

The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

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JULY

HTTP://WWW.W4GWD.ORG

W4GWD@ARRL.NET

2017 CLUB

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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 up.

APRS iGate is up.

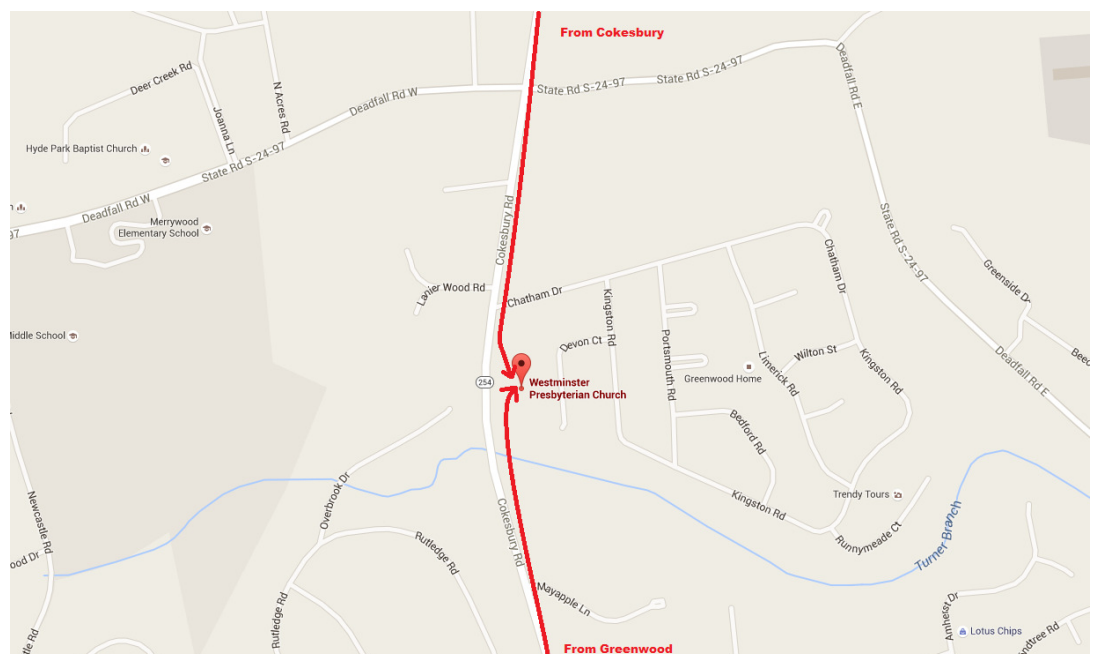
Packet Node is up connected to the Carolinas Packet System. 145.010

Downtown Digi coming soon. (equipment is sourced!)

Repeater Linking Project coming soon! (undergoing testing)

July Meeting

This month's club meeting will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood, SC. The new meeting date is on the 2nd Tuesday, which will be the 11th this month. Meeting starts at 7:30 Sharp.



Society Events:



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

Chat 'N' Chew

Every Friday at 11:30am the members of the Greenwood Amateur Radio society meet at a local restaurant. Please check in on radio to hear the new location. Everyone is welcome to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while. **Dutch treat.**

Weekly Nets

Each Thursday night at 9pm on the 147.165+ machine, The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society holds our weekly 2 meter net.

VE Exam Session

The GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) Team will have an exam session 7:00pm Tuesday, Aug 8th 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

Congratulations

Happy Birthday!

Karla Cox	WB3LNX	July 4
Stephen Lyda	KI4ZSY	July 4
Betty Jean Powell		July 15
Mitch Litwer	KJ4JGP	July 24
Jeremy Manning	KI4CCZ	July 28
John Penman	KC0CBD	July 30
Bert Keck	KJ4VJ	Aug 28
Brab Dukes	WB4TRF	Aug 31
Darrell Manning	AF4E	Aug 31

Happy Anniversary!

Brab and Elaine Dukes
July 6
David and Brenda McCall
July 7
George and Betty Crane
July 11
Kevin and Yvonne Simpson
July 12
Joe and Wendy Suddeth
July 12
Fred and Mary Pinson
July 18
Mitch and Di Litwer
Aug 15
Phil and Jo Henry
Aug 30

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



Phil's Corner:

Hamisms #359

Don't stick your hand into High Voltage equipment.

APRS Primer from KCOVCU

You can do anything from an APRS beacon letting the world know where you are, adding APRS to an in-car navigation system, message passing via APRS, monitoring where APRS users are located, through building infrastructure to handle APRS traffic and gateway it to the Internet.

You can buy hardware that provides all the APRS functionality minus the GPS receiver, on down to building your own APRS tracker. As far as the basics of APRS goes, a Tracker, or APRS sending device takes a collection of information from a GPS receiver, formats it into a packet, then sends it to a device that can transmit it. A full capability APRS system will both transmit information, as well as listen for APRS information that others have transmitted.

A gateway primarily receives APRS packets via a radio receiver, and reformats those packets to be distributed on the Internet. It may also be listening on the Internet for APRS packets to be re-transmitted into the local APRS network. This can enable a user to send or receive APRS messages to other APRS users who are not local.

Many radios allow you to simply attach a GPS receiver, and configure them directly to be an APRS system, some radios incorporate the receiver and are ready to go. On the assumption that you already have a radio that you would like to use, or consider one of these radios to be too expensive on their own, there are a lot of other alternatives. Many radios include a mini-din port that allows you to plug a TNC into the radio. This is part of their ability to act as a packet radio. APRS effectively is a dedicated packet radio system, where the traffic involved is GPS, or weather related information. (or messages.) If your radio provides this capability, you can use any TNC, with a computer or custom ASIC (PIC, basic stamp, whatever) based computer and a GPS receiver to work as your APRS system.

If you do not have a radio that can directly accept a TNC, there are a couple of software applications out there that allow you to use a PC sound card, along with one of the leads on either a com port, or a printer port to toggle transmit, to send data, including APRS packets, via a radio that does not have a port for a TNC adapter. Likewise if you are looking to simply monitor APRS traffic, you can simply use a scanner or other radio that can listen to the appropriate frequency, and feed the audio into a PC sound card and, using the same software as above, simply monitor.

If you don't want to add the expense of a TNC, and a computer to your setup, and already have a usable GPS receiver, you may choose to a tracker device. A Tiny-Trak can be bought either assembled (and tested) or as a kit to build on your own. As an alternative, OpenTrack can also be built or bought pre-assembled, and has the potential advantage of allowing you to re-write the software involved on your own. This may be more of a software development project than you are interested in, but serious software developers may find it an additional incentive to take this route.

HAMFESTS and EVENTS:

Mark your Calendars! Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest at Piedmont Technical College January 2018

North Carolina State Convention
Start Date: 09/01/2017
End Date: 09/03/2017
Location: Cleveland County Fairgrounds
1751 East Marion Street
Shelby, NC 28150
Website: <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>
Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 146.880- (no PL)
Public Contact: Tom Forgas, KB0PD
108 North Oakwood Drive Kings Mountain,
NC 28086
Phone: 703-201-1262
Email: chairman@shelbyhamfest.org

South Carolina Section Convention
Date: 10/07/2017
Location: New Kirk Baptist Church
175 Museum Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
Website: <http://www.ycars.org>
Sponsor: York County Amateur Radio Society
(YCARS)
Talk-In: 147.030- (PL 88.5)
Public Contact: Andy Kunik, AE8J
1625 Restless One Lane Rock Hill, SC 29730
Phone: 803-324-4024
Email: Akunik@bellsouth.net

Packet Cluster:

- ◆ 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://www.sedxc.org>
- ◆ Spread The Word! 147.165 Net Thurs. 9pm
- ◆ Callsign info <http://www.ae7q.com>
- ◆ Track us on APRS: <http://aprs.fi>

Classifieds:

2 Meter whip antenna for sale, Best Offer. Contact Stephen Lyda KI4ZSY stephenlyda@yahoo.com



If anyone has any Ham radio stuff to sell or trade... list it in this column by calling Buddy, w4dew@arrl.net, 864-445-7574

If you want to see your article or wish to advertise in The Signal Report, please send an email to the newsletter staff via newsletter@wj4x.net