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TODAY'S ISSUE

Gwinnett "Hams" in emergency demonstration on weekend

By *Norman Schklar, wa4zxv*
Public Information Officer
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
Special to GwinnettForum.com

JUNE 24, 2005 -- Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world-wide. On the weekend of June 25-26, local residents will have a chance to meet and talk with ham radio operators and see for themselves what this "radio service" really is about.

GARS, Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, will be holding a demonstration of emergency communications abilities at Rhodes Jordan Park, 100 East Crogan St., Lawrenceville, on Saturday, June 25 at noon, through Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m. The Gwinnett event is part of a nationwide observance, all taking place simultaneously.



Schklar at the helm

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only generators, batteries or solar power, the hams construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls and back yards to test their skills under all situations.

The slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't!" is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said David Adcock, president of GARS. "It may be called 'Amateur Radio' because we are unpaid, but like your 'Amateur Volunteer Firefighters' that does not mean we're backwards!"

Over the weekend hams will be demonstrating AM, sideband, FM, digital, code and even satellite communications. Several clubs will also be experimenting with TV signals and incredibly high frequency equipment. It was from their practical experience as hams that many electrical engineers went on to develop the marvels of today's communications.

There are 670,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL hams provide emergency communications for the DHS Citizens' Corps, Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and many state and local agencies.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, contact me at 770-313-9410) or go to the GARS or ARRL web sites, www.gars.org or www.arrrl.org/newham. The public is invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. They might even help you get on the air!



ELLIOTT BRACK

More strict enforcement of zoning is good for Gwinnett

By *Elliott Brack*
Editor and Publisher
GwinnettForum.com

JUNE 24, 2005 -- Homeowners near Dacula last week won a partial victory, when the county Planning Commission failed to approve a request to build 400 homes on 53 acres off Progress Industrial Road. The proposal now goes before the Gwinnett County Commission on Tuesday for a final decision.

The homeowners were primarily concerned about the utilization of the land for a multi-family residential area, adding to the congestion in the area. The

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TODAY'S ISSUE: Ham Radios Communicate When Nothing Else Can Do So
ELLIOTT BRACK: Industrial Land Switch to Residential Is Bad for County
McLEMORE'S WORLD: What Bureaucrats Can Do To Us
FEEDBACK: Game of Life, Mars Comes Closer, and Fate of Atlanta Forts
UPCOMING: Atlanta Artist to Present Works at Chateau Elan
GEORGIA TIDBIT: Atlantan Becomes One of Nation's Top Screenwriters
TODAY'S QUOTE: Another Way To Look at the Subject of Boredom



AWARD WINNER. Dr. Bill Williams of Suwanee Dental Care has been named the 2005 Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year. For more than 20 years, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce has presented the Gwinnett Small Business Person of the Year, a prestigious award created to recognize outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to the community and to the local economy. Suwanee Dental Care began in 1997 after Dr. Williams sold his 23 year practice in Stone Mountain. It grew from three to 18 employees in eight years.

AtlantaGasPrices.com	
Today's Local Prices	
Low Price	2.50
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Click above image to find lowest gas prices in Atlanta

thought for the day

"The life of the creative man is led directed and controlled by boredom. Avoiding boredom is one of our most important purposes."



Elliott Brack

land is presently zoned industrial.

The proposal before the County Commission is a typical action, since in recent years industrial land has not been selling well. The upshot is that the landowners seek to move land by converting their industrial holdings to residential, usually multi-family.

The upshot is two-fold:

It's inferior residential land, often adjacent to either other industrial property, and perhaps, adjacent to interstates or other major thoroughways. It results in a poor quality of life for the eventual residents.

- Re-zoning industrial land for residential purposes reduces the amount of revenue that the county can get from the land, while adding totally to the educational burden. Had the land been built for industry, there would be no educational strain on the school budget from people living here.

In addition, re-zoning such tracts to residential purposes impacts the long-term financial future of the county, marginalizing the land. This could have repercussions for the county.

You see this everywhere these days.

- A new housing development stuck between Brookhollow Parkway, Interstate 85 and Malibu sports complex. Quality living with that traffic and constant hum, exhausts and sirens from the highway?
- Between Breckenridge Boulevard and I-85 across from Primerica's offices is a new multi-family development. Again, quality?
- Consider other tracts along thoroughfares, such as Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Highway 316 and U.S. 78. Would you want to move your home and family to these locations to expect a high standard of living?

The problem, of course, is that landowners want to turn their properties, and feel the tax burden of unsold land. Multi-family housing execs want cheap land close-in. This marriage creates this situation, which if continued unchecked, will become a major problem for the county.

County Commissioners, each time they re-zone a property, create the atmosphere of lax interpretation of zoning ordinances. Should the commission try to arch its back and reject such measures, the courts may look upon past lax enforcement of zonings, and overturn any rejected re-zoning. It's nearly a Catch 22!

What to do?

Homeowners may have the upper hand here. With protests like the red-shirted Dacula residents showed before the Planning Commission, those appointed to boards and those elected by the people begin to feel impact. When officials hear homeowners often, they may start becoming more stalwart in the enforcement of long range land plans. This will not set well with large tract landowners, nor the people who want to develop them. But those in the land business are a minority to the majority of homeowners.

If the people are loud and clear in their determination to restrict current zoned industrial land to its intended use, it could benefit the county for years to come. But if the people are lax on this matter, which the elected officials interpret as no interest, expect to see more land zoned industrial to continue to move to residential use.

It won't be a good sign for Gwinnett County.



ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

The public spiritedness of our sponsors allows us to bring GwinnettForum.com to you at no cost to readers. Today's sponsor is the **Aurora Theatre**, Gwinnett County's First Choice for Professional Theatrical Entertainment. The theatre is located in historic downtown Duluth and is committed to producing quality, professional theatre for all of North Georgia. The 2004-2005 Master Season includes: Neil Simon's comedy Last of the Red Hot Lovers; Das Barbecü, a country western Ring Cycle; Hometown Holidays, now in its 9th smash season; Jamie Pachino's coming of age drama, Waving Goodbye; the romantic play Enchanted April; and 4 Guys Named



-- Artist Saul Steinberg, (1914-1999).

Elliott Brack's commentary

12/20: [A president like Silent Cal](#)

12/16: [Baptists have Gwinnett HQ](#)

12/13: [Libraries are important](#)

12/9: [Barry to retire](#)

12/6: [Case of Barbara Mackle](#)

12/2: [NBA's dress code](#)

11/29: [More on China trip](#)

11/25: [Bad week for Atlanta](#)

11/22: [Time to get out of Iraq](#)

11/18: [Three week trip to China](#)

11/15: [Lake named for poet](#)

11/8: [Naming Lake Lanier](#)

11/1: [Remembering Scott Hudgens](#)

10/25: [Two party politics](#)

10/21: [More costly than gas](#)

10/18: [Drivers' license renewal](#)

[EEB index of columns](#)

other recent commentary

12/20: [Crupi on Iraq vote](#)

12/16: [Tyrrer on Gwinnett business](#)

12/13: [Robinson on English in China](#)

12/9: [Wilson on New Year's](#)

12/6: [Shearer on saving hemlocks](#)

12/2: [Foreman, Seeley on Aurora](#)

11/29: [Hill on Points for Presents](#)

11/25: [Brooks with warmth tips](#)

11/22: [Grastat on China trip](#)

11/18: [Doublestein on Grayson Inst.](#)

11/15: [Stuart on recycling cell phones](#)

11/8: [Hulsey on Katrina devastation](#)

11/1: [Geske on children's home](#)

10/25: [Calmes on local ballerina](#)

10/21: [Holder on Great Day of Service](#)

10/18: [Judy on driving record](#)

[COMMENTARY INDEX](#)

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Jose and una Mujer Named Maria. To purchase individual tickets, season tickets or for more information, visit their website at www.auroratheatre.com or call 770-476-7926.

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<http://www.gwinnettforum.com/about/sponsors.htm>.



McLEMORE'S WORLD

6/24: Bureaucrats having fun!

Another great cartoon from Bill McLemore:



FEEDBACK

6/24: One guy on how another approaches the game of life

Editor, the Forum:

Fall will not be here soon enough for many people---especially those who hate hot weather and love football. I urge you to put loyalty aside for a moment and read Terrence Moore's article in the AJC sports section on Tuesday, June 21 about UGA football coach Mark Richt who has been questioned by some on his handling of recent events. The article speaks for itself, but I would like to quote the ending, just in case you are not a sports fan:

Coach Richt: "I promise you that every decision I make is prayed over. I don't just flippantly make a decision based on emotion or on what someone may want to hear. For me the only person I choose to please with my decisions is God."

I'm glad he takes this approach to a "game" and wish we all could do the same in our decision-making! Go DAWGS!

-- Charles Summerour, Duluth

6/24: Mars about to come closer to Earth than in last 5,000 years

Editor, the Forum:

The Red Planet is about to be SPECTACULAR! This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287!

Because of the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the



last 5,000 years, It may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27 when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars! grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Share this with your children and grandchildren. NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN!

-- Linda and Joe Parrish, Rock Hill, S.C.

6/24: Forts McPherson, Gillem should not be on BRAC closing list

Editor, the Forum:

Anyone who visits Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport will see hundreds of United States Soldiers deploying to and returning from the Global War on Terrorism. The only people who would be happy with Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem closing would be our enemies.

Fort McPherson is the headquarters for Forces Command and the Army Reserve Command. They coordinate the deployments of our soldiers to fight our enemies, and part of this process is arranging travel for units who move through Hartsfield-Jackson International. These commands are in a strategic location that is vital to winning the war.

Also, Fort Gillem demonstrates the success of civilian organizations such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross operating with the U.S. Army, like when aiding hurricane victims last year in Florida. The Base Realignment and Closing Committee should never have put Fort Gillem and Fort McPherson on their list.

-- Tyrone D. Scott, Smyrna



UPCOMING Chateau Elan gallery to show paintings of Pat Fiorello

Atlanta artist Pat Fiorello will showcase a variety of her paintings at Château Élan's art gallery from July 2 through August 30, 2005. Clinton Davenport, Marketing Coordinator of Château Élan, says: "Pat is an accomplished watercolorist who paints beautiful garden scenes, flowers and other natural settings. Her vibrant and fresh watercolors are a delight to see. We are pleased to be exhibiting Pat's work in our gallery." Château Élan is located at 100 Rue Charlemagne in Braselton. Hours for viewing are daily from 10-8pm

Not having painted since elementary school, Fiorello began painting at age 35. Self-taught at first, she later took courses and workshops with noted watercolorists, and studied privately to further develop her artistic abilities and talents. Nearly ten years later, she left her corporate marketing position with The Coca-Cola Company to concentrate on painting full time.

She paints both in her home studio and on location. Fiorello has painted while traveling to Ireland, Italy, Provence, Bermuda, New Mexico and the North Carolina mountains, among other destinations.

She says: "My family name, Fiorello, comes from an Italian lineage meaning 'one who lives near a wall of flowers', so I guess I come by my love of painting gardens and flowers naturally," says the artist. "I am constantly amazed and inspired by the beauty of nature and hope to share those feelings through my watercolors. Painting has opened my eyes to things I never noticed before and has brought me a new and deeper appreciation of the world we live in," she said.

Many of her watercolors may be viewed at www.patfiorello.com.

RECOMMENDED READ

- *An invitation: What Web sites or books have you enjoyed? Send us your best recent read*

along with a short paragraph as to why you liked it, plus what book you plan to read next.

--eeb



ENCYCLOPEDIA TIDBIT

Georgian Nunnally Johnson succeeds in screenwriting

After an early career as a journalist and short-story writer, Georgia native Nunnally Johnson emerged as one of Hollywood's most accomplished screenwriters and producers from the 1930s through the 1950s, when he began to direct motion pictures as well.



Nunnally Johnson was born on December 5, 1897, in Columbus. His father worked as a superintendent for the Central of Georgia Railway, and his mother was an activist on the local school board. After graduating from Columbus High School in 1915, Johnson worked briefly as a reporter for the Columbus Enquirer-Sun before moving to Savannah to work for the Savannah Press.

In 1919 Johnson moved to New York City and by the mid-1920s had emerged as one of the city's leading newspapermen, reporting major national events for the Brooklyn Daily Eagle (1919-25), the New York Herald Tribune (1926), and the (1927-30). These writings were mostly light satirical pieces depicting contemporary manners and mores in New York City and in a fictionalized version of Columbus that he called Riverside. Three of his stories won O. Henry Memorial Awards in the late 1920s. In 1931 he published a collection of his stories, *There Ought to Be a Law*.

In 1932 Johnson moved to Los Angeles, where he worked as a screenwriter for 20th Century Fox. Among the dozens of scripts he wrote, he excelled at converting novels into screenplays. His most successful efforts included screenplays for John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*; *The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit*; *My Cousin Rachel*; and his final screenplay, *The Dirty Dozen*. By the 1950s he was the highest-paid screenwriter in Hollywood.

Two of Johnson's most important adaptations were of Georgia-based stories: Erskine Caldwell's *Tobacco Road*, his third partnership with the director John Ford, and *The Three Faces of Eve*. That film, which Johnson also produced and directed, earned an Academy Award for actress Joanne Woodward, a Thomasville native, in her first starring role.

Johnson was married three times. His first wife was Alice Mason, whom he married in 1919 and with whom he had a daughter. They divorced in 1920. Johnson married Marion Byrnes in 1927, and they also had a daughter. The couple divorced in 1938. In 1940 Johnson married Dorris Bowdon, an actress he met while both were working on *The Grapes of Wrath*; they had three children. Johnson died on March 25, 1977, in Hollywood. A collection of his correspondence with famous friends and colleagues was published in 1981.

- To access the Georgia Encyclopedia, go to <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org>

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Another consideration of the art of boredom

"The life of the creative man is led directed and controlled by boredom. Avoiding boredom is one of our most important purposes."

-- Artist Saul Steinberg, (1914-1999).

- **Another invitation:** What's your favorite saying? Share with others through GwinnettForum. Send to elliott@gwinnettforum.com.



SEND YOUR FEEDBACK

Send your thoughts, 55-word short stories, pet peeves or comments on any issue to [Gwinnett Forum](http://www.gwinnettforum.com) for future publication.

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