. Passage of the "Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act of 2007" will eliminate the threat of unfair and discriminatory taxes that would limit consumer choice, delay innovation and prevent some from accessing the Internet. You can still make a difference today! Urge your elected officials in Washington, D.C., to Support the "Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act of 2007."

Act Now to Ensure Congress Keeps Access Taxes Off the Internet

*Hmmm... The easiest way to find something lost around the Ham Shack is to buy a replacement.*

Just a reminder that the first Saturday of every month is Gigoit Post Day. It takes less than a minute to and most things are picked up in a matter of days.

What kind of stuff is stacked in your garage, shoved into the closet or piled on your shelves? Are you storing furniture, electronics or other items that you no longer need? Someone in your community would like to put them to good use!

Please invite friends and family -- the more our community grows, the more your community will benefit.

Go to Gigoit | [Open Browser Version](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

Nikola Tesla is best known for his many revolutionary contributions to the disciplines of lighting, electricity and magnetism in the late 19th and early 20th century . His name lives on in the form of Tesla Motors and its electric car, the Tesla Roadster. Business Week called Tesla Motors, "A Carmaker With Silicon Valley

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## Exam Software - FREE

For those of you looking for some help to upgrade - check out the N3FJP software page at: <http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html> Look for the Amateur Exam Study Program. You can study for Technician, General or Extra by taking tests based on the latest question pools. Scott - N3FJP has a line of software available. He made the software we used for Field Day. The club KD8CKP also has registered for all of Scott's software. This study program is FREE. Scott says to please enjoy it, and share it with anyone you know that may be interested in getting their license or upgrading!

**Tim - KB8UUZ**

*(Continued from page 5)*

Spark." This Roadster is 100% electric, gets zero to 60mph in 4 seconds with a top speed of over 130 mph. The car will average about 200 miles between charges. The Tesla Roadster uses regenerative braking to extend battery performance. The company plans to open the first five Tesla stores in Northern California, Southern California, Chicago, New York, and Florida by 2008. You can have a Roadster for about \$90,000. Then in 2008, the company plans to produce a sporty four door family car at \$45,000, and the third model will be even more affordable.

More Resources:

- Nikola Tesla, PBS - Master of Lighting
- Great pictures of the Tesla Roadster
- Popular Mechanics takes a ride
- Who Killed the Electric Car

*Hmmm... If the metal used to make the little black box on the aircraft is indestructible ... why don't they make the whole aircraft from that metal?*

*Hmmm... Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?*

Bring a friend to our next meeting.

As Charles Osgood says: "See ya on the radio !"  
Fraternal 73, Swank Roberts, WA5GNT /// [vp@k5qhd.org](mailto:vp@k5qhd.org)

## Technician Class begins Sept. 25

The GARC will begin a five week training class for those interested in the entry level ham radio license on Tuesday, September 25. Class will run for five consecutive Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm at the GARC Emergency Communications Center at 1027B W. Austin St. Cost is \$25 which includes the study guide.

If you know someone who is interested, please have them e-mail Bill Engel K5DHY at [k5dhy@arrl.net](mailto:k5dhy@arrl.net). Pre-registration is required.

73,  
Bill

## Repeater Guidelines

The repeater guidelines will be updated soon as the new controller is programmed and installed. In the mean time please be sure to wait for the curtsey tone before answering any QSO already in progress. This allows others to join in more easily and ensures that emergency traffic can be passed. As a side note our Radio Officer KA5KVF is working on the occasional interference problem that has been more noticeable on the new repeater. It would best if you direct any comments about the interference issue to board@k5qhd.org and not discuss the issue on the air. Some non ham frequencies are transitioning in the near future and will likely have some relationship to the noise problem. In the mean time please be patient, we are aware of, and are working to stop the noise/interference from coming through the repeater.

For security reasons please never mention the exact location of the repeater on the air. If the question is asked please answer that the repeater is located in Garland.

## How you can help ?

**You hear us talk about the Kroger Share Card, or the Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program. If you or any of your friends, family members or neighbors shop at Kroger please ask for a Kroger Share card from a club officer. You don't even have to live in Garland. Basically it's good anywhere in the state. The only trick to it is you must scan it each and every time you shop at Kroger.**



**On the flip side Tom Thumb's program is a little more convenient. Just take your Tom Thumb rewards card up to the customer service desk and ask to have your reward card associated with the club's Good Neighbor Number. That number is 11636. If you already have signed up with another charity you can split the reward up to three times. It's then automatic at Tom Thumb every time you use your reward card. Both Tom Thumb and Kroger will give 1% of your purchases back to the club. Albertsons only shares with schools and we have not heard back from Walmart as to their position on charity drives. Remember the GARC is a 501C(3) charity.**

**As a side note: Yes we do have a new repeater for two meters now but we will need to maintain the existing equipment and plan for future campaigns on other amateur bands.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday  
September

**29**  
2007

## Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk

Amateurs have been requested to provide communications with this years event. Amateurs provided communications for this event for many years in the not too distant past. We have been asked to rejoin their team. If you want to sign up just send me an email at [w5ej@arrl.net](mailto:w5ej@arrl.net). Thanks, John Will - W5EJ

The walk will be held in the American Airlines Center area.

Vist the JDRF site for more information; [JDRF Walk Site](#)

Sunday  
December

**9**  
2007



HD Radio for only \$100.00

<http://www.radiosophy.com/store/home.php>

## Wellstone's Dallas White Rock Marathon

With the Wellstone sponsorship from last year continuining this year we expect a boost for the Marathon in the number of runners this year. So this ups the need of public service minded amateur radio communicators. This year we anticipate the need for nearly 75 communicators. We start at around 6 AM in the morning and finishing for the final stations around 3 PM.

We operate up to three nets and plan to increase the use of APRS and digital messaging this year. We will need operators with the capability of communicating in one of the urban tactical resource types for VHF/UHF operation. You can review these resource types at [Resource Type Guide Documentation](#).

If you are interested in helping out please contact Bob Jones, W5BJ at [w5bj@arrl.net](mailto:w5bj@arrl.net) or 972-495-8573. You can also contact John Galvin, N5TIM at [n5tim@arrl.net](mailto:n5tim@arrl.net) or you can use the web [sign up form](#).

Information on the Marathon can be found at [Run the Rock](#).

# October will be busy

October will be Annual GARC Auction. Don't forget to empty out your ham shack and bring all your excess goodies to the club to sell. Remember 10% of proceeds will go to the club. If you have nothing to sell bring your wallet so that you can bid on some of the goodies.

Also don't forget that the GARC will celebrating it's 50th Anniversary with a special event station on the weekend of October 19-21st. That Friday the 19th is the first night you can operate, Saturday after the GTG at the ECC (10-20-07)we will have a picnic at Autobahn Park and may operate from there as well. The picnic will be potluck. 1:PM till we get tired.



# OCTOBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Join the K5QHD yahoo group	1 To view an interactive	2 Calendar	3	4	5	6
7	8 Board Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Open House ECC
21	22 CLUB MEETING	23	24	25 VEC TEST	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## SAME NET TIME, SAME NET FREQUENCY

The Following nets occur on a regular basis throughout the month.

RACES holds nets on Every Thursday Night at 9:00 pm local time on either the 146.66 or the 147.24 repeater. In addition to these nets there are also additional RACES nets held at 8:00 pm local time on the first and third Sunday of the month. These Sunday night nets are held on the 146.88 repeater. Only those stations who are authorized by the FCC or the regional Races authority may transmit on a Races frequency during Races nets unless there is a

threat to life or property.  
 145.31 8:00PM Tuesdays Ham Association Of Mesquite holds a good news/info net  
 146.94 8:00PM Wednesdays FT Worth holds a info/swap net.  
 147.18 8:00PM Thursdays Plano ARK holds a good news/info net

### ON THE AIR

The GARC on the air nets are on hiatus. If you would like to volunteer to be net control please email [board@k5qhd.org](mailto:board@k5qhd.org).

## GARLAND SIREN TEST

The Garland early warning sirens are tested by the city the first Wednesday of each month at noon, weather permitting. Tests are generally conducted on the GARC repeater at 146.660Mhz with 600Khz negative offset. P1 110.9

Amateur radio operators wishing to help with these siren tests should contact Bob Jones, W5BJ if interested in helping out.

## GARC GENERAL INFORMATION

### Repeaters:

The GARC operates two open repeaters for its members and for all local or visiting Amateur Radio Operators: Two meters: **146.66 (-)** and 70 Cmeters: **442.70 (+) Both PL110.9**

### Voice Mail:

For late-breaking news or to leave the club a message, call our 24-hour voice-mail line at **(972) 272-4499**.

### Internet:

Information on the GARC can also be found on the world wide web address below:

**<http://www.k5qhd.org>** ALSO

SEE K5QHD Under Yahoo Groups

The web site includes a map to the monthly meetings, classes, links to local public service events, and other items of interest to the hams in the Garland area.

### Newsletter:

The Arclite is published monthly for the members of the Garland Amateur Radio Club. The contents of this newsletter are copyrighted the date of publication, but may be reprinted without permission in any Amateur Radio Publication provided proper credit is given and the motive is the advancement of amateur radio and not for profit.

The deadline for Arclite materials is the 2nd Monday of each month. If you have any informative or educational articles that you would like to see included in this newsletter, or if you have items to be included in the GARC calendar, please send it to the Arclite editor.

**Arclite Editor, 1027-B West Austin St.,  
Garland, TX 75040**

or emailed to the Arclite Editor at **[editor@k5qhd.org](mailto:editor@k5qhd.org)**

### Membership:

Membership forms are available at the GARC monthly meetings and on the GARC web site. Once the membership form and dues are submitted, new members are voted in at the next GARC monthly meeting.

The GARC membership roster is distributed to GARC members only. It is not to be used for any commercial purposes. Email a board member at [board@k5qhd.org](mailto:board@k5qhd.org) for user name/password to the roster.

To submit changes to the GARC roster (such as change of address, updated phone numbers, license upgrade, etc), send them to the GARC secretary, at **[secretary@k5qhd.org](mailto:secretary@k5qhd.org)**.



Garland Amateur Radio Club  
Emergency Communications Center (ECC)  
1027 B West Austin Street  
Garland, TX 75040



**Where HAM Radio is Fun Again !**

**K5QHD is the Bill Folstadt**

**Memorial Station**

*Please Rush!!!*

**Reminder**

**RENEW YOUR ARRL SUBSCRIPTION AT THE GARC**