



# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

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

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

## 2018 CLUB OFFICERS

### President

Fred Pinson, K4RM

### Vice President

Adam Shirley, WJ4X

### Secretary

George Crane, W3RXF

### Treasurer

Tedd Davison, A14WN

### 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.

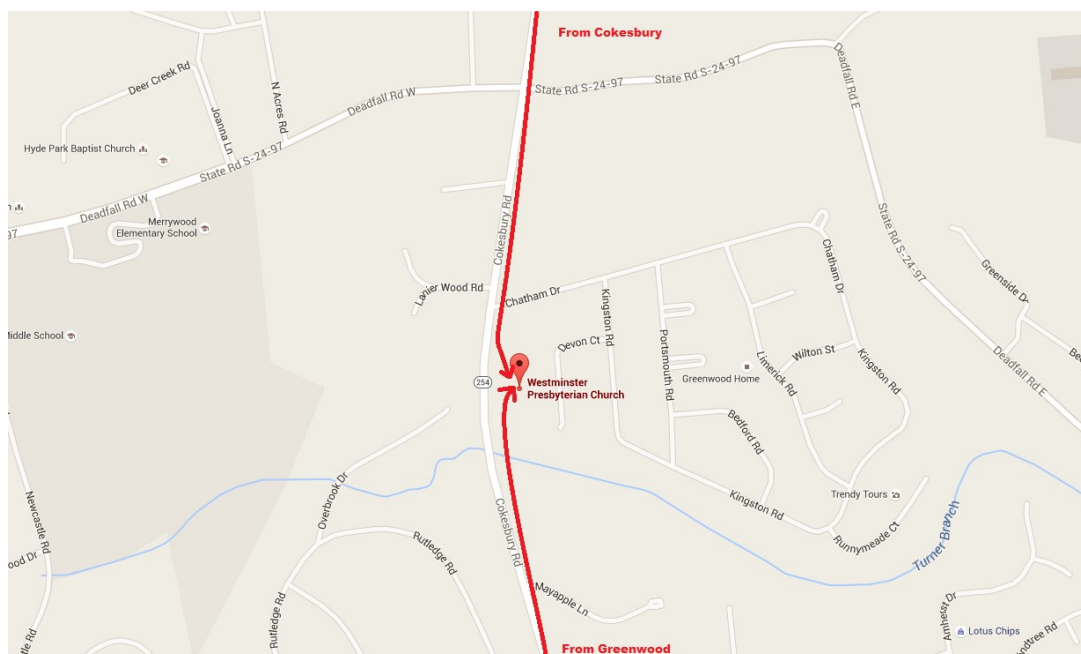
Packet Node is down when up it is connected to the Carolinas Packet System 145.010

Downtown Digi is up and operational

Repeater Linking Project—Linked now (undergoing testing)

## February 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 13th 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 #362

The new Technician study guide is effective 1 July 2018. It contains 428 questions and will be used through 2022. If you are studying for the exam now be sure you are using the right study guide.

## 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, February 6 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)

## Congratulations!!

### Happy Birthday!

David McCall	W4MCC	Feb. 20
Ronald Miller	KJ4OBY	Feb. 21
Dan Curry	KM4AJ	Feb. 22

### Happy Anniversary

Kevan and Elizabeth
Feb. 14
Buddy and Theaster Willis
Feb. 25

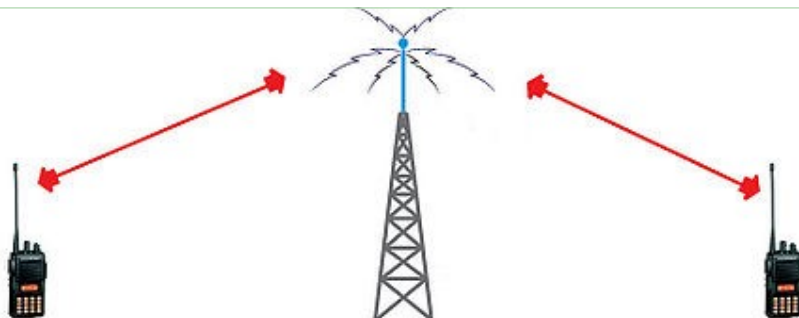
Are you an ARRL Member? Joining ARRL helps protect our rights as Amateur Radio Operators as well as providing education, QSL Bureau, technical advise, and the ARRL VEC. <http://www.arrl.org>





## PAY YOUR DUES

Your dues are important to your radio Club. According to the by-laws of our Club, annual dues are due by April 1 of the year. We appreciate that most members meet the deadline for their annual dues. Members not making the dues deadline will be dropped from the active membership. Reinstatement will require a resubmission of our Club application and an affirmative vote by Club members. We need your attention to this matter in order to maintain our meeting areas, field day activities, Club equipment, Club insurance, ARRL Club affiliation, annual Hamfest, maintenance of our local repeaters and much more. Please support your Club and submit your dues on time. If you need any additional information please contact any of our club officers. Thank you. Tedd, AI4WN



The GARS 2m (147.165) and 70cm (443.900) repeaters were successfully linked on February 21, 2018. Testing is underway to work out any problems and audio levels. During this time you can be on either 2m or 70 cm and both transmit and receive simultaneously on both repeaters. It has been well received by those using them. In the future other repeaters may be added including the Saluda repeater (146.910.) It is to be determined just how long they will stay linked. A big thank you to those involved in making this possible. Richard Donald N4LRD, Buddy Willis W4DEW, Adam Shirley WJ4X, Darrell Manning AF4E, Jeremy Manning KI4CCZ



## 2017 Net stats.

2m net            total check ins =1185  
                      sessions            = 52

70 cm            total check ins = 499  
                      Sessions            = 50

2017 average 2m check-ins per session = 23

2016 average 2m check-ins per session = 23 (interestingly)

2017 average 70 cm check-ins per session = 10

2016 average 70 cm check-ins per session = 8

You have all done a great job and are continuing to do so. *It is time to recruit more net controllers.* If each current Net Controller can find one new Net Controller we will have all the nets nicely covered. Contact me or any Net Controller if interested.

Remember, it is important to keep the nets rolling along. If we are ever challenged for not using our repeaters the official ARRL net summaries are solid evidence of the use of our coordinated frequency pairs.

Thank you all again for your participation. 73 Tedd AI4WN

## Backup Radio Station Power, the basics

(Part 1, look for part 2 next month)

Dan Curry

KM4AJ

One of the things that makes HAM Radio great for emergency communications is that it is not dependent on communications infrastructure. If there is a telecommunications outage affecting telephone, cellular or internet communications, HAM Radio is unaffected. HAM Radio is however affected by power disruptions. In order to keep our radios going in the event of a disaster, such as a hurricane, we need to have a backup power source that is not dependent on the power grid. In this article, we'll discuss several of the more popular types of backup power available to HAMs.

**Your Car** - Almost everyone has a backup power generator parked in their driveway. An average car can produce about 50 amps of 13.8 volt power at idle. This is more than enough to run a normal HF station. The difficult thing here is how to deliver the power from your car to your station. Ideally you have a window in your shack that you can pull your car up to. Be sure to have plenty of ventilation outside to keep exhaust from entering your shack. The only thing you really need is a cable to run from the battery of the car to your shack's power distribution system. A lot of HAM's have adopted power-pole connectors and power-pole PDU's (Power Distribution Unit's). If that is the case, then you'll need a cable with alligator clips at one end to connect to the car's battery and a power-pole connector at the other to your PDU. If you've lost power, be sure that your power supply is switched off so it is not running when the power comes back on. Given that a small 4 cylinder car burns about ½ gallon of gas per hour at idle speed, a car with 10 gallons of gas in the tank can run your station for about 20 hours. There are several problems with this approach though. The car will need to be parked very close to your house which may not be possible in some situations. 12 volt power also requires increasingly larger gauge wire the longer you go, so depending on how long your cable is, it may require heavy gauge wire, which can be expensive and harder to work with. You may also not want to have cables ran from outside of your house during a weather event as you may not be able to make a good seal on your window with the cable running through.

**Gas Generators** - A lot of households have a gas generator for backup power. These range in size greatly and can be connected to your house in a variety of ways. That is a topic that is too extensive to cover here, so I'll focus on the connection of your station to the gas generator. When connecting your station to the generator, this can be done in one of two ways. You can either connect your station's 12 volt power supply to the AC connection on the generator or you can utilize a 12 volt connection on the generator. An advantage of using the AC connection is that you can run longer extension cables from your generator to your shack so the generator can be more conveniently placed. One potential drawback is that depending on your generator you may get unstable power or noise introduced into your radio from the generator. Some newer generators now come with 12 volt connections as well. These 12 volt connections normally are limited in capacity as they aren't designed to run HAM stations and will only put out 5-7 amps of power. Since this isn't enough current to run your HF station, you would need to add a power booster with a capacitor to store up excess power when you're not transmitting and boost the current when you are. These power boosters can be expensive and finicky to get working, so using the generators AC connection with your power supply is probably your best bet.

## HAMFESTS and EVENTS:

### Dalton Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest 2018  
Dalton, Georgia  
February 24, 2018  
<http://w4drc.com>

### Charlotte Hamfest

March 9 & 10 2018  
<http://charlottehamfest.org>

### SC QSO Party

February 24, 2018 @ 1500Z  
<http://scqso.com>

### Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society

Upstate South Carolina Hamfest  
May 5, 2018  
<http://brars.cc>

### Dayton Hamvention

May 18-20, 2018  
120 Fairground Rd.  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
[www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

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

*Mike*

- \* The American Radio Relay League protects our rights as Amateur Radio Operators <http://www.arrrl.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:

Yaesu vx170, modified with charger and manual, works great, \$100.00  
Robert Gillian, KN4IXE, 864-314-9593

### Price reduced

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. Retail \$900, asking \$300.00 Teddy AE4TJ [myemail122060@yahoo.com](mailto:myemail122060@yahoo.com)

If anyone has any Ham radio items to sell or trade... list it in this column by contacting Buddy, [w4dew@arrrl.net](mailto:w4dew@arrrl.net), 864-445-7574