

# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018

[HTTP://WWW.W4GWD.ORG](http://www.w4gwd.org)

[W4GWD@ARRL.NET](mailto:W4GWD@ARRL.NET)

## 2018 CLUB OFFICERS

### President

David Russ, K4DWR

### Vice President

Adam Shirley, WJ4X

### Secretary

George Crane, W3RXF

### Treasurer

Tedd Davison, AI4WN

### Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis, W4DEW

### Activities Manager

Kevan Nason, N4XL

### Editor in Chief

Michael Wills, KA4CSM

### The W4GWD Repeater Network

147.165+ t107.2

Echolink: 584003

443.900+ t107.2

**W4GWM/R**

145.420- DV

**W4DEW/R**

146.910- t123.0

**WJ4X/R**

442.600+ t107.2 / DV

## Infrastructure Update

Analog Repeaters are up.

DMR and D-Star is up.

Fusion is up.

Echolink is down, maybe for an extended time.

APRS iGate is up.

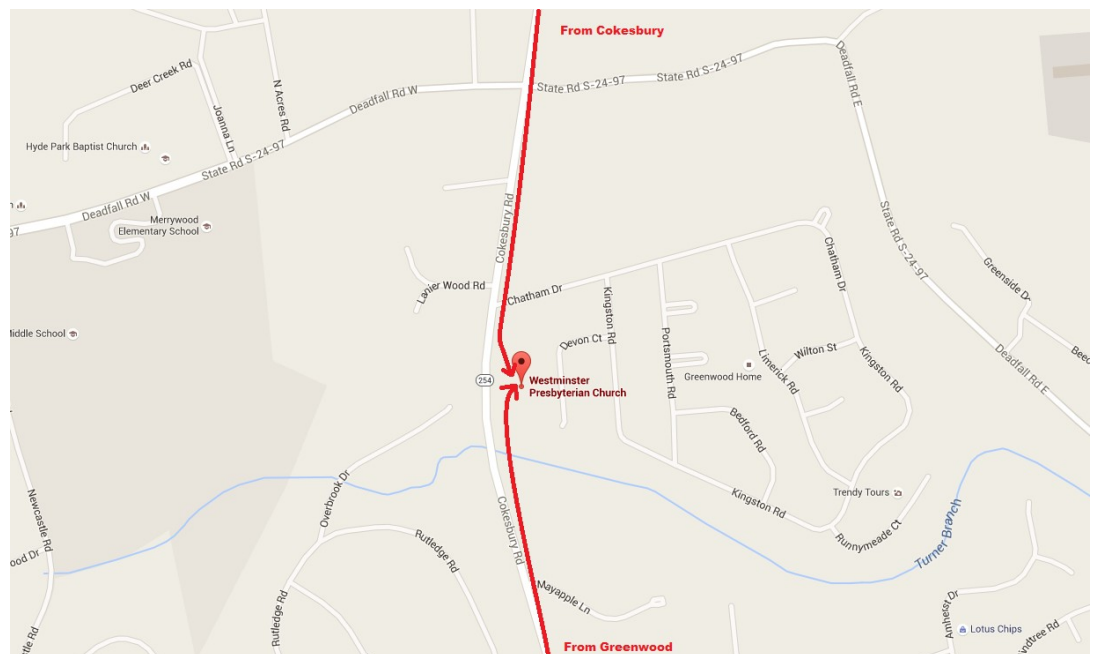
Packet Node is down when up it is connected to the Carolinas Packet System 145.010

Downtown Digi is up and operational

Repeater Linking Project—Linked now (undergoing testing)

## August Meeting

Our Club meets at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood, SC. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month which will be the 14th of this month. Meeting starts at 7:30 Sharp.





facebook.com/  
GreenwoodARS

If you have any ideas for books you'd like to see in the GARS Library, Contact Mitch KJ4JGP

Phil's Corner:

Hamisms #365

Become more involved in your club— participate; volunteers are always welcome and **NEEDED.**

## Greenwood Amateur Society Events:

### Chat 'N' Chew

Every Friday at 11:30am the members of the Greenwood Amateur Radio society meet at a local restaurant. Please check in to our Thursday radio net weekly, as locations change. Everyone is welcome to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage

### Weekly Nets

The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society holds our weekly 2 meter net each Thursday night at 9 p.m. on 147.165 with a plus .6 mhz offset

Our UHF net is on 443.900 with a + 5 mhz offset is held Mondays at 8pm

Help spread the word for everyone to check-in to our net. If you would like to fill in or be a backup net control please contact Tedd Davison [ai4wn@arrl.net](mailto:ai4wn@arrl.net)

### VE Exam Session

The GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) Team will have an exam session 7:00pm Tuesday, August 7th at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The address is 2330 Cokesbury Rd Greenwood SC 29649-9515 We hope to see you there. Please contact Buddy Willis W4DEW [w4dew@arrl.net](mailto:w4dew@arrl.net)

### Happy Birthday!

Michael Wills	KA4CSM	8-9
Sherree Wills	Family mbr	8-16
Bert Keck	KJ4VJ	8-28
Darrell Manning	AF4E	8-31

### Happy Anniversary!

Mitchell & Diantha Litwer  
8-15



Are you an ARRL Member? Joining ARRL helps protect our rights as Amateur Radio Operators as well as providing education, QSL Bureau, technical advise, and the ARRL VEC. <http://www.arrl.org>

## Choosing the right Microphone for you and your radio (Part 1, Part 2 next month)

Dan Curry, KM4AJ



Choosing a microphone for you:

As the microphone is our main interface to the radio, it is something that should be setup to support the type of radio operation that is needed. If the operator intends to perform different type of radio activities, then multiple microphones may be needed. So how do you know what type of microphone setup is right for you? Here are three basic types of operation which may affect what type of microphone that you would want to use. Note that these scenarios are roughly the same between VHF/UHF and HF operation. These are certainly not the only types of operations out there, but just some examples to get you thinking.

### The occasional net check-in and limited rag chew.

Most radios will come with a basic hand held microphone with a built in push to talk (PTT). These microphones work fine for net check-ins and short radio contacts. In this scenario, the radio is tuned to the frequency that you want to use and doesn't change during the radio contact. The advantage of these types of microphones is their low cost, compact size and their ease of use. This is normally the type of microphone setup that we all start with.

### The extended rag chew

One drawback of a hand held microphone is that you have to hold the microphone to your face while talking, which can tire your arm out if you participate in long duration rag chews. There are radio clubs that operate on bands like 40 meters where there are daily rag chews that go on for hours. If that is the type of radio operation that you are into, then you will probably want to trade in your hand held microphone for a desktop mic or a microphone mounted on a boom arm that can be positioned in a comfortable place for you to sit for long periods of time. Since you don't have to hold the microphone, how can use the type of microphone more comfortably for longer periods of time. In the case of a desktop mic, the PTT is normally built into the base of the microphone so you can control the transmit operation of the radio. In the case of a microphone mounted on a movable boom, it is typical to use a separate hand held PTT activation switch. This way, you can sit in a comfortable position and hold the PTT in your hand in a relaxed position for long periods of time. It is also common for long term rag chewers to utilize the VOX feature present in most radios to control the transmit function of the radio in order to eliminate the need for the PTT switch. When doing so, the microphone sensitivity must be set properly or background noise will initiate a transmit cycle inadvertently. The advantage of these types of microphone setups is that they are more comfortable to use for longer durations, but cost more to setup and are can be more complicated than hand held microphone setups.

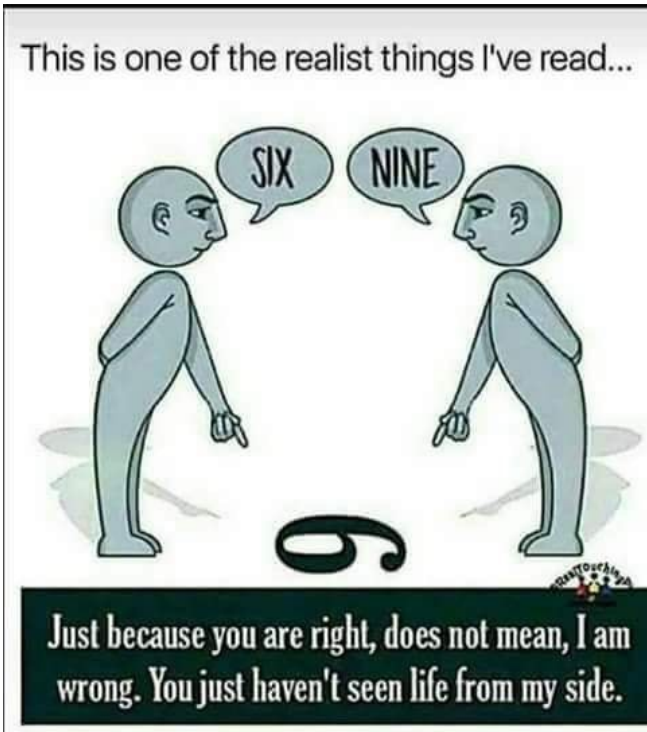
**Choosing the right Microphone for you and your radio** (Part 1 continued)  
 KM4AJ

Net Control Stations or Contesting

The drawback of the hand held microphone or desktop microphone for net control stations or contesters is the fact that one of your hands is normally dedicated to operating the PTT switch and your head must be positioned in a particular place in order to properly use the microphone. This can create problems when you are changing radio frequencies often and using a computer to log net check-ins or contest contacts. In this scenario, a headset microphone with a foot pedal PTT switch is often the choice. The headset microphone allows the operator to freely move their head around to shift their attention between the radio, a logging program or station spotting program while talking on the radio. The foot pedal PTT switch allows both hands to be available to work the radio or computer logging program. Also, during search and pounce operation, the radio frequency may be changed often which requires the use of a hand for tuning. Using this approach, valuable time between contacts can be reduced which helps you work through your pile-ups and allows you to make more contacts in a shorter period of time. If contesting is not your interest, keep in mind that during emergency radio operations, you may be called upon to copy and relay messages quickly and accurately, so having your hands free to copy messages allows you to handle messages quicker with fewer distractions, which helps with accuracy. (To be continued next month)



Not Ham related but nonetheless a good thing to remember!!



COMPETITIVE CONTESTING CLASS, AUGUST 18 2018, GRAY COURT, SC,  
8:30 AM—3 PM

The Swamp Fox Contest Group (SFCG) and South Carolina DX Association (SCDXA) are sponsoring a Competitive Contesting class Saturday August 18th in Gray Court, South Carolina. Its goal is simple. To help those already familiar with contesting improve their scores. To achieve that goal operating techniques, station design choices, and contest radio characteristics will be presented.

This is not a beginner's class. People choosing to attend should have previously participated in contests or serious Field Day efforts. They will already be familiar with how a contest style contact is conducted and now want to figure out what they can do differently to help achieve competitive state, regional, and national scores. Skills discussed can be used for Field Day but will be focused on participating in contests happening throughout the year. Heavy emphasis is placed on HF SSB operations, however much of the information to be presented is common to all types and modes of contesting.

Kevan Nason, N4XL, will present topics which include methods to make contacts flow more efficiently, breaking through pile ups, HFTA and take off angles, improving your Search and Pounce technique, tips on Running stations, using N1MM contest logger tools to increase contact rate per hour, and internet sources to help with your self improvement efforts. Most importantly, for those of you not yet in the know the Big Secret used by all the highest scoring contesters will be revealed! It is virtually impossible to be a top contester without incorporating this critical knowledge into your personal operating style.

SCDXA member K9JDP is graciously opening his large shack for the class. It is located in Laurens County 3056 Greenpond Rd, Gray Court South Carolina 29645. Kickoff is at 8:30 AM. We'll discuss contesting for about 5 hours. There will be an additional 60-minute break in the middle for lunch meaning we should be done by 3:00. GT's Quick Stop is just a few minutes away. They serve pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, BLT's and BBQ sandwiches. If you would rather bring your own meal Jim has a full kitchen in the shack with a stove, refrigerator and microwave. Bottled water will be available.. It is recognized that a class on August 18th will conflict with the NAQP SSB contest which many like to participate in. After looking at facility scheduling requirements and other conflicts this proved to be the best date. Seating is limited to 25 people. Contact Kevan Nason, N4XL, for registration or additional information. The class was first presented last spring and was well received. Attendees gave many positive comments.

There are currently no plans for a third, so if interested you are encouraged to register now rather than waiting.

Kevan Nason, [knason00@gmail.com](mailto:knason00@gmail.com) SFCG, <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/>



The Columbia National Weather Service will be hosting a basic SKY-WARN class on August 14, at 7 pm, in the Chapman American Legion Post 193 Legion Hall. It is located at 102 Lexington Ave, Chapin, SC 29036 (it is an old fire station.) The class is expected to last approximately two hours.

Interested parties can do a search on SKYWARN to get more details or go to <http://www.skywarn.org>, but this is a storm spotter's basic course. Any and all are welcome to attend. Please email [WD4NG@arrl.net](mailto:WD4NG@arrl.net) if you plan to attend; as we need to make preparations. Posted by the Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group.



Taken from quilt gallery on line. (Not one of Margie's)

Margie Spangenberg KK4AGN, has agreed to come to our club meeting on the 11th of September. Look her up on QRZ, she has been a ham for many years with many accomplishments. She will be bringing a quilt she made and give us a short talk about it. Please bring friends/family or anyone interested in quilting. She will be first up on the agenda so any non-hams will be free to leave before the business meeting begins if they so desire.



Hi Dave

Yes, I plan to be at the Greenwood Club's meeting on Tuesday, September 11.

Gary and I are in Forest City Iowa for the Winnebago's Grand National Rally. There are over 900 motorhomes to celebrate Winnebago's 60th birthday. We are active members of the WIT Radio Club at the rally. Thursday, I will show my quilt and a short talk at the WIT Radio Club's tent to the members and anyone who is a quilter. I am also working the W0WIT Special Event Station on either 14.268 or 7.263. When I'm on the air I will spot W0WIT on DXwatch.com. We leave for Oklahoma City on Sunday for the Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) Convention to give my talk of my 50 States QSL Card Quilt. I am a busy hamette!

I'll get back to you when I return home sometime around August 10.

Thank you for inviting me to your club meeting.

73

Margie Spangenberg, KK4AGN



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## OF GENIES AND THINGS

A ham operator is operating Field Day alone at a deserted beach. He is taking a little break from the action, walking around on the beach and notices an antique brass bottle mostly buried in the sand. He digs it out and discovers it's a genie bottle! He manages to get it open and a genie appears. "Thank you for freeing me, O Master!" said the grateful genie. "I will grant you any one wish you want." The ham thinks about it and says, "OK, I got it. I live right now in a restrictive neighborhood. I would like to have a 500 foot tower with all sorts of antennas, despite the homeowners association." The genie looks worried. "O Master! That's a big order. The power of these HOAs and their CC&Rs is most powerful! In fact, they are more powerful than even I, O Master! I would beg you to please choose something else for your wish." The ham says, "OK, let's do this." He goes over to his ham station and pulls out his log books. "See this entry? This is a contact I once made with AC6V. I would sure like to get his QSL card after all this time." The genie looks at the log-book. Then he says, **"Now regarding that 500 foot antenna tower, do you want it galvanized or stainless steel?"**

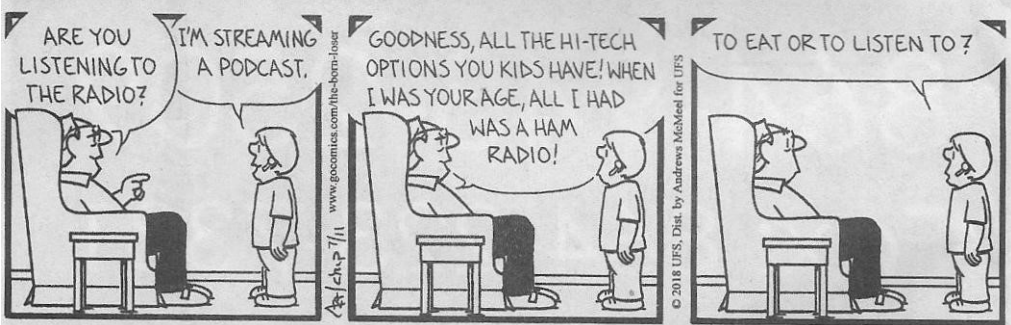


"Why should we buy a carpet that covers one room when for the same amount of money we can buy a radio that covers the whole world?"

FRANK AND ERNEST by Bob Thaves



THE BORN LOSER by Art and Chip Sansom

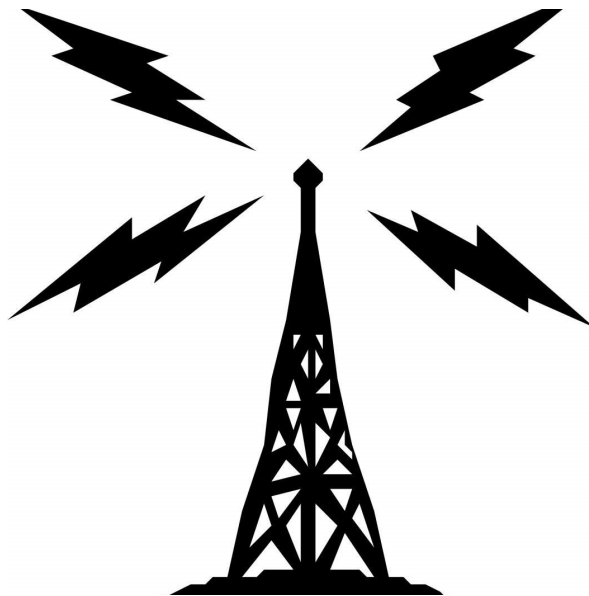


Courtesy of Jim Cox, W3COX



# Silent Key Memorial

David Russ K4DWR is exploring ways that we as a club can honor our Silent Keys. If you would like to help with this or if you have any ideas please contact him [K4DWRSC@gmail.com](mailto:K4DWRSC@gmail.com)



If you are interested in ARES contact Tedd, AI4WN for information. There is a big local exercise coming up on September 8th. it will involve up to ten fire stations and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP.) It will be conducted on the premise that a tornado has taken out all local police and fire frequencies so amateur radio frequencies VHF, UHF and DSTAR will be used.

Lots of good current information for all you ARES/RACES hams on the below link:

SC Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Auxiliary Communications Tactical Communication Guide , dated March 1, 2018.

[SC ARES & RACES link](#) then scroll to 2018 ARES/RACES tactical plan then click on SC ARES Tactical plan V4.4A

## HAMFESTS and EVENTS:

**ARRL Rookie Roundup—RTTY**  
**1800 UTC—2359 UTC Sunday August 19**  
[Www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

**Shelby Hamfest**  
**August 31—September 2**  
**Shelby, NC.**

**DX and Contest Convention**  
**September 21-22**  
**Pigeon Forge, TN.**

- \* **The American Radio Relay League protects our rights as Amateur Radio Operators** <http://www.arrl.org>
- \* **Support for SERA supports proper coordination!** <http://www.sera.org>
- \* **Remember your local and regional interest clubs!**
- \* **Southeast DX Club** <http://.sedxc.org>
- \* **Spread The Word! 147.165 2m Net Thurs. 9pm**
- \* **Callsign info** <http://www.ae7q.com>
- \* **Track us on APRS:** <http://aprs.fi>
- \* **South Carolina DX Association** <http://scdxa.org/>
- \* **Swamp Fox Contest Group** <http://swampfoxcontestgroup.com>

## Classifieds:

### Price reduced & component added

Hy-Gain TH7DX 10-15-20 M beam. Verified SWR 1.5 to 2.5 on all bands at 13' off ground. New plastic parts i.e. end caps and trap covers. Including an **Alliance Rotor** (has pitted bearings but races are smooth) Can be mounted inside tower or attached to mast. The connector and controller need to be replaced. Retail \$900, asking **\$300.00** Teddy AE4TJ [myemail122060@yahoo.com](mailto:myemail122060@yahoo.com)

Large black power supply, belonged to my Dad. Unmarked as to type, model, watts etc. I would like to **trade** it for a mag mount dual band mobile antenna. 2 Baofeng HT antennas for sale at best offer. Very heavy box of QST magazines. Best offer. Stephen Lyda, KA4PQA, [stephenlyda@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenlyda@yahoo.com)

Hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Please contact me with any ideas/suggestions etc. Submit articles, including where you got it, for inclusion in future editions to me at [Mike31406@gmail.com](mailto:Mike31406@gmail.com)

*Mike*