



The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2018

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

[W4GWD@ARRL.NET](mailto:w4gwd@arrl.net)

2018 CLUB

OFFICERS

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David Russ, K4DWR

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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, undergoing engineering study

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

December Meeting

There is no scheduled club meeting in December. It is being replaced by the Holiday Banquet at 6pm on the 11th December. It will be held at the Smokehouse BBQ, 1352 Bypass 72, Greenwood, SC. The same location as last year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!!





Like US on
Facebook

facebook.com/
GreenwoodARS

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

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 weekly Monday or Thursday radio nets as locations change. Everyone is welcome to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while. **Dutch treat.**

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 and 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

VE Exam Session

The GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) Team will have an exam session 7:00pm Tuesday, December 4th. 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

Happy Birthday!

Robert Gillian	KN4IXE	12-7
Fred Pinson	K4RM	12-10
Jim Gresham	AK4EK	12-31

Happy Anniversary!

Darrell (AF4E) & Dena
Manning
12-3



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>



Christmas will be here before we know it! Mark your Calendars and plan on attending the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society annual Holiday Banquet on December 11, 2018. It will be held at the Smokehouse BBQ, 1352 Bypass 72 NE Greenwood, the same location as last year, at 6 p.m. This will take the place of the December Club meeting. It is Dutch treat and the dress is casual.

*See you there,
Mike*

FT8 DXpedition Mode, Dan Curry, KM4AJ

FT8 has been hugely popular since its release last year. In previous articles we've talked about how it works and what some of its limitations are. While FT8 works great for long range low power station to station contacts, it does not work well for emergency contacts or expedition type contacts. Over the last year, the WSJT-X team has been working to improve its capability to support high volume contacts for expeditions and have released a new version of their software to handle this type of contact. As of version 1.9.1 there is a new DXpedition mode, also known as fox and hound mode.

While using normal WSJT-X to make a contact, operators use designated frequencies on each band for FT8 operation and share the band section so you can see all stations and select a CQ'ing station to respond to. Once the CQ'ing station receives a response it begins a pre-defined exchange with that station and ignores all others. If you are the CQ'ing station and get multiple responses, this can be frustrating if you being an exchange, then see a response from that rare callsign that you've been searching for since you have to complete the current exchange before moving back to the second station. Most of the time, the second station has moved on by the time you get back to them.

With the new DXpedition mode in WSJT-X, they've changed a few things. While in DXpedition mode, you are now trying to find stations that are setup a "Fox" stations, making you the "Hound" station. The hound station is looking for DXpedition "Fox" stations which will be stations setup in rare locations or using rare callsigns, making their contact desirable to a large number of stations. The Fox stations will be using frequencies designated for use for their DXpedition and not the normal FT8 frequencies. This means that finding them will generally require some foreknowledge of their existence so you can be on their frequency and setup in Hound mode. Once there, the new DXpedition mode in WSJT-X will allow the Fox station to receive contacts from multiple stations at once and respond to multiple at a time. This will allow the Fox station to make many more contacts in a shorter period of time than before. Also, since its operating using the FT8 mode, it can receive and transmit signals over a longer range than SSB voice. For the first time, FT8 was used and allowed during the summer field day 2018. So now with the release of FT8 DXpedition mode, I expect there to be special event stations running in Fox mode during the next field day, so this is something that you're going to want to try out. So here are some resources to help you get started.

How to setup WSJT-X DXpedition mode:

Download version 1.9.1 and get the user guide from <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>

Watch the youtube tutorial to see how to setup and configure your station for FT8 DXpedition mode

How to Work WSJT-X in DXpedition Mode for Baker Island

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFVrmTcZ4b0>

Look for Fox stations using spotting websites

DXWatch.com

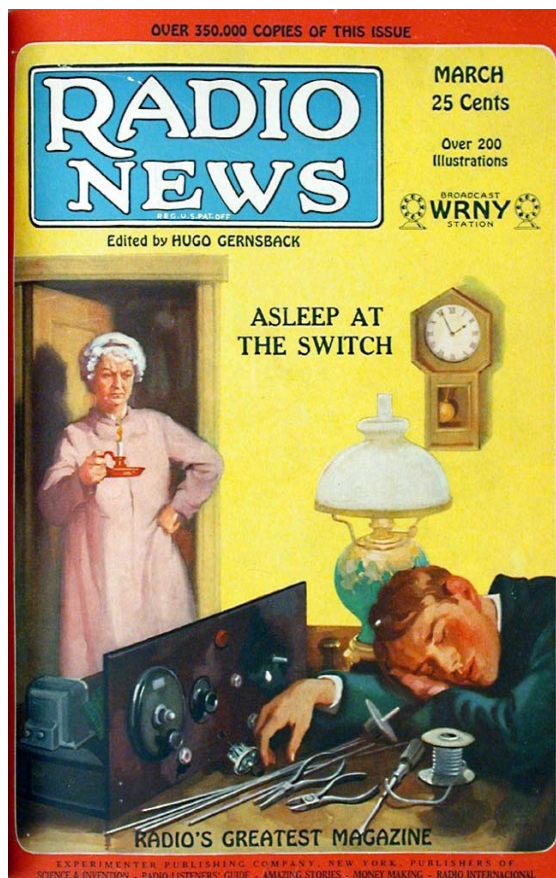
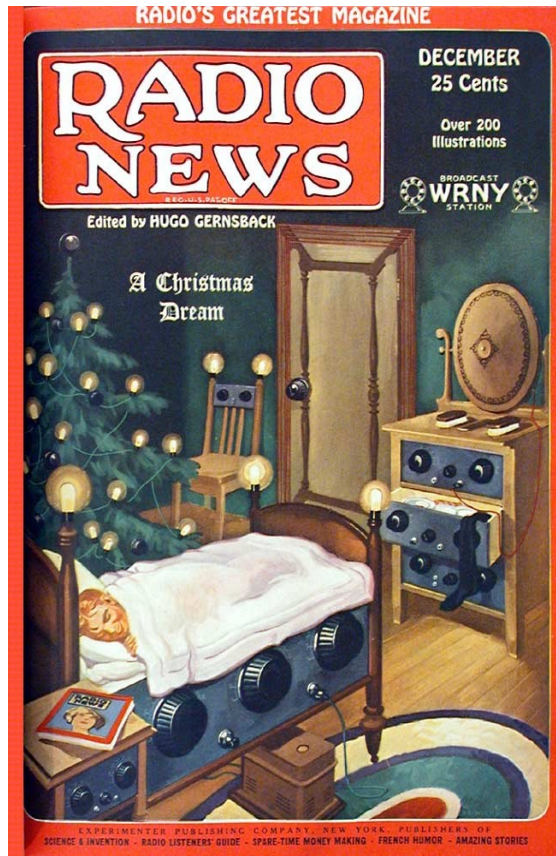
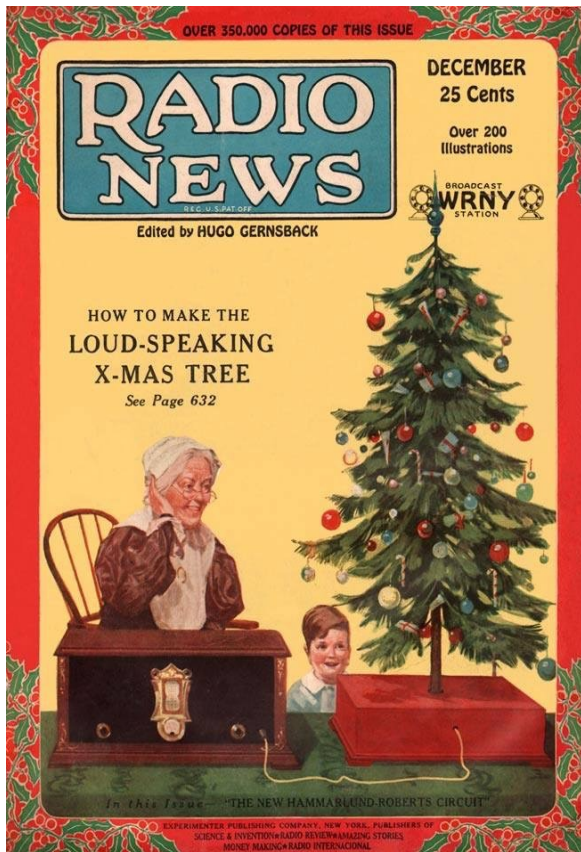
<https://dxwatch.com/>

PSKReporter

<https://www.pskreporter.info>

So thanks to HAMS who keep working to advance Amateur Radio, things are always changing. Through continual innovation like FT8 Expedition mode, there are always new things to try with HAM radio.

To read any of the previous articles mentioned above or to access other helpful HAM radio links, go to my website www.km4aj.net for more.





2019 Greenwood Amateur Hamfest

January 12, 2019 will be here before you know it. Plan on attending your club's annual Hamfest at Piedmont Technical College. Bring your family and invite all your friends.

On Friday January 11 the venue will be open and available for vendors to set up their tables from 2-5 p.m. If you are looking for a way to contribute something to the club this would be a good opportunity. Help is always needed in setting up, assisting vendors and in the parking lot. Vendors pay a one time fee of \$10.00 per table with an additional \$10.00 if 117VAC power is needed. All vendors, retail and others, may only setup at designated areas *inside* the building venue.

On January 12, the venue will be opened for vendor setup from 7-9 a.m. At 9 a.m. the doors will be opened to the public. Adult admission is \$8.00, club members and children 12 and younger are free. People coming for the VE license exam are not required to pay an admission fee unless they will be attending the Hamfest, in that case they will pay the \$8.00.

The point of contacts are Tedd Davison, AI4WN at AI4WN@ARRL.net and Buddy Willis, W4DEW at W4DEW@arrl.net



Its that time of the year again. If you are interested in volunteering for the nomination committee , should one be needed, now would be a good time to do so. Please contact Dave Russ , KD4WR at 864-323-2954.



Please mark your calendars. Annual dues for the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) are payable to Tedd Davison AI4WN, February 1 through April 1. \$25.00 per individual membership, plus \$2.00 for spouse, plus \$2.00 more per student.

HAMFESTS and EVENTS:

2018 ARRL CW Rookie Roundup
Dec. 16 www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

2018 ARRL 10-Meter Contest
Dec. 8 www.arrl.org/10-meter

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest Piedmont Tech Greenwood, SC January 12, 2019

- * **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:

Effective immediately classifieds will be run for 3 consecutive months then removed. They may be may be posted again after a 3 month period. 3 on then 3 off.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FC-901 antenna tuner. Very clean and in good working condition with original manual. This 500W tuner was originally designed for the FT-901 but can be used with any transmitter within ratings. Has a built-in antenna switch and multiple power ranges. \$200 plus shipping. Pictures available on request. See <http://www.foxtango.org/ft-library/FT-Library/FT101ZD-901-902/FC-901.pdf> for the manual online.

FOR SALE: A very nice MFJ-976 balanced antenna tuner. This tuner is rated full legal limit and is in good working condition with original manual. Will tune balanced lines including 600 Ohm open wire line, 450/300 Ohm ladder lines, 300/72 Ohm twin lead -- shielded or unshielded. The MFJ-976 also tunes random wires and coax-fed antennas. This tuner is in current production and sells for \$499. Asking \$350 plus shipping. Pictures available on request. See <https://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-976> for details and the manual on line.

Contact Fletch at fletchv3@frontiernet.net or 304-492-5399 for either of above two listings.

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

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

Mike