

# The Alabama – Georgia Amateur Radio Update Newsletter

November 21, 2002

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Edition no 136

Edited by Jerry Hemby, W1NRA

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Hello again for the end of November.

Club news:

The Columbus Club will have our Christmas (December) meeting at Chef Lee's on Whitesville Rd, on Thursday night, Dec, 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited.

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The East Alabama ARC will have a December dinner meeting as well.

Waynes restaurant , HWY 51, Beauregard Alabama, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm cent time, talk-in on 147.12 repeater.

**They will be drawing for an**

**Alinco 605t dual band radio. Tickets will be 5 bucks each or 5 for 20 bucks (American). Nice radio, I could use that one.**

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Sean Anderson, KR4YO, sends his regards to everyone from California. He may be stationed in South Carolina soon so we may hear more from him.

Sean let me hear from you when you can.

Other military folks keep us up to date on where you are stationed and what's going on with you and your families.

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EAARC meeting the other night. We had an interesting talk about station grounding and lightning protection from Terry Harper, KA4Y  
Thanks Terry I enjoyed the talk very much.

There were several folks who passed their tests. I think two passed their Technician tests and one passed the code test and as he has passed the written tests for General and Extra, he is now an Extra class. **Larry, Westric, K4LRW, IS THE NEW EXTRA CLASS, congratulations Larry..**

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I've been trying to work the Space Station last week or so but no luck. I hear voice on their freq now and all I've heard for over a year is packet. They are on the same frequency. I heard one of the Russians the other night and I heard the American female also. Very clear audio but from their conversations, It sounds like they are using pl for their receive and as I can't hear the other stations, I can't get the pl to use.

They are on 145.800 and use an odd offset for the uplink. The offset is minus 1.2 meg. I hear them almost every day and usually every few hours. Their orbit period is about 1 hour and 35 – 40 minutes. I figured the reason I've been hearing the voice is that they have some free time while they wait for the shuttle which has been delayed for a couple of weeks. It is scheduled for launch tomorrow pm I think.

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There is a warning from Microsoft about a fix at their internet site for a fault in their windows programs, up to win

98 and 2000 I think. Might want to go to their site and get the fix. It is to repair a security problem that lets hackers have an easy way into your computer.

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Also, If you get a VIRUS WARNING that tells you to check for a certain .exe file on your computer and if you find it to delete it because it is a virus or contains a virus. **DON'T DO IT!** This is just a trick to get folks to delete a file that their computer needs to operate properly. If you delete this file, your computer will fail to function properly. It is an easy matter to find the file on someone else's computer and copy it back to yours but you shouldn't have to do it.

This same type warning came out a year or so ago and a lot of folks will fall for it for sure. **IF YOU RUN A GOOD VIRUS SCANNING PROGRAM, YOU WILL CATCH THE VIRUS'S THAT COME THROUGH THE INTERNET** before they can do any damage to your computer.

Yahoo and some other mail services scan the mail before you get it and they will usually find virus's for you but you should have a good virus program on your computer for your own protection. There are several good programs and you can buy them at places like office depot or office max etc. They can be updated over the internet and the upgrade costs maybe 10 or 15 bucks a year. I use Norton and it has done a

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good job for me. I have it set to scan once a week or if I

see anything suspicious, I'll run it anytime.

One thing to look for is in your e mail, if you receive any mail that you do recognize where it is from or the subject sounds kinda weird, DELETE IT. If the file size is something like over 100K, DELETE IT. Most email is somewhere around 2 to 6 or 8 k in size, without attachments, so anything much over that size and with a suspicious address or subject should be suspect and probably DELETED.

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John Wingard has started the QSL card display at the clubhouse and it looks pretty good so far. Bring your QSL CARD and give it to John and he will put yours in the display also.

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The school district folks have cut the grass around the clubhouse but if anyone has a free hour or so and a good weed eater, you might go out and trim around the building and it will look a lot better. The only thing that looks bad is the weeds growing up the walls and all the weeds around the front porch. This also gives cover to the folks who hang around down there at night. There were some broken bricks thrown up on the porch the other night.

Even though we get the building at a good price... It sure would be nice if one day

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the club could have a really decent place to meet and a

place where we could maybe put up a couple of antennas and not have to worry about it being stolen before we could get home that night.

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It looks like the city could find one of the many empty buildings around the city that they use for nothing else and could let us use it for our activities due to the fact that the club members put up many thousands of dollars of their equipment and provide many hours of operation time during any emergency that might occur. I'm sure the fire department has some meeting/training rooms where we could meet and this would also put us, The Ham Radio Community and the Fire Dept, EMS folks in a better position to see what the other one is doing to provide services to the city and county population during these emergency times that are sure to come.

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Probably, if the city did furnish us a place to meet, we would have to all carry firearms and need guard dogs just so we could get on the property. I figure maybe in the center of Baker Village about where they did have a police station. Of course almost anywhere in south Columbus is about the same now. Sure not like it used to be, like say back in the 60's.

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I don't know how many of you know, but we have found

drug needles and other "stuff" on the porch of the

clubhouse where we meet now. Somebody lives under the house sometimes and there's always piles of newspapers around the front of the house and under the back of the house. I guess that just anytime, if we have a real cold spell, they may do like some other places and build a fire under the house to stay warm and burn the house down. I guess, as it is hard to even see the house from the road and especially this time of the year and because we only use it one night a month that the local "animal" population sees it as their meeting place. I've never seen a police car on the property or anybody else as far as security goes. Didn't the school district use to have roving security folks who checked on the schools and other property of theirs? That too probably went the way of more budget cuts and layoffs.

Oh well, I guess we have been lucky that there hasn't been any more damage to the clubhouse. One of the back windows has been almost completely broken out but that is the only major damage that I've seen.

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That's about it for this edition.

Hope to see many of you at the Christmas dinner meetings. Listen to the nets for details.

Cul, de Jerry Hemby,  
WINRA, 73

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I just received this additional information.

Some of the Auburn students are going to release a balloon Saturday Dec, 23<sup>rd</sup> with an APRS transmitter attached. You can track the “orbiter” if you have APRS or you can track it on the internet using the tracking page at [findu.com](http://findu.com)

Launch time is scheduled for around 7am sat morning from Eufaula Alabama.

The call letters for the APRS trackers haven't been posted yet so we may not know in time to track it. They may use K4RY-???