

## 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

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### Join Us for Field Day 2009!

From the ARRL Field Day Web

Where the spirit of "Amateur Radio Past" joins forces with the Next Generation of Innovations, Interests and Individuals!!!

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in amateur radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!

Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers "something for everyone." Amateur Radio embraces both the old and new. While CW may no longer be a testing element, it is still a strong and favorite operating mode for many.

Tens of thousands of operators are embracing digital technologies, from RTTY to newer digital modes like PSK31 and Olivia. Phone operation, probably the largest segment of the hobby, also has new frontiers to be explored with digitized voice, VOIP, and IRLP. And this is why Field Day – the largest annual on-the-air operating event – is so exciting. It gives all – the old timer and the newcomer, the brass-pounder and the computer assisted operator – the chance to share and teach the broad range of modes and technologies we find in our hobby.

### 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.

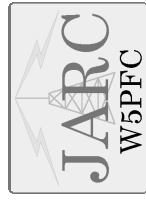


Field Day is truly the time in which we bring amateur radio to Main Street USA. By setting up in parking lots, malls, Emergency Operations Centers, parks and even at home, amateur operators learn skills that will allow them to better serve their communities.

Setting up in these public venues gives added public relations value – their friends and neighbors can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their "ham radio" neighbors bring to the community.

Join in the fun! On Saturday, June 27, JARC will begin setup at 7 AM

in Old Trace Park pavilion. Operators and volunteers are needed for Field Day. If you have any equipment, fans, lamps, laptops, chairs, rig accessories, etc. that you would be willing to let the club use during Field Day, contact Andy Anderson at [wb5tte@comcast.net](mailto:wb5tte@comcast.net).



### AO-51 (Echo) Operating Modes

The repeater is up and open for use. User access to the BBS is not setup as of yet but will be soon.

Due to rapidly increasing eclipse lengths throughout May, we need to keep the satellite in "normal" mode for Whole Orbit Data (WOD) collection via the BBS. Power output will steadily be decreased throughout the month.

FM Repeater, V/U

Uplink: 145.920 MHz FM

Downlink: 435.300 MHz FM

9k6 BBS and Telemetry

Uplink: 1268.700 MHz FM

Downlink: 435.150 MHz FM

Please check the AO-51 Web Page for latest operating information.

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/satInfo.php?satID=1&retURL=/satellites/status.php>



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## CQ DX!

By John Bergman, KC5LK

A few days ago I received my quarterly newsletter from the Chiltern DX Club, and toward the end there was a notice concerning the meal that was to be served at the upcoming RSGB Convention. It was to honor the Anniversary of "Robinson Crusoe", and the wheels in my brain started turning. When the wheels stopped turning two books that I read in High School and one that I read in College came to mind that have some historical significance to several DXCC Entities. I have already mentioned the first, "Robinson Crusoe". The second is the "Mutiny on The Bounty" trilogy, and the third is "Moby Dick". If any of you are still with me you are probably wondering if I am writing about literature or am I writing about DXing. Actually it is a little of both.

A little more than three hundred years ago Alexander Selkirk was marooned on Mas a Tierra Island, the largest island in the Juan Fernandez Archipelago. Several years after his rescue Daniel Defoe based the character of Robinson Crusoe on the story of Alexander Selkirk. Two of the islands have been renamed in honor of the book, Alexander Selkirk Island and Robinson Crusoe Island. At the present the Juan Fernandez Islands, CE0Z, are fairly rare. Up until a few years ago there was one ham, CE0ZAM, that lived on Robinson Crusoe Island. He has since moved to the mainland, but he does return to the island for brief visits.

The second book, "The Mutiny on the Bounty" was required reading in a high school English class. The other two books in the trilogy, "Men Against the Sea" and "Pitcairn's Island" were read several years later. I would imagine that all of us know about the stay on Tahiti and the return of the mutineers to Tahiti to drop off those loyal to Captain Bligh and pick up supplies and their wives. Today Tahiti is the largest island in French Polynesia, callsign prefix FO. Those that were put adrift in the ship's long boat were rescued

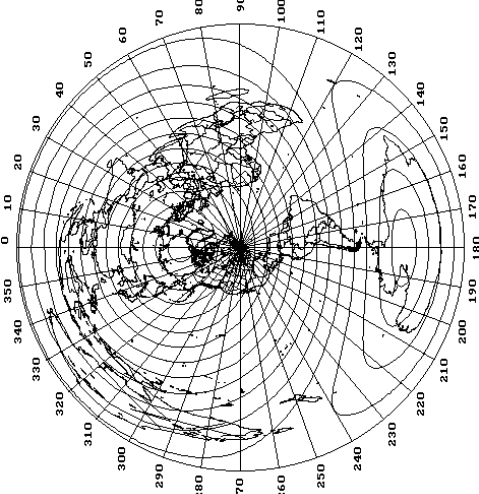
near Timor Island. Today it is East Timor, callsign prefix 4W. The mutineers found their way to and settled on Pitcairn's Island. Today the residents of Pitcairn's Island are the descendants of the mutineers. The prefix for the Pitcairn Group is VP6. Another island in the Pitcairn Group, Ducie Island will be mentioned later. In the mid-Nineteenth Century the Australian Government allowed most of the residents of Pitcairn's Island to immigrate to Norfolk Island, VK9N. Jim Smith, VK9NS was a driving force in the world of DX and until his recent death he was very active on the bands. I have worked Jim several times and I wonder if I have chatted with another of the descendants of Mutineers.

The third book was Herman Melville's classic "Moby Dick". It was the subject of a college freshman English research paper, and at the time not one of my favorites. For many years I considered the book to be a complete work of fiction. Last year I was watching a documentary about whaling and I learned that there was more truth than fiction in the story.

There was a whaling ship from Nantucket that was attacked and sunk by a whale in the South Pacific Ocean. What the book does not go into is that there were actually quite a few survivors of the attack. There were actually two boats of survivors. The boats were separated very shortly after the attack, and only one of the boats was found and the few remaining crew rescued.

During their journey they made landfall only once in a search for food and water. Finding neither they continued their journey. It has been determined that the island that they landed on was Ducie Island, VP6D.

Even though our hobby tends to be technical in nature there is no reason that should we should limit it to only one discipline. Have I ever told you that I am considering stamp collecting now? I have built up quite a collection of stamps from all the DX QSL cards that I have received!



## Operating Maritime Mobile from a Barge

By Jake Lancaster, KE5TKU

I received my Technician class license in October of 2005. I started out operating marine mobile with an HT and an external antenna. Since then I have improved the station aboard the sea going barge I work on.

The barge I currently work on is the Energy 6505. Her length is 328 foot with a beam of 68 feet and it is 21 foot 4 inches from keel to deck. She has a metal hull and when loaded she holds 62,400 barrels (2,620,800 gallons) of liquid petroleum distillates (gas, diesel, jet fuel, etc). The deck is about 2 1/2 foot from the water when loaded and when she is empty the deck is about 17 foot from the water line. I sail the Eastern sea board, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean and a few of the larger inland rivers connected to the coast.

We do not have a lot for marine commercial communications on board. We have Icom VHF marine radios, a cell phone, and intermittent internet. Cell towers provide us with internet service up to 7 miles offshore. The amateur radio station I carry with me includes an Icom 706 Mark IIG, LDG Z100 autotuner, Astron 30 amp power supply, and various meters and cables. I also usually carry a VHF/UHF radio with me. I carry the station in a Storm waterproof box measuring 21 inches by 19 inches by 8 inches.

For antennas on VHF/UHF I have a vertical on top of the chiller unit and another mounted to a pipe on top of the living quarters. For VHF/UHF SSB I have a loop antenna. For HF I started out with a dipole. I then made an end fed zepp and then tried a random wire. I found the

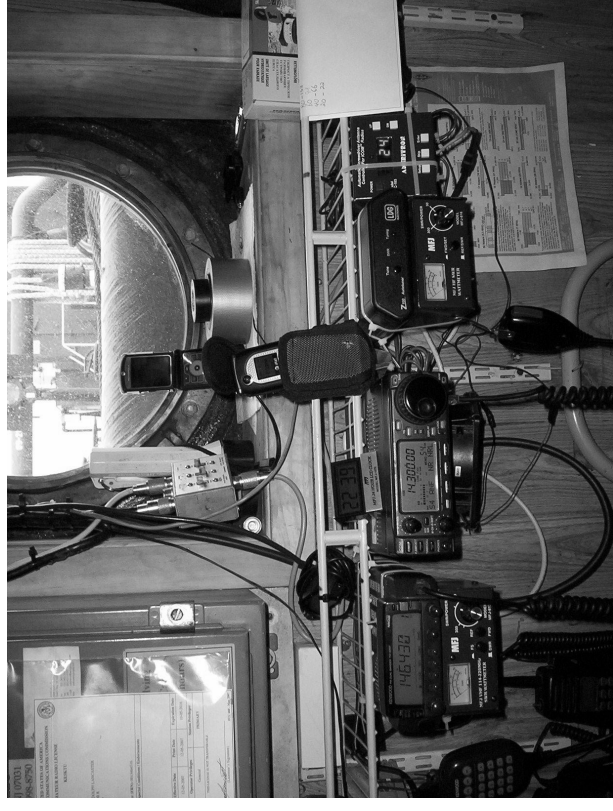
random wire performed a lot better than the dipole or the end fed zepp. I tried several configurations for the random wire and the best configuration was when I put it in an upside down L configuration. It went from the stern where the living quarters are to the bow where the mast is located. From stern short mast to bow mast is 270 feet then dropped down about 10 feet then ran back to midship, about 120 feet. So at one time I had about 400 feet of wire out. It worked really well. That was until we were in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and we were caught in 20 to 26 foot seas and the temperatures were down around 0. The barge sustained

some damage to equipment on deck and the wire antenna came down except the 270 foot section (I thought that since this section stayed up in that kind of weather that I would leave it in that configuration). In addition, I installed a Tarheel model 75 screwdriver antenna on the chiller unit with a 102 inch whip. I ran a 12 gauge stranded wire to the chiller copper coils. Over time I have compared these two antennas side by side. The random wire and the screwdriver seem to both have positive points. I usually swap back and forth and whichever one I hear the best on is the one I use. Half the time it is the screwdriver and half the time it is the random wire. The screwdriver seems to work really well on 80, 40, 20, and 17 meters. The random wire works the best on 10, 12, and 15 meters. I can operate 160 meters on the random wire, but since it was shortened it really does not tune that well, and I can't make as many contacts on it as I once did.

I have made some really good contacts while marine mobile out there. I have talked to several stations back in Mississippi as well as a lot of DX. Anyway, perhaps I will work you one day while I am marine mobile. Until then 73 and safe sailing!



A variety of antennas can be seen in the barge antenna farm.



Here is the KE5TKU radio shack aboard the barge.