



## Chipola Amateur Radio Club

# CARC

Newsletter

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### REPEATERS

146.670 –  
147.045+, 123CG  
444.950+, 123CG

#### CLUB NET

Our club, along with the Jackson County ARES, sponsors a net every Monday night at 7 PM on 146.670-.

#### CLUB EVENTS

May 20<sup>th</sup>, Club Meeting  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, Meeting/Test Session  
July 15<sup>th</sup>, Club Meeting

#### OTHER EVENTS

Jun 28-29, ARRL Field Day  
Jul 11-12, Milton Hamfest  
Oct 18-19, JOTA

#### CLUB OFFICERS

##### President

Gary Brown, WW4JDO

##### Vice President

Brent Gay, KF4JZY

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Hagan, WO4J

#### CLUB OFFICIALS

##### Repeaters Coordinator

Jeff Hagan, WO4J

##### 146.670 Repeater Trustee

Jeff Hagan, WO4J

##### 147.045 Repeater Trustee

Bill Everitt, KG4ZJT

##### 444.950 Repeater Trustee

Danny Tipton, KN4UC

##### Yahoo Moderator

Wayne Espey, KB4AAC

##### Echolink Moderator

Bill Everitt, KG4ZJT

##### Newsletter Editor

Gary Brown, WW4JDO

##### Web Master

Gary Brown, WW4JDO

#### NET CONTROL OPERATORS

May, WO4J

June, WW4JDO

July, KG4ZJT

#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi folks. Jeff, Bill, Brent and I got in a conversation on the radio the other day about things of God. It was a good conversation with all of us providing input on various aspects of Christianity. When it was all done I pondered what God thought about us using the technology He gave us to discuss His word. You see we were literally spreading His word around a 30 or so mile radius around Marianna. I couldn't help but think it brought Him a smile. I personally thank the Lord for the technology that enables us to have our hobby. Oh what perfect plans He had when He made electromagnetism. And He knew when He made it eons before radios were invented that someday we would use it for radio communication and lots of other things. Amen. Speaking of things God made, lightning is the subject of the rest of the newsletter. 73

Gary, WW4JDO

#### Lightning Protection

Well it won't be long before those familiar afternoon thunder showers are upon us. And of course where there's thunder there's lightning. The old enemy that we as radio operators grapple with each year. We have so much lightning around here that chances are fair that you'll lose something to lightning this year even without that metal thing we call an antenna sticking up in the air. The best protection of course is to disconnect everything before a storm. However, that may not be an option or we may be away from the shack when a storm blows up. So the next best thing is to have your equipment protected from a strike as best you can. The starting point is a good grounding system. Your home or shack should have a single ground point with everything tied to it. Some make the mistake of putting in a ground rod at their tower and then not tying that ground into the house ground. What this does is create a current path through your equipment from one ground rod to another...bad news. If lightning strikes your tower you want that energy getting to ground without going through any of your equipment, so provide that path for the lightning by tying the two ground rods together with a good heavy copper wire. Next is to put surge protectors or lightning arrestors on every point of entry to your equipment. This means antenna lines, power lines, control lines, phone lines, cable lines, and any other line you may have coming into the shack. There are suppressors made specifically for each type of line. And of course make sure all of those protectors are tied back into that single point ground system. Then sit back and enjoy the light show without worry too much about your equipment. ☺