



The Arclite

K5QHD
Garland Amateur Radio Club
Where Amateur Radio
is fun again

January 2010

Something Wonderful is About To Happen



in this issue

Contest **P6**

Upcoming Public Service **P4**

President's Pen **P3**

Haiti **P6**

www.k5qhd.org

CLUB OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: BILL ENGEL
K5DHY
PRESIDENT@K5QHD.ORG**

**VICE PRESIDENT: DON
REZNICEK KE5FWK
VP@K5QHD.ORG**

**SECRETARY: LOWELL
ALLEN KD5RFD
SECRETARY@K5QHD.ORG**

**TREASURER: BOB
BRUNSKILL KC5GMZ
TREASURER@K5QHD.ORG**

**COMM OFFIER: RALPH
BROWN K5WRB
COMM@K5QHD.ORG**

**EDUCATION OFFICER:
SWANK ROBERTS
WA5GNT
EDUCATION@K5QHD.ORG**

**ARCLITE EDITOR:
ALLEN YODER NG5Y
EDITOR@K5QHD.ORG**

**CONTACT THE
BOARD AT
BOARD@K5QHD.ORG**

**FOR MORE INFO CALL
(972) 272-4499**





PRESIDENT'S PEN

The garage/ham shack construction project at our home is finally coming to a close after losing a month or two due to the rainy fall weather. The tower and antennas have been in place since late October and now the station equipment has been moved to the new facility. It's amazing what a directional antenna and an inverted V that is up 55 feet can do to work DX and contests.

Club elections are coming up at the March meeting. We will be forming a nominating committee and hope to announce the members of that committee at the January club meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer of the club or have a suggestion as to who would be a good candidate, please drop me an e-mail. Any member of the club who holds an amateur radio license is eligible to serve. The vice-president and communications officer require at least a Technician class license (i.e. no Novice) and the president requires at least a General class license and at least one year of club membership. The terms of president and vice president are limited to two years.

Skywarn School is coming up on Saturday, February 20 at the Granville Arts Center in Garland. The GARC will have a table to tout our club and will be selling refreshments. If you can help please let me know.

Our next club meeting on Monday, January 25 will feature Bob Brunskill KC5GMZ as our speaker. See you there.

73,
Bill



UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Public service events are an excellent way to hone your communicating skills so you can be a valuable resource in an emergency situation. If you are a first timer let the coordinator know and you will be assigned accordingly.

The first Wednesday of each month are the emergency warning siren tests in Garland and Rowlett. Ham operators are needed to visually inspect the sirens and report on their operation. You need not be affiliated with RACES to perform these tests and you can do either the Garland test at noon or the Rowlett test at 1 pm or both. Siren locations and signup are on the Rowlett RACES web site <http://www.rowletttraces.us/> or you can e-mail Ian DiFranco KE5FOM at ian.difranco@verizon.net.

Saturday, February 27 is the 32nd running of the Cowtown Marathon in Tarrant County. About 75 operators are needed for this event. If you can help please e-mail Keith W5IU at w5iu@swbell.net or call him at 817-292-5633 .

As always, public service event information can be found on the web at John Galvin's public service web page at <http://www.qsl.net/n5tim/uplist.html>.

Thanks to everyone who made all of our 2009 events possible. Look for the more 2010 events in the next issue.

**Ham-Com
2010**

**June 11-12
Plano Centre
www.hamcom.org
Click here for more info...**

Ham-Com is June-11 & 12 Sign up thru www.k5qhd.org Mention Garland ARC for credit !



REPEATER NEWS

The club operates two open repeaters for use by any licensed amateur radio operator. One is on 146.660 MHz with a negative 600 KHz offset and the other is on 442.700 MHz with a positive 5 MHz offset. Both repeaters require a PL tone of 110.9 Hz. Additionally the 146.660 repeater transmits a tone of 110.9 Hz to enable use of tone squelch found on most receivers. On occasion, the “friendly” 146.660 backup repeater is put into service. Operationally, it functions just like the primary.

If you are not familiar with the Club's guidelines for usage of our repeaters please take a few minutes to look them over. They are accessible on our web site under “Club Information” then “Repeater Use Guidelines.”

Please thank our communications officer, Ralph K5WRB, for his efforts in keeping our repeater system up and running.

HMMM... When at work, SMILE all day. It will drive your boss crazy wondering what you're up to.

HMMM... Computers make very fast, very accurate mistakes !

HMMM... What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

Warm Up with the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes!



VHF weak-signal operators will be on the bands in force the weekend of January 23-25 as the [ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#) hits the airwaves. This contest gives the VHFer in all of us a chance to do some contesting during the winter months.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X said that January may not seem like the ideal time to hold a VHF+ contest: "After all, sporadic-E propagation is most commonly associated with summer months; however, the propagation gods like to surprise and confound, and there have been plenty of QSOs made via sporadic-E in the colder months through the years. Plenty of other chances for enhancement exist as well, thanks to tropospheric ducting and auroral propagation. Thanks to the advent of [WSJT software](#), making QSOs via meteor scatter in the wee hours of the morning on 6 and 2 meters has never been easier. You have plenty of opportunities to make long-haul QSOs on the VHF+ bands in January!"

Kutzko said that getting on the VHF bands is easy. Technician class licensees have permission to use all amateur bands above 50 MHz, and the antennas for VHF frequencies are comparatively smaller than their HF counterparts. A dipole for 6 meters is less than 10 feet long and most modern transceivers come with 50 MHz built-in. So, string up a dipole for 6 meters and see what you can work!

"While most contest QSOs will be made using SSB and CW," Kutzko said, "don't forget about FM simplex. There are numerous stations that enjoy 2 meter FM simplex QSOs, especially if you live near a large population center. Just be sure to keep the national 2 meter calling frequency of 146.52 MHz clear of contest activity. Don't neglect the higher bands, either -- 222 MHz, 432 MHz and 1.2 GHz and up will see activity this weekend, too."

The 2010 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes runs from 1900 UTC Saturday, January 23 through 0359 UTC Monday, January 25. Participants can submit their Cabrillo-formatted logs via [e-mail](#). Paper logs may be sent to ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 0359 UTC Thursday, February 25, 2010.

Haiti Earthquake: "It's Chaos, I'm Telling You -- It's Real Chaos"

On Tuesday, January 12 at 4:53 PM Haiti time (2153 UTC), a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince, the island nation's capital. Communications in and out of Haiti have been disrupted. The ARRL encourages US amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on the following frequencies: 7.045 and 3.720 MHz (IARU Region 2 nets), 14.265, 7.265 and 3.977 MHz (SATERN nets), and 14.300 MHz (Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net); the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC) is also active on EchoLink node 278173.



There was no firm estimate on how many people were killed by Tuesday's quake. Haitian President Rene Preval said the toll could be in the thousands: "Let's say that it's too early to give a number."

Tuesday's quake was felt in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, and in Eastern Cuba, but no major damage was reported in either place. The January 13 edition of [*The Daily DX*](#) reported that the Rev John Henault, HH6JH, made contact late Wednesday morning with the Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net (IATN) on 14.300 MHz; this is the IARU Global Center of Activity frequency for emergency communications. He said that he was safe, but had no power and no phone service. He was operating on battery power and hoping to get a generator running later in the day. The edition also noted that Pierre Petry, HH2/HB9AMO -- who was in Cap Haitien (about 140 km north of Port-au-Prince) is safe; Petry is in Haiti working for the United Nations World Food Program.



The 7.0 earthquake struck 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the island nation's capital.

On Wednesday afternoon, Fred Moore, W3ZU, assisted Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, with a phone patch to his friend Ariel in Miami. "It's bad, it literally is bad," Gaillard told Ariel. "We don't know how many people are dead. We do not know what to expect. It's chaos, I'm telling you -- it's real chaos. We are really in a disaster area. It's really a war zone. Many, many buildings in the downtown area are stripped from the ground with many people buried underneath them - you name it, it's bad." Gaillard, who lives in Port-au-Prince, was using his neighbor's generator to make the contact. "It's really chaotic. I've never been in a war, but this is what a war zone would be like. Dead bodies all over the place, dead bodies buried. All I can tell you is that I'm okay, my house is

okay. We've had 30 aftershocks, the main one yesterday. We are expecting some more shocks, so I'm a bit nervous to be inside the house."

According to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, members of the Radio Club Dominicano ([RCD](#)) -- the Dominican Republic's IARU Member-Society -- and Union Dominicana de Radio Aficionados ([UDRA](#)) are preparing to go to Port au Prince on the morning of Friday, January 15, where they will install HI8RCD/HH, an emergency radio communications station and a mobile station.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate advised that US assets should not self-deploy to affected areas. "Initial reports from Haiti in the wake of yesterday's earthquake are concerning and troubling," he said. "During times like these, the emergency response community always stands ready to assist those in need. The United States Department of State has the lead for foreign disaster assistance, and US assets should deploy *only if tasked to do so by the State Department*. The most urgent need that the response community can fulfill at this time is supporting ongoing disaster relief fund-raising efforts."

On Thursday, planes carrying teams from China and France, Spain and the United States landed at Port-au-Prince's airport with searchers and tons of water, food, medicine and other supplies -- with more promised from around the globe. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that "tens of thousands, we fear, are dead" and said United States and the world must do everything possible to help Haiti surmount its "cycle of hope and despair." The US Army said a detachment of more than 100 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division was heading out from Fort Bragg in North Carolina, looking for locations to set up tents and other essentials in preparation for the arrival of another 800 personnel on Friday. That's in addition to some 2200 Marines to be sent, as the military prepares to help with security, search and rescue missions and the delivery of humanitarian supplies. More than a half-dozen US military ships also are expected to help, with the largest, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, arriving later Thursday.

Calls to emergency services weren't getting through because systems that connect different phone networks were still not working, said officials from a telecommunications provider in Haiti. The International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) is deploying 40 satellite terminals and 60 units with broadband facility to re-establish basic communication links, along with experts to operate them. The ITU will also set up "a reliable, responsive and complete cellular system designed to enable vital wireless communications aimed at strengthening response and recovery mechanisms in a disaster zone," said ITU Emergency Communications Division Chief Cosmas Zavazava. The ITU

has allocated a budget of more than \$1 million US dollars to strengthen the disaster response effort in Haiti.

ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré, HB9EHT, expressed his solidarity with the people of Haiti and offered his condolences to the bereaved victims of the disaster. "The whole world is in shock following the devastation and untold misery caused by the earthquake in Haiti," Dr Touré said. "ITU will do everything possible to provide assistance to the people of Haiti by re-establishing telecommunication links which will be vital in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the days ahead."

"The scope of the disaster clearly shows that the response to this is going to be a long term effort," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "The ARRL has been in contact with communications leaders of the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, as well as other key Amateur Radio operators throughout the region. As teams from the hundreds of responding agencies worldwide are formed for deployment, many will have Amateur Radio components. ARRL is committed to providing communications aid to our served agencies and working with the international community in this time of crisis. At this time there are no known requests from agencies for amateurs to travel to Haiti, but this can change. If it develops that there are ARES® assignments for a deployment in Haiti, these will be vetted and processed through each Section's Section Emergency Coordinators."

The situation in Haiti is still chaotic. More information will be posted as soon as possible. Information is being validated and shared between many amateur groups and news sources as it unfolds.

+ *Public Service: NHC to Provide Greater Lead Time for Watches, Warnings*



Beginning with the 2010 hurricane season, NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas 12 hours earlier than in previous years. According to NHC experts, advancements in track forecasts are making it possible for forecasters to provide greater lead time. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. This is an increase of 12 hours from those issued in previous years. Hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30 in the Eastern Pacific and on June 1-November 30 for the Atlantic Basin.

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

The November 2009 GARC Meeting was called to order by President Bill Engle K5DHY on the 23rd at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Charlie Myers KE5NRF. Introductions were made and we were pleased to have a couple of guests. The minutes were approved as printed in the ARCLite and the Board members made their reports. Both the Garland Police and Fire Departments are accepting applications for their Citizen Academies. These are a great way for us to become more involved in the community and learn about their operations and emergency support functions.

There are a bunch of events announcements, so be sure and check out all of N5TIM John Galvin's public service requests available from the club website (www.k5qhd.org). The three major needs are for Christmas on the Square (practice on Wednesday, Dec 2 and tree lighting on the 3rd), Breakfast with Santa on the 12th, and THE WHITE ROCK MARATHON (yes, it deserves to be in all caps) on Sunday the 13th. (Although all of these have taken place, the two dates to keep in mind now are the Skywarn School in Garland on Saturday February 20, Cowtown Marathon in Ft. Worth on February 27. You may have also noticed we started carrying the banner for Ham-Com, June 11 – 12, on our web site.)

The December monthly meeting will be a Christmas Party at the presidents house on December 5th from 5 to 7 PM. (The only minutes are that the food and company were great and a good time was had by all attending.) There will not be a formal December Board Meeting due to lack of need and the conflict with Breakfast with Santa.

An informative program on High Speed Multi-media (MSMM) on 2.4 GHz and what it takes to get into this aspect of our hobby was given by Bill Engle. Meeting was adjourned well before 9PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Lowell Allen, Jr. KD5RFD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Garland Amateur Radio Club met on Saturday, January 9. Attending were Bill Engel K5DHY, President; Don Reznicek KEFWK, Vice President; Ralph Brown K5WRB, Communications Officer; and Allen Yoder NG5Y, ArcLite Editor. Excused absences were Bob Brunskill KC5GMZ, Treasurer, Lowell Allen KD5RFD, Secretary and George Norwood KE5KDO acting Training Officer.

Bill read the Treasurers and as usual at this time of year, it is a good thing that dues are going to be coming in soon since our balances are lower than we like them to be.

Allen reported that he is continually looking for input from the membership for the ArcLite.

Don reported that the January speaker is Bob Brunskill with a presentation on Disaster Recovery Business Continuity and the February speaker will be Dave Russell W2DMR.

Ralph reported that the tone function on the 442.7 repeater is not functioning and is being worked on.

Bill volunteered to serve on the nominating committee for the March elections and to appoint other members to the committee. Bill also reported that Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Brunskill will do the refreshment stand at the Skywarn School on February 20. Bill will update the display materials for the club's table at Skywarn.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Engel (Acting Secretary)

Build your Ham skills with a new hobby.

Getting Started with Geocaching

Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. A geocacher can place a geocache in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache's existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS device can then try to locate the geocache.



[The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching, Second Edition](#)

Easy Steps to Geocaching geocaching.com

1. Register for a free [Basic Membership](#).
2. Click "Hide & Seek a Cache."
3. Enter your postal code and click "search."
4. Choose any geocache from the list and click on its name.
5. Enter the coordinates of the geocache into your GPS Device.
6. Use your GPS device to assist you in finding the hidden geocache.
7. Sign the logbook and return the geocache to its original location.
8. Share your geocaching stories and photos online.

Now what you ask does this have to do with ham radio? The answer is that it is always possible to get called into an area that has been so damaged that street names no longer apply. If you are skilled at geocaching you will be able to deploy anywhere, or find what no longer exist.

Share Your Experience

- If you take something from the geocache, leave something of equal or greater value.
- Write about your experience in the geocache logbook.
- Place your geocaching stories and photos online. [Learn How to Log Your Find](#).

Upcoming Birthdays

Johnny Davis
James Mullican
Karl Borchardt
Bob Hitch
Bill Reynolds



GARC K5QHD

December 2009

Garland Amateur Radio Club
Emergency Communications Center
(ECC)
1027 Austin Street Suite B.
Garland, TX. 75040-5608
Where Ham Radio is Fun Again!

**K5QHD is the Bill Folsdtadt
Memorial Station**



Donate your excess goods to the GARC. Don't forget the club is a 501(C)(3) organization and that all your donations can be tax deductible.