

# The Alabama – Georgia Amateur Radio Update Newsletter

February 8, 2003

Edition no 136

Edited by Jerry Hemby, WINRA

Hello folks not much news for this edition.

I (WINRA) am no longer associated with the Columbus Georgia Amateur Radio Club due to recent actions by the few who think that decisions do not need to be made by the majority of the membership. It's bad that only a few can ruin an otherwise good organization. So, unless and until there are some real changes I won't be a part of their activities in the near future. The majority of members have, in my opinion supported the operation of the club and it's activities when they are controlled by the membership and the by-laws of the club.

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Due to the recent failure of the Space Shuttle and the loss of our Astronauts lives, I pass my thoughts and prayers to everyone in the space program and everyone world-wide who have watched and supported their success over the last 40 years or so.

I hope they will find the cause of this failure and are able to prevent it from happening again. It appears that now we see where there have been cover-ups in some of the safety and maintenance program in the past that may have led to this catastrophic failure and the loss the crew members lives.

Fact is, they have had many great successes in the past and I suppose as with other man made devices and this is probably the most complicated device ever designed by man, that, it was going to happen sooner or later.

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I also heard today that Reginald Cain passed away this morning. I understand that he had a perforated ulcer the other day and they had to do emergency surgery to try to correct the problem. I met Mr. Cain years ago at his electronics shop in Phenix City. He was a ham radio operator and was in his 80's at the time of his death. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

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The following is from this weeks ARRL newsletter.

**SIX-YEAR-OLD OREGON GIRL GETS GENERAL TICKET** A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN--a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family--could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13. Mattie allowed that the Element 3 test "was pretty hard" and she had to study for a long time before passing it on her third attempt. "The Element 3 test was a lot harder than the Tech test," she said. She was ambivalent about the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code exam, characterizing it as "not too hard, just a little, but kind of easy too." Her parents, Tim and Charlotte Clauson, AC7SP and KD7QZB, say Mattie became interested in Amateur Radio when she was five. The Clausons discovered "a kid-friendly study book," Ride the Airwaves with Alpha and Zulu by John Abbott, K6YPB (no longer in print--Ed). The Clausons say Mattie, who already knew how to read, dove into it right away. Her mom and dad helped her to study, explained the "hard questions" and encouraged her to take practice tests at various Web sites. She obtained her Technician license last July and became KD7SDF. The Clausons said Mattie learned Morse code using several different computer programs, and they helped her practice by tapping out letters--and later words--for her. In the end, she passed her code exam on the very first try. For the time being, Mattie says, she's sticking with phone operation but plans to give CW a try in the future. Mattie says she prefers HF over VHF "because I can talk to people in other countries." Homeschooled with her sisters, Mattie loves to read, and that may contribute to her precocity. Among her favorites books are those by Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT, Encyclopedia Brown, and Nancy Drew. Her parents say ham radio has been a very useful tool in homeschooling--in terms of letter recognition, spelling, science, geography and other subjects. The Clausons say Mattie doesn't consider herself "someone special" since passing her General test, and neither do they. "We do not feel that Mattie has any abilities above any other

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child," Charlotte Clauson said. For her part, Mattie says she hopes that she can be an inspiration to other youngsters her age to get involved with Amateur Radio. "I think that since I got my license, whether Tech or higher, other kids can do it also," she said. Mattie's late great grandfather, S.A. "Sam" Sullivan, was W6WXU; his daughter, Joan Brady--Mattie's grandmother--now holds his former call sign. "The ham community has also been very supportive, especially in the Roseburg area," said Charlotte Clauson. "Their enthusiasm has made Mattie's experience with ham radio very positive." An article on Mattie Clauson appeared February 3 in the Statesman Journal of Salem, Oregon <<http://news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?id=56021>>. Tim, Charlotte and Mattie Clauson all are ARRL members. Mattie and her mom now are working on their Amateur Extra tickets.

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So, Technician class hams, this is proof that the test isn't that hard and all it takes is some patience and dedication to the hobby to work for and upgrade to the next level of license classification.

That's about all I have for this edition so everyone stay warm and dry in this weather we are having these last few weeks.

My website address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/w1nra/home.html>

See the ten meter beacon group at yahoo:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TenMeterBeacons/>

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## The Amateur's Code:

The Radio Amateur is  
**CONSIDERATE**...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.  
**LOYAL**...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.  
**PROGRESSIVE**...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.  
**FRIENDLY**...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.  
**BALANCED**...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.  
**PATRIOTIC**...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.  
The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

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