

**THE**

# CONNECTOR

**SERVING HAMS IN THE NEWNAN, GA AREA**

**VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2**

The Connector is sponsored and published by the Bill Gremillion Memorial Radio Club (BGMRC) of Newnan, GA. This newsletter is available to BGMRC members and anyone else interested in Amateur Radio.

For anyone interested in becoming a member of the BGMRC or becoming a licensed Amateur Radio Operator (Ham), please visit our website [here](#). You may also wish to follow us on [Facebook](#).

The BGMRC typically meets the fourth Thursday of the month (be sure to check our website and Facebook to verify if there is a meeting that month) at the Golden Corral located at 605 Bullsboro Dr., Newnan, GA. You may use the QR code to the right to get directions on your phone. The meeting starts at 7 PM however members and guests often meet for dinner starting at 6 PM.



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**From the President  
Larry Chappell  
WX4LEC**

Greetings From HamCation

Nothing is better than a trip to Florida in the middle of winter. This was the second year in a row that I had the good fortune of getting to visit what has become the 2nd largest Ham Fest in the country. Some say that this may soon take over as Numero Uno. This year's trip was special, my wife Phyllis (WX4PVC) went with me to her first "big" ham fest.

My big reason for going to HamCation was to buy my long awaited IC 7610. I had first heard, about a year ago that ICOM was coming out with a SDR with knobs world. I had seen a prototype at Dayton/Xenia last May. Alas, it was not a fully functional model. I had been anxiously reading everything I could find on this new rig. It was due to hit the US market in October but did not make its appearance until Thanksgiving. I had planned and hoped the initial street price would moderate some by the time HamCation rolled around and I guessed right. To my dear wife's credit, since she was standing right beside me when the HRO

*(continued on page 4)*



### Repeater Status

- 145.130 -- **Online**  
BGMRC Primary Repeater
- 146.790 -- **Online**  
ARES and System Fusion  
WIRES-X - WA4TAW
- 147.165 -- **Online**  
Skywarn Linked Repeater
- 442.250 -- **Online**  
Madras Repeater
- 441.875 -- **Offline**  
Coweta County EOC
- 145.110 -- **Online**  
Douglasville Repeater
- 147.360 -- **Offline**  
Douglasville Repeater
- 444.575 -- **Offline**  
Douglasville Repeater
- WX4SKY-R Echolink Node  
ID 753461

More information about our repeaters can be found [Here](#).

This column will discuss any issues and other concerns about our repeaters. Over the next couple of months all of our repeaters will be tested and evaluated to determine what is needed to keep them running smoothly.



### Editors Corner by Scott Royle KK4Z

Here we are; a new newsletter, a new format, and a new editor. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as editor. My first column may be a little long-winded as I introduce myself and the newsletter. Afterwards, I plan on being more concise with the column moved to a back page.

I have been a HAM for almost 23 years. I was first licensed in Shreveport Louisiana with the call sign KC5RKS. About a year later I upgraded to Advanced Class and received the callsign KM5AV. During that period I was active in ARES, contesting, DX, and the local club. At one time I enjoyed CW and my code speed was somewhere around 18-20 wpm. After several job-related moves I ended up in Newnan. For a while I was chided for my "5" call. I decided to upgrade my license to Amateur Extra and get a "4" call of my choosing.. I applied for and received my current call sign KK4Z which I have had for 15 years.

My interests in Amateur Radio include ragchewing, running nets, and playing with digital modes. I hope in the near future to get my CW chops back and take a stab at QRP.

*(continued on page 3)*



Bouvet Island DXpedition 3Y0Z. Unfortunately it appears Bouvet Island will remain out of reach for awhile. To find out more about the DXpedition click [Here](#).

### Propagation [Space Weather Woman](#)

[NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center Radio Communications Dashboard](#)

Inograms -- Look for Wallops Island [Here](#)

Paul Herrman's (NONBH) site [HF Propagation](#)

### Radio Sport [Contesting.com Calendar](#)

ARRL [Contest Calendar](#)

The next "Big" contest coming up is the International DX Phone March 3-4. A little further down the road is the IARU HF World Championship July 14-15.

We also have the ongoing ARRL International Grid Chase 2018. For a contact to qualify, logs must be uploaded to Logbook of the World no later than the 10th of the following month. For more information about the Grid Chase please click [here](#).

*(Editors Corner from page 1)*

I am still active in EmComm, serve as an ARRL Official Emergency Station, and my church communication group.

I currently work part time as an independent real estate appraiser. Prior to that I was an appraiser working for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Washington DC. I worked for the chief appraiser as an analyst and policy writer for the Home Loan Program until I retired from Federal service in November and moved back to Newnan. Besides amateur radio, I enjoy writing (non-fiction), photography, music (ukulele), and shooting. I have 5 children but currently reside with my wife Mary K4SEZ, my special needs daughter Summer and our spoiled dog Buster. Prior to moving to Virginia 3 years ago we lived in Newnan for 15 years.

I hope everyone will find the newsletter interesting. I chose the title "The Connector" because I wanted a title that had a common thread in almost all aspects of amateur radio. In other words, I want this to be an inclusive newsletter; a place where we all connect. My knowledge is limited so if you don't see your interests represented here--please submit an article. If you are not a great author, no worries, I will help you and together we will get your thoughts on paper. My only caveat is we stay away from offensive or overly controversial subjects. This is a family oriented publication designed for all ages to read. I am going  
*(continued)*

*(Editors Corner Continued)*

to try to have several regular columns as well as feature articles, but I need your help. I get stale pretty quick; the newsletter needs fresh ideas and points of view--so please volunteer as you can.

Enjoy the newsletter. Submissions and letters to the editor can be sent to: sroyle@gmail.com.



**By Scott Marlowe WX4SKY**

Public safety and Public service have been a large part of HAM radio since it's inception. I have recently been pondering the role that HAM radio plays in today's public service arena. I have tried to create a realistic picture of the ways that HAM radio are and could be integrated into public communication solutions. As I have surveyed the landscape in my mind, the stereotypical image of a guy sending a CW message when all other forms of communication have failed keeps coming to mind. When all else fails we still have HAM radio.

The thing that keeps standing out to me is that for 30 years all public forms of communications have been pushing forward and advancing while HAM has stayed basically the same. There is nothing wrong with being a rock solid fallback communications solution BUT,  
*(continued next column)*

*(Public Safety continued)*

as other systems advance, the probability of HAM being utilized in a public safety/service roles diminishes. HAM radio has a basis in experimentation and finding new ways to communicate. We as HAM operators are communicators. A communicator is defined as a station of voice, CW, data, digital modes and basically any other form of communication legal within the HAM realm.

So, we can keep our antennas up, our radios on standby, and if some event occurs that levels Coweta County we can be ready to jump in and help because we may be the only people able to communicate. But, realistically (and hopefully) that's probably going to be a long, long wait.

So what is the answer? Do we sit back and wait for some super catastrophe and become the primary form of communication just because we are all that is left? Personally I don't think HAM radio should be defined solely as the best form of communication when you absolutely, positively have no other options. Does everything have to completely collapse before HAM becomes a viable option? Realistically, what is the probability that a failure of this magnitude will occur? And finally, when a catastrophic event occurs in the future, will HAM be the go-to backup or will new technology like Satellite communications carry the day?

Communicators around the world are experimenting and  
*(continued page 4)*



D-Star One Phoenix, the first D-Star Communication Spacecraft was part of a Soyuz rocket payload that launched Feb. 1. For more information see [ARRL D-Star One Phoenix](#).

*(From the President page 1)* guy announced the price, she didn't bat an eye. I had just purchased the last of only two IC-7610's available. I did a happy dance and went a picked up the necessary cables to connect the new rig to my PR40 Heil mike and my amp. My first day at HamCation was a success.

One thing I like to do at the big ham fests is to attend the educational forums. It gives me a way to stay on top of what's coming down the pike in the Ham radio world. DMR was a SRO event for the second year. This is probably one of the fastest growing segments of our hobby. I think primarily due to its low cost of entry and features. Phyllis even enjoyed the presentation. She is a IT sales rep so she is a little geeky around the edges herself.

We headed home early Sunday to avoid the rush and since you didn't have to be present to win the grand prize, why not. Phyllis said she enjoyed the ham fest and would go again. So what better, a new rig and  
*(continued next column)*

*(from Public Safety page 3)* testing SAT comms being integrated into a ham networks. MESH networks installed over large areas that provide "internet style" communications WITHOUT an internet connection and all transmissions are sent across HAM frequencies. Drone deployed temporary repeaters were used in Puerto Rico by several of the telecom companies. The point of all of this is that technology has come a long way in the past 30 years. We as HAMS have always been considered the innovators and experimenters, so do we wait for a collapse or do we innovate?

*Scott Marlowe, WX4SKY is the Public Service Coordinator for the BGMRC.*



CW as a mode is still very popular in amateur radio. You can still find people ragchewing, contesting, DXing and passing traffic. The language of CW is universal in nature allowing operators to communicate even though they do not speak the same language. For more [info](#).

*(From the President)* a happy wife. Not going to be able to make it to HamVention this year due to a scheduled New York City trip that same weekend. Look out Huntsville, we will be there.



This is a column for eclectic or weird science. Mostly factual but maybe considered stuff for the "Tin Hat" crowd. Most of all a place that is fun and thought provoking.

Over the past couple of months I have been reading about pole reversal. Where the magnetic poles of our planet swap ends.

While at first this seems rather benign, there could be some significant hazards as the reversal could affect our magnetosphere. More information can be found [here](#).

When you think of pictures, you may think of kids and crayons. Harvard scientists are working on a new pictorial mathematical language. Check it out [here](#).

Last year brought the discovery of a new prime number. Prime numbers seem to find their way into all walks of life. Many times we hear about prime numbers and cryptography. To read more about primes go [here](#).

Lastly for all those that are concerned about electromagnetic pulse (EMP) may find this article interesting: [EMP Hoax](#).

That's it for this issue. If you find a piece of interesting science, Email it to me at [sroyle@gmail.com](mailto:sroyle@gmail.com)