

# Lubbock Amateur Contest Club

**September 2007**

*The LACC is an ARRL affiliated club located in Lubbock, Texas. Our club's callsign is W5LCC. As a general interest club, membership is open to all people interested in Amateur Radio operations. One aspect of our club, with increased emphasis, is contesting. Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Stidham Memorial Clubhouse at 1110 98<sup>th</sup> Street.*

## **Dates To Remember**

- **Weekly Net** is Mondays at 8:00 p.m. On the W5LCC repeaters, 146.840 (-88.5) and 443.075 (+88.5).
- **September Club Meeting** is Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Club membership dues are \$24 annually and are due at this meeting. Officer elections will be held at this meeting.
- **ARRL September VHF QSO Party** is September 8-10.
- **Texas QSO Party** is September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with LACC operations taking place at the clubhouse station.

## **Officer Elections at September Meeting**

Elections for several of the club's officers positions will take place at the next meeting. To participate in the elections you will need to pay annual dues at the beginning of the meeting. Additional nominations will be discussed as the first order of business at the September meeting. Here is a list of current officers and officer nominees:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Current Office Holder</b>	<b>Officer Nominees</b>
President	Jennifer Tucker, KE5BZO (interim)	Hector Segura, KC9CPK
Chairman	Robert Boyd, WA5VSK (interim)	Robert Boyd, WA5VSK
Vice Chairman	Joey Johnston, KC5MVZ	Joey Johnston, KC5MVZ
Treasurer	Ron Percy, WA6LBB (interim)	Ron Percy, WA6LBB
Secretary	John Morgan, KD5ULG (interim)	John Morgan, KD5ULG
Public Relations	John Habbinga, KC5ZRQ	Term ends in 2008
Property Manager	Greg Patrick, KE5ABS	Greg Patrick, KE5ABS

## **Remembering Tom Tucker, KB5UOP/SK**

Tom passed away one year ago on September 11<sup>th</sup> and the anniversary of his passing will take place on the same night as our next club meeting. For a long time, Tom served as the Chairman of our club and he was interested in seeing the club expand and take on new challenges. Tom was an active participant and he made certain that he did more than his fair share to keep the club moving in the right direction.

Tom was larger than life and if he didn't coin the term, "The LACC is an Eating Club with a Radio Problem," then he certainly helped to reinforce that conception.

Tom, you are missed.

## **Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Update**

Ham radio operators in Lubbock and across the state have been asked to prepare for two storms this season, Hurricane Dean and Felix. Hurricane season is from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> with activity typically peaking this month and more activations are expected. Lubbock's most common role in hurricane relief is housing displaced residents from the gulf coast. You can monitor the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz.

Lubbock ARES has setup a VHF and HF email network to support emergency communications. Several ARES members have setup digital "Go-Kits" that provide email and other digital communications from anywhere in Lubbock County. It is easier, faster and more accurate to relay lists and forms via digital modes than with voice modes. Using software such as Airmail2000, OutpostPM and Paclink, you can connect to one of the following Telpac nodes to send and receive email: KC5ZRQ-10: 446.150 MHz, KS5Z-10: 145.010 MHz, W6QJ-10: 145.100 MHz and KB5DUZ-10: 145.050 MHz.

Lubbock ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is October 6-7, 2007.

## **Relief from Power Line Noise in Lubbock?**

The FCC's Dallas Field Office issued Citations to LP&L and Xcel Energy for violations that have continued since 1994. The records show that the FCC clarified the rules regarding power line noise to LP&L as early as 1998 and issued three letters to the utility in 2003 and 2004.

The Citations, a result of inaction to a complaint filed by radio amateur Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, about 15 years ago, could result in the city owned utility being fined, or in an extreme case, having to interrupt service in an area nearest to the complainant's home.



An investigation was conducted by the FCC on May 22-25, 2007 and found that LP&L and Xcel energy caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur radio signals in South-Central Lubbock. A list of 44 sites with "strong electrical arcing points" was included with the citations.

In a response to the Citation, the City of Lubbock agreed to "attempt to coordinate with Xcel Energy in resolving harmful interferences to the reception of amateur communications..." and to do "follow-ups with complainants to evaluate the effectiveness of the efforts being made to resolve RFI issues."

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Xcel Engery has assured the FCC that it will "retain an outside technical consultant to provide and unbiased assessment of whether the harmful interference to W5KFT is attributable to Xcel Energy's power system and if so, what corrective measures would be required."

Edwards reported that on Thursday, August 30, he received a phone call from Paul Leonard, head of Xcel Energy in West Texas. He was told that Xcel has contracted with Mike Martin, K3RFI, to come out to Lubbock in October to work on the line noise. "Leonard said they tried to get LP&L to participate with them and Mike, but they refused to do so."

Mike Gruber, W1MG, of the ARRL's RFI Desk commented that Most power line noise sources in fact can be located quickly and economically. Many utilities in fact handle power line noise complaints as a matter of routine maintenance. "All it takes is a properly trained RFI investigator with modern noise locating equipment. By using noise signature techniques, the utilities would have had only to address those sources actually contributing to the problem. Now they are given a citation with a laundry list of 44 problem areas, something that could have easily been avoided. The message to utilities here is clear. Don't ignore power line noise complaints! Don't make the FCC get involved!"

Parts of this story are from the ARRL's website at  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/30/100/?nc=1>

You can read the complaints issued by the FCC at  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-275720A1.pdf](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-275720A1.pdf) and  
[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-275721A1.pdf](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-275721A1.pdf)

### **From the Internet – Radio Powered Light Bulbs**

[http://news.com.com/8301-10784\\_3-9764945-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1\\_3-0-5](http://news.com.com/8301-10784_3-9764945-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-5)

Called LiFi, a company named Luxim has developed a light bulb powered by radio waves. A radio frequency amplifier pumps RF to an antenna inside of a resonant cavity. The interaction between the radio waves and the crystal cavity convert trapped gases into a plasma. The structure creates a concentrated electrical field in response to a standing wave.

Luxim's bulbs get 120 lumens per watt, making them very efficient. The new light bulbs will be used in projection televisions.

### **Vanity Callsign Fee to be Reduced**

The FCC will reduce the fee to obtain or renew a vanity amateur radio license. On September 17th the fee will be cut from \$20.80 to \$11.70. This will be the lowest fee in the history of the vanity call program.

**A VENEZUELAN DX ADVENTURE** (Part 1)

Ron Percy, WA6LBB

Way back in 1979 when I lived in California. My company sent me to work on a rapid transit system in Caracas, Venezuela. Pamela and I packed up most of our household items to go into storage and we were told we could send only 1500 pounds of the household items we would need in Caracas. This did not include any heavy stuff like Amateur Radio gear or antennas.

When we arrived in Caracas, walking down the airport gangway, was like walking into an oven. The airport is at sea level so the humidity was near 100% and the temperature was 100 degrees. That was something to which my Californian family was not accustomed. A good friend and colleague met us with a large station wagon and driver to take my wife, 3 boys and me up the mountain to Caracas at 2000 feet above sea level. The road was heavily traveled, slow going and the trip took about 2 hours. (Are we there yet Dad?)

When we arrived at the top of the mountain, the landscape changed from desert to a lush green valley and bustling metropolis.

We stayed at a hotel in Caracas for about 6 weeks until the company found us an apartment to rent. Just before we moved, there was an earthquake that made the tall hotel building to sway back and forth. That was scary. I didn't know concrete could flex that much.

Our new home was a spacious apartment on the second floor of a five-story apartment building. We immediately noticed two things while we were moving in. There was a trapped vertical on the roof of the penthouse and there were 2 inch flying cockroaches to greet us.

I followed the coax down from the antenna to a fourth floor apartment. And decided that I had to meet this person soon.

**Next Installment:** Two Reciprocal Agreements and life in a third world country.

**#4 Tower Going Up at Clubhouse**

A 150 foot tall antenna tower is planned, holes have been dug, guy anchors have been donated and the concrete is on the way, but your help is still needed. Donations are needed to help cover the construction costs.

Please contact Ricky Roy at 792-3669 for more information.

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### **DX News for September 2007 from 425 DX News**

By Ricky Roy - <http://www.425dxn.org/>

2007 Sep06 2007 Sep10 Isle of Man MD0LON DF1LON OPDX  
20070702 By DF1LON; HF; CW SSB

2007 Sep07 2007 Sep09 Alaska KL7 N6AWD K6VVA  
20070805 By K6VVA as K6VVA/KL7 fm Revillagigedo Is (NA-041); 40-17m; mainly CW; QRV for CW Sprint Contest; NB: QTH is Alaskan Revillagigedo, not Mexican

2007 Sep07 2007 Sep24 Agalega & St Brandon 3B7C G3NUG G3XTT  
20061010 By 9M6DXX DK7YY DL7AKC EI5DI G0OPB G3BJ G3IZD G3NHL G3NUG G3SVL G3XTT G4TSH K3NA N6HC N2BB SM5GMZ G3USR GM3POI N6OX fm St Brandon (AF-015); focus on low bands; also 6m: 50090 (CW), 50102 (CW), 50145

2007 Sep08 2007 Oct10 Malta 9H20 PB9ZR OPDX  
20070813 By PA group; 80-6m; also w/ personal call signs (QSL via homecall); "nine hotel twenty" is special call sign commemorating 20th year of PA activity fm Malta

2007 Sep08 2008 Jan15 Falkland Islands VP8CXV  
GM0TQJ OPDX  
20070827 By GM0TQJ fm East Falkland (SA-002); mainly SSB, some RTTY PSK31

2007 Sep10 2007 Sep17 Dodecanese SV5  
IW1RLF 425DXN  
20070825 By IW1RLF as SB5/IW1RLF fm Rhodes (EU-001); QSL OK via Buro or direct

2007 Sep10 2007 Sep24 Kenya 5Z4  
DL2MDU Buro 425DXN  
20070825 By DL2MDU as 5Z4/DL2MDU; mainly CW; holiday style operation

2007 Sep12 2007 Sep18 St Pierre & Miquelon FP See Info OPDX  
20070806 By W9ILY K9MDO as FP/homecal; 80-10m; mainly SSB RTTY PSK; holiday stype operation; QSL: FP/W9ILY via LotW, Buro, or direct; FP/K9MDO via Buro or direct

2007 Sep14 2007 Sep27 Gambia C56YK ON7YK ON7YK  
20070624 By ON7YK; 80-6m; SSB

2007 Sep21 2007 Nov30 Egypt SU8BHI  
HA3JB 425DXN  
20070825 By HA3JB fm Cairo; CW RTTY SSTV PSK, some SSB

2007 Sep23 2007 Sep28 Honduras HQ  
425DXN  
20070825 By RC Honduras + 4 US ops fm Swan Is (NA-035); special call sign applied for (HQ0S or HQ6S)

2007 Sep23 2007 Sep29 Papua New Guinea P29VCX SM6CVX SM6CVX  
20070709 By SM6CVX G3KHZ G4EDG CT1AGF fm Nukumanu Is (OC-284, new); all bands, focus on 80 160m nights; 3 stns, 2 linears; verticals, dipole

2007 Sep24 2007 Sep28 Monaco 3A ON5NT OPDX  
20070813 By ON5NT as 3A/ON5NT; holiday style operation

2007 Sep24 2007 Oct04 Willis Island VK9WWI - See Info F5NQL  
20070823 By AA7JV HA7RY; focus on 160 80m at night, other bands during days; QSL according to op instruction

2007 Sep26 2007 Oct09 Burundi 9U0A DL7DF DL7DF  
20070614 By DL7DF DK1BT DL4WK DL7UFN DL7UFR SP3DOI; all bands, all modes; focus on low bands + digital; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct

2007 Sep27 2007 Oct14 Barbados 8P6DR G3RWL 425DXN  
20070811 By G3RWL fm NA-021; 80-10m; CW + digital; duplicate QSOs will result in "no QSL"; QRV for CQ WW DX RTTY

**The club station, W5LCC, WA5VSK and KB5KYJ worked OJOB at 0013 UTC on August 16<sup>th</sup>. This is one of the Top 10 wanted countries in Europe.**