



In the absence of our President, KI4TTS, Doug Macdonald, who is currently back in New Orleans for Presbyterian Disaster Relief, our Vice President, K4TGK, Tim Kaylor opened the January meeting at 7:30pm.

Our Treasurer, KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following

<b>Began December with</b>	<b>\$2,734.78</b>
<b>No income or expenses</b>	<b>00.00</b>
<b>Ended December with</b>	<b>2,734.78</b>

The repeater account stands at \$4,601.78

**ARRL Section Report:** -- No report this month.

**PIO** – N4JJ, Jack Jackson reported that the ARRL has produced a 15 minute Professional Video Course for Club PIO's., which he characterized as being PIO 101. Jack also reminded us about the Charleston Hamfest coming up in February.

**Repeaters:** All repeaters are working well but we need to use them more often. KA3JAL has been asked by SERA to verify information about each of our repeaters. He is turning this paperwork over to the appropriate

trustee for each repeater to verify and return.

**Old Business:** K4AVR, Mac Cullom, reported that he along with KG4YVJ, Suzie, KA3JAL, John and KJ4RGV, Jim, met with the newly licensed Technicians at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for a two hour session about how to operate effectively. Another session is scheduled for Thursday, January 6. These new operators do not have personal equipment but are eager to learn and possibly buy equipment in the near future.

**Renewals:** KA3JAL got dues money from several members in cash at the last meeting and had trouble remembering which members had done so. It took a bit of sleuthing to answer the question. He recommended that in the future, all members either pay renewals by check or money order. If cash must be used, it should be

**Feb**

*Meeting at  
Shoney's'  
7:30 PM on  
the 1st.*

placed in an envelope with the members name prominently noted. All members attending voted to make this a requirement starting with 2012 renewals. Members who have not yet renewed were asked to mail renewals to John's home address.

John also advised the membership that K3IBO, Bill Biagioli, has resigned from the club and has moved back to his old home in Illinois.

**Introductions:** Although a little late, each member and guest identified himself. We had 23 in attendance, 21 members and two guests. We were very pleased to have WD4KFD, Charlie Calder, a former member, and KJ4NNT, Wayne Bramble of DDSN. with us.

**Newsletter:** We are still looking for a member willing to take over publication of the QSO. KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, is planning to make a long trip west over the summer. Suzie would be happy to train someone in Desktop Publishing techniques or help to change the current format.

Suzie also requested that any members who have recommendations of Websites which involve Amateur Radio to be highlighted in the QSO share them with her.

**Field Day Statistics:** Tim read out the statistics for last year's Field Day. We made a very good showing. In our category, (3A) we placed 75th in the country, 9th in the division and 1st in the section.



“Not too Shabby, Guys!” We need to start making plans for this year's event. Several of our very active members will not be available this June so we need to find new workers.

**W8IXZ**, Harry Paxton, was able to come to the meeting. He thanked everyone for the Birthday cake and card from the December meeting which he was not able to attend. He also requested that more members check into the Wednesday Night Ragchew net on 28,330.

**Sandblast 2011:** KG4HIE, Scott Thompson, gave us a short discussion of the Sandblast Sportscar Rally to be held in the Sandhills State Forest on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are willing to spend a little time helping, you get free entrance to the event and a Pizza Party in the evening. There is much more information available at [www.sandblastrally.com](http://www.sandblastrally.com) or at the Chesterfield Amateur Radio Club meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thursday of January.

**VE:** The next VE test will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> at Methodist Manor. VE's should plan to arrive at about 8:40 to set up. We need additional VE's to sign up for the December session.

**N4JJ:** Jack announced that N4TJ Tommy Johnson has been very ill and hospitalized with Kidney stones and that W4ID, Wayne Cooke has been suffering from diverticulitis and is facing surgery this month. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers and maybe contact by phone. He also mentioned that CW ringtones are available from ARRL.

**Elmer Day:** KJ4LIF, Bekki Medsker has set up an Elmer class with the help of WA4BUO, Tom Morgan and K4AVR, Mac Cullom. This will be held at Sonshine Management on Celebration Blvd. on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. At 10:30 AM, Immediately following the weekly Coffee meeting at BoJangles. It is primarily to introduce new operators to proper operations and message handling. There will be time to answer questions and to have their radios checked and programmed. All members are invited to share your knowledge and love of the hobby. For the drawing this month, KJ4LIF, Bekki, brought Oatmeal-Raisin Cookies and KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, brought about a dozen 2011 calendars. Almost everyone in the room won something. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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## February Birthdays

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5 Connie Carraway, WL7KZ  
17 Steve Rath, W4JM  
19 Scott Thompson, KG4HIE  
22 Jim Griffith, KJ4RVG  
23 Glen Greene, KE4GV  
25 Dave Jones, KM4D

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## Upcoming Events

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Feb. 5 Charleston Hamfest  
Feb. 5 Sandblast Car Rally  
Feb. 12 VE Test at Methodist Manor  
Feb. 19 Myrtle Beach Marathon

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## Our Disabled List

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Please remember our members who are currently having medical problems:

**N4TJ, Tommy Johnson** is recovering from Kidney Stones

**W4ID, Wayne Cooke** is recovering from abdominal surgery

**KJ4DGT, Rob Belinski** is recovering from surgery following a skiing accident

**W4JUB, Juby Phipps** is recovering at home after a serious hospitalization

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## ARES/RACES Training

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There will be an ARES/RACES training session, February 19th at the SCETV building in downtown Columbia. It's an introduction to ARES/RACES and will be conducted by Roger Mull, KD4JQJ. This session already encompasses members from Richland, Kershaw, Lexington, Fairfield, and Calhoun counties. ALL county Emergency Coordinators, ARES members, RACES members and non-affiliated hams interested in these organiza-

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tions are welcome to attend.

After the training session an exercise will be conducted. Please bring a 2m hand-held radio to participate in this event.

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## **A Blast from the Past**

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N4JJ thought you would like to read the article written by N4TJ and published in QST Magazine back in January, 1993

### **A Good Day at Effingham**

*The public is best served by well-planned, clear, effective emergency communications.*

*By Tom Johnson, N4TJ  
109 Kimberly Ln  
Florence, SC 29505*

In the wake of Hurricane Hugo, several unusual things happened in Jefferson Davis County, South Carolina. The first was that the county council voted money to rebuild the courthouse at Effingham. That this was needed wasn't in question, since the old one, built in 1832, was a pile of kindling spread over 70 square miles. The unusual thing was that the council had allocated funds for a worthwhile purpose for the first time since an allocation to provide mules for the Army in 1917.

The second unusual thing was that I got a job as a news reporter for Channel 42, and in that capacity, found myself in a position to insert ham radio into a number of reports on subjects such as the theft of the Vietnam

Victory Statue from in front of Clapsaddle's Hair Arboretum and the day Old Man McCall woke up to find his hogpen gone, hogs and all, and the great manhunt the day Mayor Goldberg disappeared, only to found asleep in the rear of his pickup truck in his backyard

The third unusual thing was that the Effingham Amateur Radio Transmitting Society made it through a meeting that didn't end in a fistfight, and actually agreed to do something. It was noted that during Hurricane Hugo, Amateur Radio had played a major role in maintaining order and directing emergency vehicles. Local law enforcement and emergency services personnel had praised Amateur Radio numerous times so it was decided to provide a monitor locked on our repeater frequency for the office of the Director of Emergency Services for Jeff Davis County, and another for the squad room for the Effingham Police Department. Emergency Services listened for about an hour and promptly turned it off.

After the new courthouse was completed I was riding up Main Street wondering how I could make a report on our imposing seven story edifice and work ham radio into it. I had already talked about the new repeater tower on the roof, the fact that this building had plumbing, and that surely

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some ham had been involved in manufacturing the piping but today, I was drawing a complete blank

As I passed by the front of the building I saw smoke coming out of the \$2,100 ceramic and-steel trash bin that had caused such a stir when it had been exposed by Yours Truly a month or so back. I figured that someone had probably thrown a cigarette into the can, so I picked up my mike and called my friend, Aubrey, WX4UDK, who owns the Popeye's Frozen Spinach-on-a-Stick franchise on the other side of Courthouse Square. When he answered, I told him that the can over at the courthouse was on fire, and if he had a minute, he might look into it. He replied that being in the frozen spinach business gave him plenty of time and he'd be over in a minute or so

Meanwhile, back at the police squad room, the evening shift had a poker game going on while our little monitor was repeating all this, and one officer, Master Patrolman Maurice "Blackjack" Bennet, was about to fold when he heard me say that the can was on fire. He walked over to the telephone and called his brother-in-law, who was on duty as dispatcher, and said "Graham, I just heard some CBer say that the bathroom at the courthouse is on fire." Graham asked him which

floor, but Black jack didn't know. This bothered Graham a right smart, since he had a wife and two girlfriends working over there, so he did the only thing he could. He freaked out and pushed the red button on his console and toned out all 28 fire engines, three aerials, four squads, and all off-duty and reserve firefighters, and sent them all howling to the fire at the court house.

It had been a good day for the Davis County Director of Emergency Services, and he was just sitting down to a Mellow Yellow and a donut when his board lit up like a Christmas tree, indicating a major disaster at Effingharn. This affected him so profoundly that all his years of training went by the way. He picked up his red telephone and called the governor's office to announce the unfolding catastrophe. The governor promised aid which would be on the scene in less than an hour.

Downtown, at the Effingham Morning News, the cub reporter assigned to monitor the scanner ran to the editor's desk, screaming that the courthouse was on fire and the governor was sending troops. In my Channel 42 newsroom, which monitored the newspaper's pager, they got the news that terrorists had taken the courthouse, were preparing to execute hostages and already had the set the place on fire. My news

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editor contacted the network for a satellite uplink

Down at the freight yards, the 3<sup>rd</sup> batallion was detraining from Saudi Arabia . When they got the word from the State Adjutant General that the courthouse was under siege and to get their tanks down there PDQ. Because only four tanks had been detrained, they commandeered all civilian vehicles present and made for the site of the trouble, waving their rifles, shouting rebel yells and looking more like PLO guerillas than the Army National Guard. A bystander had got wind of the invasion, and seeing this, flagged down a policeman and reported that reinforcements were on the way to the terrorists. He promptly reported it to dispatch, which reported it to Emergency Services, which reported it to the governor, who called the president, who scrambled the 82nd Airborne from Fort Bragg.

While all this was happening, I had made my way to the municipal swimming pool. My engineering appreciation study of a certain human female in a pink bikini was interrupted by my pager, which abruptly sent me packing back to the courthouse with orders to get every grisly detail on film. As I drove back to the courthouse, I was, to say the least, somewhat perplexed. How could all that

have happened in eight minutes? When I arrived, I set my minicam up on the corner of Manassas and Chancellorsville streets. Everything was calm, and I saw Aubrey walk across the street with a pitcher of water and put out the fire in the trash can Everything was peaceful. And then...

Twenty-eight fire engines, three aerals, four squads, 168 off-duty firefighters, four tanks, 596 National Guardsmen, 38 highway patrolmen dispatched by the governor and three Effingham police officers showed up the same time and ran running and shouting into the building. I grabbed for my camera in time to catch water coming out of a top story window, to see a desk sail out of another, a long with much shouting and cursing, and a stream of disheveled civilians vigorously vacating the building

When the dust died down, Col Beauregard, who commanded the Guards men, came out and made a statement. It seemed that the terrorists had escaped. No one had been injured, but they had done considerable damage to our new building. Fire Chief Wilson said that the fire damage was minimal, but water damage and doors that had been broken with axes were extensive. Damages were apt to exceed \$100,000.

As the only reporter at the scene,

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I got exclusive interviews. Col. Beauregard praised Amateur Radio, for what reason I still don't know, since I hadn't gotten a chance to mention it. Chief Wilson said it would have happened differently without ham radio, and that radio amateurs provided needed communications. Mayor Goldberg showed up and said he hadn't seen so many fire trucks and National Guardsmen since the freedom riders came through in '62. This interview was interrupted by lead units of the 82nd Airborne, as their helicopters touched down on the square.

There were several interesting twists to the aftermath of the great invasion that I'm sure you won't read about in the history books. The Army awarded one silver star, five bronze stars, one meritorious service medal and a purple heart that was earned when Clarence Waddell got hit on the head by Judge Claghorn's gavel. The council voted that since the conduct of the CB club was in question, it could no longer use the courtroom for its meetings, and its radios in Emergency Services and the squad room were to be returned. They took delivery and after listening to us for several days, called a press conference to announce that they were receiving transmissions from UFOs.

Master Patrolman Bennet was

busted back to policeman recruit, and was busted again, in the nose by his brother-in-law. The director of Emergency Services was arrested by the FBI for trying to take out a contract on both of them. IQ tests were ordered for the evening shift.

Ham radio was praised as the means that made the whole thing possible, and the media talked it up for days, in a generally upbeat, and favorable manner. License applications soared.

Aubrey sold his story to a major motion picture studio and retired to work DX from Tahiti. I won an award for broadcasting excellence and became news manager. All in all, it wasn't a bad day.

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### **Novel use of an HT**

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The Columbia Amateur Radio Club solved a public address problem at their annual Christmas party by requesting that attendees bring their hand-held radios all set to the same simplex frequency. The use of the hand-helds brought odd looks from the other restaurant goers but allowed the club president to communicate the past year's achievements, give out awards and door prizes, all without needing to use a PA system.

K4AVR, Mac Cullom, notes that this skirts the limits of the FCC rules governing "broadcasting" and should be used very carefully.

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## The FARC QSO

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The editorial staff reserves the right to edit and rewrite for content and space. Deadline for all articles is the 15th of the month.

The editor welcomes your suggestions and comments about this or future publications.

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