

# THE REFLECTOR

## Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

August 2015





## Officers 2015

Gary Alberstadt KA3FO President

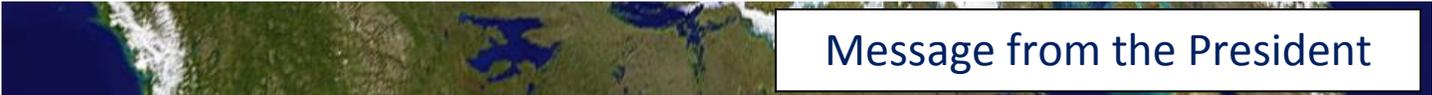
Jimmy Jones KK4ZYC/Wally Gunn KJ4KUK  
Vice Presidents

Eleanor Doering AK4QW Secretary

Bobby Cooper W4MWW Treasurer

Lowell Rieger NY4D Webmaster

William Kornegay WK4WK Newsletter Editor



## Message from the President

We hope everyone enjoyed their break during the month of July. I know we did.

First let's start with a request for prayers and continued healing for Bobby Cooper, W4MWW who has been battling a viral infection in his back and kidneys. Bobby is currently in Camilla Gardens at 804 South Broad Street in Thomasville, Room 9. Bobby requests visitors come later in the day because of his treatments.

Also we were informed the other day that Nell Brown, N4NEL is recuperating with family after suffering injuries in a fall on her birthday, earlier in July. We have no other information at this time.

Now I personally want to thank all those that helped at Field Day back in June. While we had a smaller than normal turnout but a great time and spirited time was had by all present. We ran 3-Alpha, from the Barwick Community Center in Barwick, GA, having four stations available for operation including the GOTA Station. The stations consisted of Alan Slaughter, KG4GAV in charge of the Digital station on his TS-990, Jimmy Jones, KK4ZYC was in charge of the GOTA Station operating his FT-857, Bobby Moody, W4WSZ, ran the club's TS-480SAT, and Ralph, WA2OGN and Bud, AB0UD were in charge of the remaining station, Ralph's Icom. We had many operators throughout the period including several recently licensed hams making their first contacts. One of the brightest note I think was when we had a several hams who had been licensed for several years finally made their first ever contacts and got a real introduction to Amateur Radio. To make sure I don't forget anyone, here is a list of those who helped with setup and helped make the TARC Field day a success. Bud AB0UD, Ralph WA2OGN, Bob W4WSZ, Alan KG4GAV, Gerald KJ4CQO, Steve KD4YUS, Jimmy KK4ZYC, Daniel KK4ZYB, Wally KJ4KUK, Landon KI4QVZ, Stewart KJ4GOJ, Paul N7SDQ, Virgil KJ4ZNK, and Russell KF4GBS were all on hand, as well as some non hams (who were there to just help out and learn about our hobby) to help put up antennas and run feed lines and in general helped get the 4 stations on the air.

All the operators and workers were provided with food and drink during the period including Hot Dogs and Chips and Potato Salad, Steaks and Baked Potato's on the grille served with Baked Beans. Jimmy cooked Bacon, Eggs and Grits for Sunday morning breakfast. To the cooks and those that helped provide food for the operational event.. Thanks!!!! All in all I think we all had a great and successful day.

The VE Team, headed by Alan, KG4GAV, conducted testing starting about 11:00 Saturday morning with those testing being successful. During the month of July we also started new Emergency Communications Nets, starting on Tuesday's at 7:30pm the Grady County Emergency Communications Group started their net on the 145.170, Reno machine. The Colquitt County Emergency Communications Group has their net at 8:30pm, also on Tuesday evening on the 146.790 (pl 141.3). On Thursday evening the Thomas County Emergency Communications Group has their net on the 147.240, (pl 141.3) Boston machine. This net is also at 7:30pm, prior to the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club Thursday Evening Net which starts at 8:00pm.(Starting in August)

Repeater Report: Work on the Boston Machine continues. A slow work in progress, but almost complete. \_As for the Metcalf machine... All I can tell you is truthfully we do not know. \_We are at the mercy of the system that controls the climbs on the tower. We are bring told when a climb is scheduled our old stuff will be brought down. When a climb is scheduled our new stuff will be put into place. Being as the repeater has been off the air this long, we will wait and keep looking at other options. Your suggestions are welcomed.

### Classes:

Radio classes will start July 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 am till 4 pm, and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 9am till 4 pm. Classes and testing are free. The only charge is for the books.

I think that is all from here for now. Hope to see you all at the meeting August 1<sup>st</sup>, At the Hibachi Grille, 6pm for dinner, 7pm meeting.

de Gary, KA3FZO & Lori



## Message from the Vice President

Well another field day has come and gone.

I would like to thank all that had a hand in the setting up and running of field day. I think Mike would be proud of us, and how much we got done over the long weekend. It was fun and there are a lot of things that we can do to make it better. We can talk about at them at the next club meeting in August.

We missed those that were not able to come, for whatever reason and hope they will be able to be there next year. I can't wait till next field day. If you have never done a field day come out next year and join us and have some fun and play radio.

73's de kj4kuk Wally VP

## June Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on Saturday of June 6, 2015 , at the Hibachi Grille in Thomasville, GA. The Co-Vice President , Jimmy Jones KK4ZYC presided. There were 8 members present.

**Health & Welfare :** We had a moment of silence and were very sad to learn of a Silent Key by the passing of John Culppey, KD4EKS from Madison, FL

**May minutes and treasurer's report:** Jimmy gave the treasurer's report since Bobby could not attend as he had some health issues and his doctor wants him to stay in bed. AB0UD Bud Sheib motioned to accept the report and the minutes and Ralph Harvey WA2OGN second it.

**Enrichment & Educational:** Andy Clark NX4AC will have a Ham radio college at the EOC on Remington Ave. Saturday June 13, 2015, 9:30 am for anyone who may be interested. You would learn about the history of ham radio and learn about the frequencies, UHF, VHF, HF, all the modes, antennas and necessary things you need to for a station.

**Old Business:** ARES , the Hospital drill went well and there was a good turnout , Grady County had the highest number of hours. The net numbers are still low and Virgil only had him and Amy across the room when he was on UHF last week. We may have the ARES net in July and are talking about changing the time.

On the repeaters , the building of the repeater system continues and Boston still needs the antenna moved and we are still waiting for the climb to the Metcalf repeater so we can remove the old and install the new machine. The Boston repeater is working better and we have learned about the machine enough to be able to do the Metcalf without having to go up and down to fix something.

The Peacock Parade in Pavo went well, Andy came by and gave us some brochures on Ham Radio and free pens, cups, sunglasses etc. to give out to interest spectators in our radio club. Gerald had a booth set up for us, what a great guy, and had his golf cart available for those working the parade route. There were about 11 of us there to help out. The lady who brought the Peacock was unhappy about her place being moved but otherwise everyone was very nice and we all had a great time.

**New Business:** We all hope Gary will be there for Field Day, June 27 & 28. Bring something if you want more than the hotdogs, the filters were bought to alleviate the interference between the radios on other frequencies. Jimmy brought paper for us to sign up yes or no to field day and Wally suggested we send out email to recruit e others who weren't here for this meeting. And Jimmy said he would. They brought up Dewey for the GOTA Station since he does it well and Virgil does know how to get in touch with him. Virgil said Dewey is very busy and don't know if he would have the time. I think Gary said 3 stations and the GOTA. They are wondering who has the antennas and some said there was a long wire and Buddy had his antenna. They plan to task Gary when he returns. Jimmy asked if there is anything else from the floor and Bud Sheib said he had a single speed bicycle for sale and he said we could find his email on QRZ from his call AB0UD. There was nothing else so the meeting was adjourned.

Eleanor- secretary



A reminder the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club will sponsor the weekly Amateur Radio Emergency Services Nets.

Grady County will host the ARES Net at 7:30 pm (local time) on Tuesday evenings. For now, on the 145.17 Reno machine.

Thomas County will host the ARES Net at 7:30 pm (local time) on Thursday evenings, for now, on the 147.24 Boston machine.



As you may have seen in the last email, We are now offering FREE testing for amateur radio licenses! How? I'm glad you asked. The FCC does not charge for the licensing service. VEC groups such as the ARRL and W5YI set their fees based on a 'not to exceed' amount agreed upon by all of the VEC groups. Currently W5YI is \$14, ARRL is \$15. The local VE teams get to keep a portion of that fee to cover their expenses, the rest goes to the VEC group for their processing fee. We found a group that does not charge any processing fees.

<http://www.laurelvec.com/> The sponsoring club agrees to cover administrative costs or printing and postage, and the VEC simply forwards the info to the FCC for free. Instead of the local VE team sending the paperwork to the VEC to process, the team enters it into the computer itself and at the end of the session, they send that file via email to a regional processor. We still send in the paper tests for them to have on file for verification. It takes a little more time for the local VE team leader, but it is worth it. Currently, all of our printing is donated, and the postage for the sessions is less than \$2 per session.

Laurel also utilizes regional processors to verify and forward their files to the FCC. This means that the workload is distributed, rather than sent to a single location for processing like ARRL and W5YI do. This makes the process much faster; Laurel has the license on the FCC site sometimes within 48 hours! We hope that by removing the expense to get licensed, it will open doors for many more to enter into this exciting hobby. It also gives the Club great exposure; there are no other clubs in the area offering free testing. Perhaps they will invest that \$15 into a club membership or their first radio.

We need your help. We need VE's willing to volunteer an hour of 2 of time once a month for testing. There is no fee to be a VE, just fill out the application attached, scan and email it back to [kg4gav@gmail.com](mailto:kg4gav@gmail.com). If you don't have a scanner, contact me and I will arrange to pick it up. We prefer to have Advanced or Extra class as VE's since they can test at all levels, but if you are a General, you can also sign up, but are limited to candidates you can score. You can be a VE for all of the groups, there is no exclusivity.

If you have not completed an application for Laurel, you need to do one, even if you are already ARRL and/or W5YI.

If you have any questions or need more info, please feel free to contact Alan Slaughter. [kg4gav@gmail.com](mailto:kg4gav@gmail.com) or 850-933-1574.

Alan Slaughter kg4gav



## What can be done with Amateur Radio – PART 1

This is NX4AC – Andy Clark in the Pineboro shack trying to list the top ten things we can do with amateur radio. Often we are asked about amateur radio and what can we do with it that makes it exciting to use. The question is a fair one and requires a good answer. If you were to say “Anything” you would be correct but also leaving a lot of information on the table. Over the next few months I will try and answer the question “What is a ham and what do they do?”

The top ten list has no real order for me but some people like to prioritize their experiences and place everything into a neat cubbyhole. I’m too disorganized to play like that, so I’ll just start on the list as it comes up. If the order bothers you, hang on it will change soon enough. That’s the beauty of Amateur Radio, it’s always changing.

Number one on my list is being able to talk around town. I simply like 2 meters, it is the first real exposure to amateur radio most get to experience. Usually the audio is clear and strong enough to be heard in noisy environments. Squelch controls are used without impunity and if you can hear them you can work them. Our local friends are on 2 meters and we can talk pretty much anytime. The use of repeaters makes longer distance communications possible.

Being able to “hit” the local repeater from a particular location becomes almost a sport in its self. These users of the repeaters are normally called “ker-chunkers”, they key their radio with the general notion to see if the repeater is operating or if their location, radio power level, and antenna combination is working. I’m not real sure that an unmodulated signal and courtesy beep afterwards is using the radio, but a lot of people like to activate the repeater, apparently just to hear the beep of the repeater ending the transmission. Anytime you key up the repeater you must identify, even if you are testing to see if you can get into the machine. 'KOABC testing" or simply "KOABC" is sufficient. Ask for a signal report if needed.

The bottom line is this, don’t ker-chunk the repeater. If someone is monitoring the repeater, they may think that a user cannot quite make the repeater function. Or worse, that one of their friends or anyone else has a possible life threatening situation and can’t speak. Real emergencies require communications in any manner possible, don’t cause other’s to be annoyed. It’s very much like the story of the boy who cried wolf and people ignored him. Don’t cause the good people to lose compassion and stop monitoring the repeater because somebody is playing at being a radioman. Besides that, its illegal, you can’t transmit without identifying with your call sign. The FCC requires that you identify at least once every ten minutes and at the end of your contact.

To start a contact, indicate that you are on frequency or even give a short call to another station you wish work. "KOABC monitoring" is the usual short message if you aren't calling a certain station. If no one answers back, no further transmission on your part is necessary. Derogatory phrases like "There's never anyone on this repeater", "negative contact" or "nothing heard" have no purpose and should be avoided. When you're done with your QSO, sign off with "KOABC clear", "KOABC monitoring" or just "KOABC."

Make transmissions short and thoughtful, long winded soliloquys may prevent another from reporting some emergency traffic. Remember, most repeaters have a timer to keep us from talking to long. If the repeater shuts off during your transmission, you are talking extensively. Remember to pause between transmissions to allow someone else to use the repeater if necessary. Be courteous.

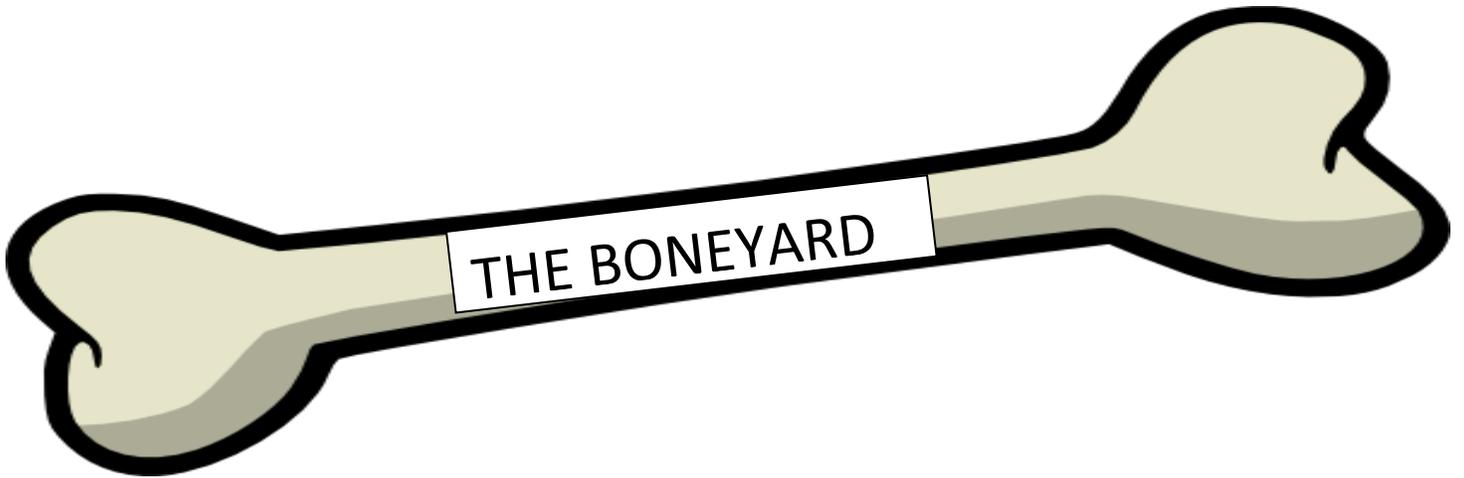
Don't break into a QSO unless you have something to add. The exception on most repeaters is the morning and evening commutes, where hams are encouraged to join in the conversations. Remember, interrupting is just as impolite on the air as it is in person. Don't acknowledge or encourage any station causing malicious interference. If necessary, telephone or email a Control Operator or trustee.

Support the repeaters you use. Almost all of the local repeaters are open. However, if a non-club-member is a regular user, he or she should join the supporting club to help support the repeater. Remember, it costs a lot of money to run any repeater system we enjoy.

There, I've listed a few do's and don'ts for the 2 meter radio operator. I am also sure that there are more than this short list of items about 2 meter radio. We didn't even discuss nets and such, but we will later. We should all get on our 2 meter rigs and have a good ole QSO and show that we are professional amateurs of radio.

73 and good DX

Andy Clark – NX4AC

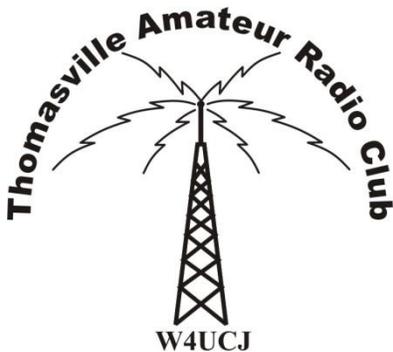


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Contact William at [wk4wk@comcast.net](mailto:wk4wk@comcast.net)