

JACKSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Mississippi's Oldest and Largest Ham Radio Club
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W5PFC Report

The Jackson Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

First Quarter 2009 A Publication of The Jackson Amateur Radio Club, Jackson, MS Vol. 19, Issue 1



The W5PFC Report is a quarterly publication of the Jackson Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Members may submit articles for possible publication to the editor, Jeff Sykes, K5VU, either by US mail to 1750 Spring Hill Rd., Raymond, MS 39154, or by e-mail to k5vu@arrl.net. Space and printing limitations may affect the appearance or content of any item submitted. Photo submissions may be sent in any common digital format. All club correspondence should be directed to the club address.

AO-27 Satellite Comes Back

From the AMSAT News Bulletin

In December, 2008 AO-27 went off the air. The control team members pursued a strategy to drain the batteries in the hopes of resetting the locked up modem. As of a week ago, the bird had rebooted into the primary bootloader.

During February, 2009 the control team managed to upload the high level software (EOS) to AO-27 after several attempts. They took a week to collect data to check on the battery status and conduct an on-orbit checkout before returning to analog mode.

AO-27 Uplink: 145.850 MHz FM

AO-27 Downlink: 436.795 MHz FM

For more information, see the AO27 website, <http://www.ao27.org>

Next FCC Chairman Named

From the ARRL Letter

On Tuesday, March 3, President Barack Obama nominated Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman. Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of Obama's from Harvard Law School. Upon Senate confirmation, Genachowski will replace Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps; Copps took over the Commission on January 20, 2009, when then-Chairman Kevin Martin resigned.

Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups -- two groups often at odds -- for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues.

"I can think of no one better than Julius Genachowski to serve as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," said President Obama. "He will bring to the job diverse and unparalleled experience in communications and technology, with two decades of

Monthly Club Meeting



Come join us at our monthly meeting at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month.

The meeting is held in the American Red Cross building at 875 Riverside Drive in Jackson, one block south of Murrah High School.

After the business meeting, we present a program of special interest, followed by a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. Stay for refreshments and fellowship after the meeting.



accomplishment in the private sector and public service. I know him as the son of immigrants who carries a deep appreciation for this country and the American dream; and as the proud father of three children working with his wife Rachel to be responsible parents in this digital age."

According to the Wall Street Journal, speculation has been rife as to why President Obama had not put forth Genachowski's name before now, saying that "his nomination has centered on the administration's efforts to find at least one more nominee -- more likely two -- to fill other open spots on the FCC's five-person board. Agency nominations tend to move through the Senate more quickly if a Democratic nominee is paired with a Republican nominee".

After graduating from law school, Genachowski later served as chief counsel to Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC from 1993-1997. He went on to found an investment and advisory firm for digital media companies. According to Obama's campaign Web site, Genachowski raised at least \$500,000 for Obama during the presidential election campaign.

Announcement of a Vote to Amend the Club By-laws

The board of directors of the Jackson Amateur Radio Club has moved to call a vote of the general membership at the regular May meeting to remove Section 2, Paragraph 6 from the Club By-laws:

"All Full Members, Senior Members, Associate Members or Family Members shall not have a Conviction of Record of a Felony, or a Misdemeanor with a fine of more than fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00)."

CQ DX!

By John Bergman, KC5LK

Before I get into the main topic of this article, let me congratulate all of you that have told me of your success with the recent DXPedition to Desecheo Island. You have worked one of the rarest of the DXCC Entities and you have the right to feel pleased with your success. It really makes me feel good to know that quite a few of you take the time to read what I try to put into these articles.

Thirty years ago when I received my first ticket, it was an FCC requirement that a Station Log be maintained. That requirement has since been dropped but I suspect that many of us still maintain one. The first logbook that I used was a spiral bound book that the ARRL still publishes. That logbook is more than adequate for most of us. It was for me for quite a few years until I discovered that if I was to start chasing WAS and DXCC Awards something more was needed. So I started trying to integrate my log with my system of storing QSL cards. I soon found that was just as time consuming and frustrating. Even though I could locate the cards I still could not easily determine if card could be used for an award. That was when I was only interested in the Basic WAS and Mixed DXCC awards. When one considers all the various awards the ARRL, IARU, RSGB, IARU and CQ Magazine offer to those of us who chase WAS and DX awards as well as those of you that chase islands, US Counties, Prefectures, museum ships, lighthouses, etc. it would be nearly an impossible task with a paper logbook.

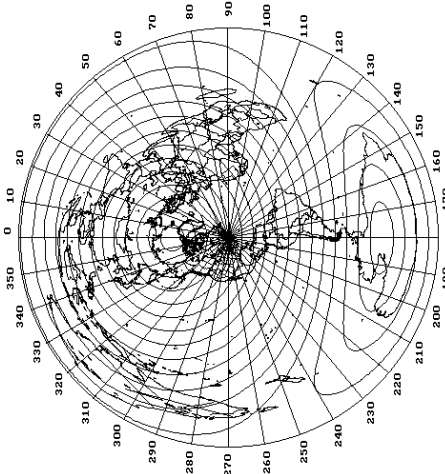
About fifteen years ago I started developing a database that I could enter QSO data into it and then retrieve the data in a manner that I would allow me to track my progress in the DXCC and WAS Programs as well as create QSL card labels and DXCC submissions. That was okay until I started getting into the Digital modes and the various VHF and UHF awards. Now what was I to do? I soon discovered that some of the various pieces of software that can be

used to work the digital modes also contained some form of a logbook, but that still required importing data into my principal logbook. No big deal just import the data, Yeah Right! Back to the script writing and generate the scripts. Finally just when I think I have everything like I want it I find that there are logging programs that will operate the radio and turn the rotator. That is when I decided to stop developing my database and use it only to generate QSL card labels and track DXCC and WAS awards and import the data. Not the best solution, but it does work for me.

By now I hope that you are beginning to realize that there can be more to maintaining a logbook than keeping a paper logbook. Today there are so many excellent computer logbooks that I will be impossible to cover all of them. There is the LoTW that does an excellent job of tracking ARRL awards. Its principal drawback is that it cannot keep track of paper cards that you have. There are general purpose logs that can do many things well, but do not function well as contest logbooks. There are contest logbooks that function well in most contests but do not function well as general purpose logbooks.

The task at hand when trying to find what works best for you may not as hard as it seems. First I would recommend using the google.com search engine. Look around to see what may interest you, but remember our hobby does change and so do our interests, so look for one or more programs that do more than you really need it to do. If necessary use one or more but use one of the logbooks as your principal logbook. No matter which logbook or logbooks you choose make sure that each exports and imports data in the ADIF format. That will insure that you can change logbooks as often as you wish without the need of re-entering data or losing data when changing logbooks.

I do look forward to hearing your comments or answering you questions. The pileups are out there so now is the time to start getting ready for the time the bands are in much better shape, but remember the weak stations are the easiest to work. Listen for them -- they are there.



Scenes from the 2009 Capital City Hamfest



The 2009 Capital City Hamfest is now history. Thank You goes out to all those that attended this year's Hamfest. A huge Thank You to those that worked so hard to put it together.

A special Thank You to ARRL President Joel Harrison, N5ZN, ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Carmer, WJ1B, Delta Division Director Mickey Cox, K5MC, Malcolm Keown, W5XX and Henry Leggett, WD4Q for attending this year's Hamfest.



The 2009 Breland Award was presented to David Devore, KE5WRC during the Mississippi State Convention.

For information concerning the 2010 Capital City Hamfest please contact us via email at hamfest@msham.org or by snail mail at Capital City Hamfest 2010, P. O. Box 55643, Jackson, MS 39296-5643



Photos by Bob Bullock, K5RWB

View the full 2009 Hamfest Photo Gallery at:

<http://msham.org/images/hamfest09/html/index.html>