



## *Linear Lines for February 2009*

Welcome to the Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) newsletter. It is published to serve you! We hope you find it informative, useful, and maybe even a little entertaining. The newsletter is dependant on information submitted by its readers, so please get to work and start sending us information you think others would like to read to [smeyer1@sc.rr.com](mailto:smeyer1@sc.rr.com).

### **Cheryl, (K4CAF) Missed By All**

AI4SX

The TARC Club suffered a major loss when Cheryl, (K4CAF) passed away from heart complications suddenly at home early last January. Our loss isn't because she was the club secretary, but because she was a leader. Some people go through life flying under the radar, laying low, and sitting in the crowd. Not Cheryl, she was up front greeting us with a smile, and getting things done. She worked behind many scenes such as our board meetings, weighing issues and providing valuable insight and just plain common sense to our officers. At anytime, if something needed done she made sure it was taken care of and many times took care of it herself. She was the club secretary twice and was also our QSL manager. She put together the club's Christmas party last year and made sure we all went home with good feelings and cheer. She was a great friend and I know we will all miss her. Ham radio, Dave, and her family lost a great person.

### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Charleston Hamfest News**

Bob, AI4SX

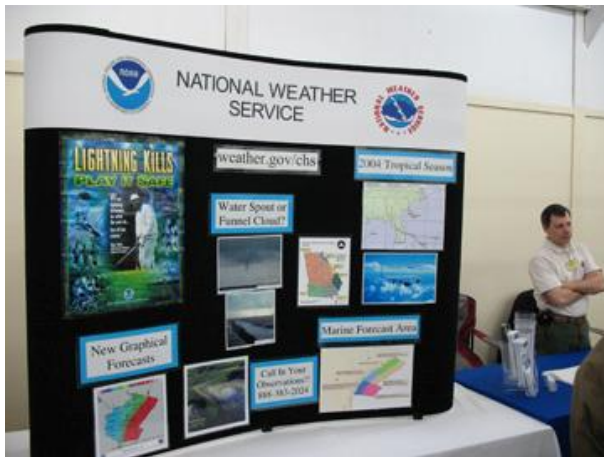
The Charleston Amateur Radio Society (CARS) put together another successful hamfest at Ladson SC. The event was held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the things that set it apart from other hamfests was all the smiling faces greeting you as you pulled into the parking lot. It sure helped to set the tone for such a friendly and sociable event, Southern hospitality at its finest. The turnout was reported to be almost exactly the same for this event as last year's. The weather was great! Please see the pictures below.



Welcome smiles and great weather, Greg (KI4TVA) Ken (AG4IM), and Greg (WA7TSP).



Joe (NV4I) makes a deal while Ed (K3IXD) keeps an eye out for bargains.



The National Weather Service was a popular source of information.



Darrell's (KB7QVG) emergency operations display featuring the Tropical Storm Hanna, Cainho Shelter Station.



Terry (WB4JFI) had a complete and working software defined radio station. Very nice!



Someone who knows how to live life! Thanks for the lesson Vince.

## Orlando HamCation Report

Bob, AI4SX

Here are some news and pictures from the 2009 Orlando HamCation, sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club that was held on February 13th, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15th. I hope that this information is useful for future planning.

It takes about 7 hours to drive to Orlando from Charleston. I departed Charleston after work on Friday and spent the night in Jacksonville FL. It was an easy drive and I was checked into my hotel by just after 9 PM. The next day it took about 2 hours to drive to the hamfest and I arrived too early! They don't open their doors until 9 AM on Saturday.

I hit the outdoor flea market first and looked at the goodies until I needed a break from the sun. After that I spent about an hour inside the main building looking at major vender displays. They had Flex Radio Systems, ICOM, and Elecraft there just to name a few. It was pretty neat to see the Flex Radios in action. While taking some pictures, I ran into a longtime friend from my Air Force days, Bob (W8LCZ) who was helping with the event. We had a quick lunch of Bar-B-Que from one of several food stands. Then I checked out another building with even more vendors and an indoor flea market. By the time I finished I had spent about 5 hours not including lunch just trying to see everything.



Above: An amazing person and antenna expert, Walter Maxwell W2DU, bottom row, center. Please check out his pages on QRZ and [www.w2du.com](http://www.w2du.com)



Above: An interior shot of the building that housed most of the major vendors. There where 2 more buildings like this one. This picture shows just a small part of the building.



Above: A well equipped EOC station. The tailgater area is behind it.

## **Skip Teller (KH6TY) Demonstrates 2 Meter FM Digital Station**

The TARC club was given a cutting edge presentation by Skip this month when he brought in a complete VHF FM digital station set-up. The entire station was composed of a 2-meter mobile rig, power supply, laptop, interface, and a very compact antenna. It could be carried by one person and was completely portable. The station is inexpensive because the interface can be built for less than 20 dollars, the antenna also can be built for under 20 dollars, and the software is free. If you have a 2 meter FM rig and a PC you are in business. He currently has an article about this technology in the March issue of QST on page 95 and several more will be published in the next couple of months. The demonstrated station had a 30 mile range even at a 10 foot antenna height. With the substitution of another home made 4 element quad antenna, mounted at about 23 feet (still portable and about 20 bucks) the range can be extended to about 100 miles. This technology is important to us because it provides a new communication capability using rigs we already own, and it increases our station's range in the event of repeater unavailability. It also has the additional benefit of providing text communications that can be forwarded as needed. He is currently the net control operator of 2 meter FM digital net that is using Domino EX 8. For further net information please see the bottom of this newsletter. This technology won't replace repeater systems but is a powerful means to communicate when the chips are down, or when we need a different method.

Skip sends the following message:

Hello everybody,

Here are the links to construction of the Compact Quad antenna and the FM Transceiver interface.

Both links are on my website at <http://kh6ty.home.comcast.net> at the bottom.

Interface: <http://home.comcast.net/~kh6ty/interface/>

Antenna: <http://kh6ty.home.comcast.net/AtticQuad/>

The software, fldigi, is available from [www.w1hkj.com/NBEMS](http://www.w1hkj.com/NBEMS) as well an explanation of the NBEMS program.

If anybody wants to come to Mt. Pleasant and use my drill press, or get some free wire or a SO-239 (courtesy of the net), they are welcome to do so. In addition, I should receive some commercial FM Transceiver Interface circuit boards soon, which I will make available for \$5.00 and a SASE or pickup in Mt. Pleasant.

If anyone needs help getting on FM DX, just email me at [kh6ty@comcast.net](mailto:kh6ty@comcast.net)

Everyone is invited to listen to our net at 145.000 MHz at 9 PM on Sundays and 8 PM on Wednesdays. As I demonstrated at the meeting, you can just run fldigi and place the computer microphone next to the FM transceiver speaker and decode the Net. Better yet, just run an audio

cable from the transceiver earphone jack to the computer microphone or Line input and you will not have to listen to the DominoEx 8 sounds.

73, Skip

## **Guess the Ham Terms**

AI4SX

If any of the following guessing games sound familiar let me know the source. If you have a good one, send it in. I would like to publish all the guesses either right or wrong. I think the answers would be entertaining.

### **Last month's hints were:**

It can recover signal information in two components (one with a 90 degree difference) or it can find intelligence. Answer, I-Q Detector

The Intrepid and the Yorktown used to make them. Answer, Carrier Wave

A yagi has it and so does a bossy spouse. Answer, Directivity

### **This month's hints are:**

A receiver type that could "re-grow" on you.

An all female Navy division guide would be one.

A type of plastic insulated transmission line with rectangular holes.

## **Please send me your Net and VHF/UHF News!**

If it is not listed here you didn't submit it!

**VHF Digital Net**, net control is Skip (KH6TY).

Drop in and visit the net (2100 Sunday, 2000 Wednesday, 145.000.) No repeater or SSB radio is required! Just run DominoEx8 on your FM rig! If you need any help running DominoEx8 email Skip or contact Bob (AI4SX).

See you all soon.

73, Bob, AI4SX