

The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2020

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

W4GWD@ARRL.NET

2020 CLUB OFFICERS

President

Adam Shirley, WJ4X

Vice President

Ken Trapnell, KQ4RB

Secretary

George Crane, W3RXF

Treasurer

Tedd Davison, AI4WN

Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis, W4DEW

Activities Manager

Andy Bagwell, KN4DYV

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

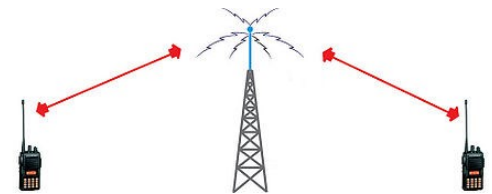
WJ4X/R

442.600+ t107.2 / DV

Ham Radio - Social Distancing for Over 100 Years



April 2020 Meeting



Our Club normally meets at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood, SC. We usually meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month making our April meeting on the 14th. Due to the virus this month a net will be conducted at 2000 hours or 8 p.m. for you civilians. A net roll call will be taken and it will become the official attendance roster for this meeting. The clubs 2m (147.165) and 70 cm (443.900) repeaters will be linked during that time. Don't miss it. Everyone please stay safe, continue to **practice social distancing** and the **frequent washing of hands**. This to will pass.

Greenwood Amateur Society Recurring Events:



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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 Monday or Thursday radio net weekly, as locations change. Everyone is welcome to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while. Dutch treat. **These are suspended until further notice.**

Weekly Nets

Each Thursday night at 9pm on the 147.165+ machine, The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society holds our weekly 2 meter net. Our UHF net on 443.900+ 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 testing session scheduled for 7:00 pm Tuesday, April 7, 2020 has been **cancelled.**

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

Congratulations!!

Happy Birthday!

Betsy Russ	Fam. Member	April 5
Tedd Davison	AI4WN	April 26
Mike Willis	KN4SIJ	April 28

Happy Anniversary!

Teddy (AE4TJ) & Ashley Johnson
April 1

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>





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Stay Indoors = Ham Radio!

By DX-World - March 22, 2020

The Handshake



The greeting that spreads the most germs



The High-Five



Transfers half the bacteria of a handshake



The Fist Bump



Transfers 90% fewer germs than the handshake

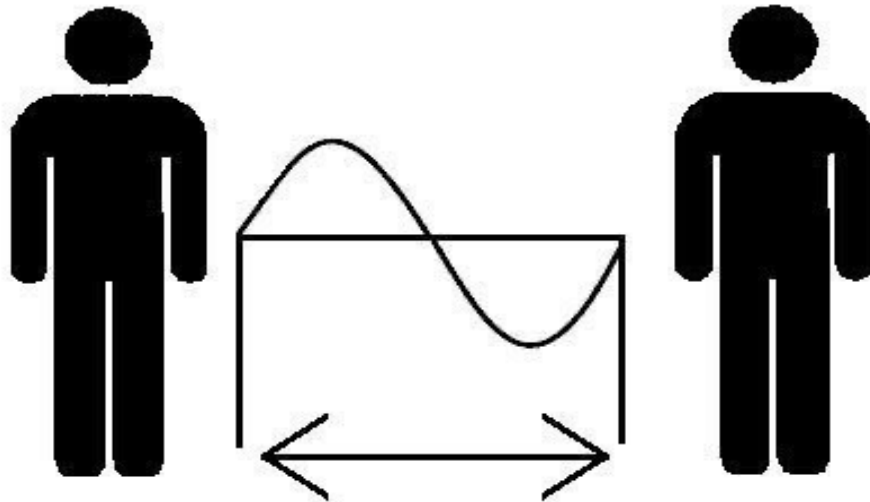


THE QSO



100% Safe

Social Distancing



Keep one wavelength apart at 146.52 MHz



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Ham Gear Trade-In

In an effort to assist those in need during this COVID 19 crisis I am offering clean, unused toilet paper in exchange for ham radio equipment. Trade-in values are listed in the table below

Equipment Type	Trade-In Value
Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu HF Rigs	2 complete unopen rolls of 4 ply toilet paper & 1 roll of single ply
VHF or UHF Multi-mode	1 full roll 2 ply toilet paper
KW or higher amplifier	1 full roll 2 ply toilet paper & 1 ½ roll of single ply.
Modern Test Equipment	½ Roll of 2 ply toilet paper, or 1 full roll of single ply. (Consignee choice)
Microphones, Keys & station accessories	½ Roll of single ply toilet paper
2m or 440 FM Handheld	24 sheets of single ply
Any Baofeng	6 unused single ply sheets of toilet paper. <i>* Each Baofeng traded must include a US \$10 bill.</i>

Trade-In Notes:

- Any Kenwood, Icom or Yaesu must be manufactured after 2005.
- Antennas and military equipment not accepted.
- All equipment must be clean, undamaged and fully functional.
- For items not specifically listed please contact me
- Consignee is responsible for shipping costs

Save-Ur Butt Trades
123 Wipe Down Gorge
Browntown NSX 992211

AFTER 2 WEEKS OF QUARANTINE.....





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Congratulations!

Our slate of Officers for 2020:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Adam Shirley, WJ4X | President * |
| Ken Trapnell, KQ4LB | Vice President * |
| George Crane, W3RFX | Secretary |
| Tedd Davison, AI4WN | Treasurer |
| Buddy Willis, W4DEW | Repeater Trustee |
| Andy Bagwell, KN4DYV | Activities Manager |
| Michael Wills, KA4CSM | Editor in Chief |

*denotes new to position

Thank you all for accepting these vital positions. Some have held these positions for several years. Our club couldn't operate without you.

A big *thank you* to **David Russ, K4DWR** for being our President for the past two years. Job well done Dave.

Russell Myrick, [KN4TUI](#) is our new Librarian. He asks for everyone's suggestions as to what we should have available for club members. Adam, WJ4X has authorized the purchase of a new repeater directory to be placed there.



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Please welcome the two newest members to our club:

Mark Tussey, **WT4KY** & John Fradella, **N4FJ**



The date is set for the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest. It will on the 9th of January 2021. Tedd, AI4WN has done an excellent job in putting this all together for many years. He is seeking some assistance in planning and coordinating it. Please contact [Tedd](#) if you are willing to help in anyway. He is also soliciting fresh ideas. Please comment on including Arts & Crafts tables at the venue, incorporating local computer stores, vendors of hats, id cards, license plates and embroidering same etc. Either contact Tedd or bring comments and point of contacts to our next meeting.



Field Day is fast approaching. Providing the virus is behind us it will be held on the 27th of June 2020 at the Coronaca Baptist Church. We need your input as to what you would like your clubs Field Day to include. Also need someone to step up and volunteer to be in charge of this. If this interests you please contact Adam, [WJ4X](#). Bring all ideas, suggestions, resources, etc. that you would be willing to supply to our next club meeting.

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Actress Hedy Lamarr was once dubbed 'the most beautiful woman in the world.' She was also a mathematician and inventor of frequency hopping spread spectrum, a technology used for Bluetooth and Wifi. Her idea was brushed off, others took credit for it, and she spent her life wishing people would notice her brains instead of just her beauty.

weird-facts.org @factsweird

Not Ham related but may be intriguing to those interested in technology. The below link is to a U-Tube on 1940's mobile telephones and how they operated back then.

<https://youtu.be/xDy2tHCPdk8>

Ten simple antenna designs you can build

<https://youtu.be/QZULcoqE9fs>



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A hint / fix-it others may find useful.

I like wing nuts so I can hook up and take down quickly if I'm playing in the field and had a problem with this ground stud coming loose on my tuner.

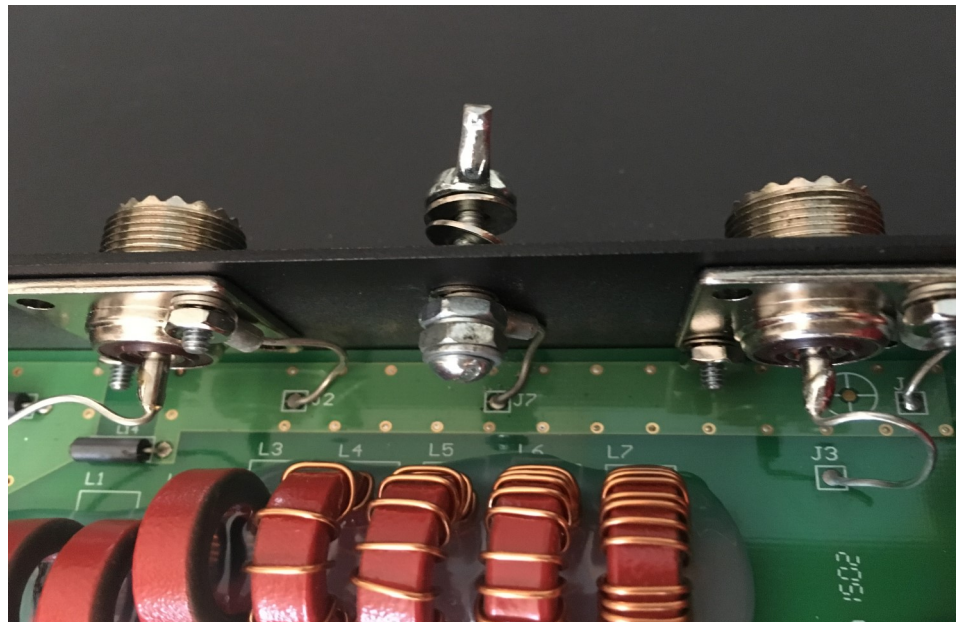
I never could get it tight enough working so close to the delicate electronics.

After fixing it twice by taking the cover off I decided to use a longer machine screw and double nut it.

I installed the two nuts against the head in the vice on the bench then secured it to the frame with the nut on the out side.

Small wrenches were safer than a screwdriver close to the circuit board!

73, Teddy AESTJ



Annual **dues** for the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) **are due** to Tedd Davison AI4WN, by the 1st of April 1. \$25.00 per individual membership, plus \$2.00 for spouse, and \$2.00 more per student. If you have not paid yet please mail to GARS, 116 Mountain Shore Drive, Greenwood 29649

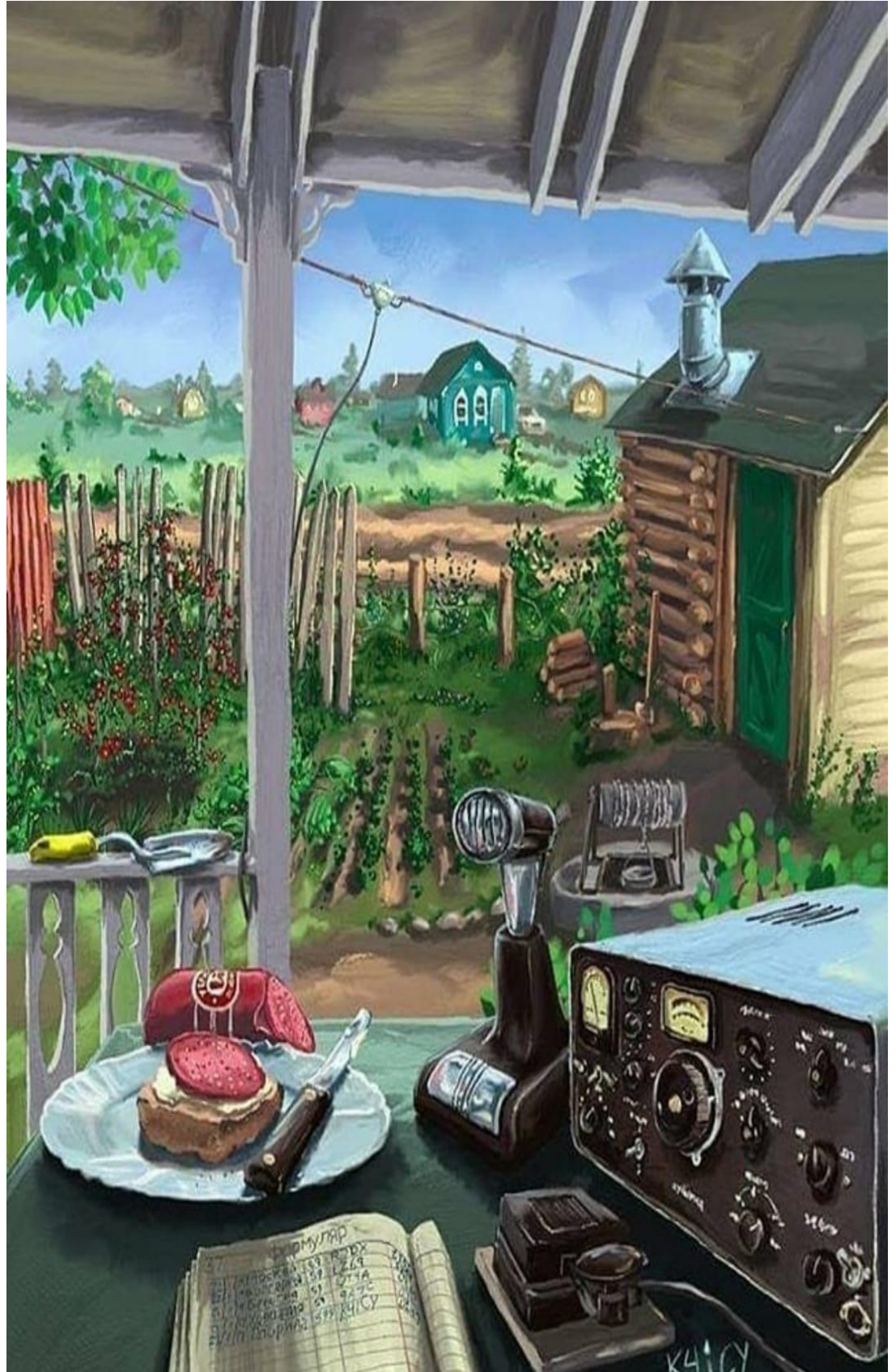
1940's Radios at War

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=WUx_hqwHM1I&feature=youtu.be

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Distress Calls, AF5NP

It's unlikely that you will hear a radio distress call but hams should know how to respond to one. Hopefully you will never need to send a distress call yourself but it's best to know how to call for help in an emergency.

G2B02-2015 What is the first thing you should do if you are communicating with another amateur station and hear a station in distress break in?

Acknowledge the station in distress and determine what assistance may be needed

While some situations may be questionable, if life/health/property are genuinely threatened, it merits a distress call. Basically, if you would want police, fire, or ambulance response, it's a distress scenario.

Obviously if one is in town with a telephone nearby, the proper response is to call local emergency services (in USA, dial 911). But if the phones are down or someone is very remote, radio may be the only way to communicate.

Distress calls are formally done by voice mode using the term Mayday-Mayday! SOS is the CW mode or Morse visual equivalent of Mayday; you are even less likely to encounter it.

If you hear a distress call:

First of all, stop whatever you are doing (QSO, or whatever) and



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Distress Calls Continued

Second (very important!), write down everything you hear related to the distress call. Under duress, people tend to forget things and stress will be high at both ends of the radio. Details about the incident are crucial for sending help. Include the date, time, frequency and mode.

Third, see if anybody else responds. Perhaps there is another station in a better position to react (location, facilities, etc.) If nobody else does, briefly ID and ask what is the nature of the incident. The distress station may not have a call sign or know proper radio procedure; be prepared to work with a non-ham at the other end. If time permits, confirm the details you wrote down with the distress caller.

Fourth, determine how to help the distress station. You need to get them help, but that depends on the location and nature of the trouble. If unclear or uncertain, contact local emergency services and let them help you sort it out, even if the distress is far away. In any case you must relay important detail such as the type of emergency, how many people are involved, and the distressed party's location. The Mayday caller may also provide specific guidance if they are trained and knowledgeable.

Lastly, maintain contact with the distress station and emergency responders until help has arrived and the danger is passed.

Know also that in a genuine emergency/distress situation, you can violate normal protocol and rules to assist another station, at least in the USA (probably most other countries as well). If it requires using a mode, frequency, or power level for which you are not authorized, do it!



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Distress Calls Continued

G2B12-2015 When is an amateur station allowed to use any means to assist another station in distress?

At any time during an actual emergency

To send a distress call should you ever need to:

If the phones are down, use your VHF/UHF radio on a local repeater or national simplex frequency where other hams are likely to copy you (choose the most active local repeater).

If you are very remote and there is no chance any line-of-sight radios can pick you up, you'll need a HF rig and antenna. Use the most suitable band for calling Mayday or SOS, considering time of day and propagation conditions.

G2B11-2015 What frequency should be used to send a distress call?

Whichever frequency has the best chance of communicating the distress message

Whether locally on VHF/UHF or more distant HF distress calls, call "Mayday-Mayday" with ID. Wait for a response, then repeat until someone replies. Consider your power source; if limited to small batteries, don't call too often or for long.

Once someone replies, give essential info only. At minimum, nature of emergency, how many people are involved, and location.

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Distress Calls Continued

During VHF/UHF or HF nets or ordinary contacts a ham may report an urgent situation by transmitting “Emergency” and their call sign

T2C06-2018 Which of the following is an accepted practice to get the immediate attention of a net control station when reporting an emergency?

Begin your transmission by saying "Priority" or "Emergency" followed by your call sign

Another commonly-recognized emergency interruption is to transmit “break-break” plus your call. Upon hearing “emergency” or break-break” other hams should cease transmission and someone (NCS in case of net) should ask for info from the distress station.

By the way, the use of phonetics is essential for precise, reliable communication during a distress situation. Another good reason to know and practice the ITU phonetic alphabet.

In summary, we hope you will never have to send or respond to a distress call, but you should be familiar with them and know how to deal with either situation.

Some useful references about distress calls:

[Ham's Life](#) simple, understandable

[Distress Signal History](#) interesting and detailed



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HAMFESTS & EVENTS

[Ridge Amateur Ridge Club Tailgate Party](#), April 4, 2020 **Postponed**

[Raleigh Hamfest](#), April 11, 2020 **Canceled**

[Dayton Hamvention](#), May 15-17, 2020 **Canceled**

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Field Day, June 27, 2020,
details to follow

[Shelby Hamfest](#), 4-6 September 2020

[Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society](#) Upstate Hamfest,, 12 September 2020

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest (GARS) January 9, 2021

-
- * The American Radio Relay League protects our rights as Amateur Radio Operators <http://www.arri.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 GARS weekly nets: 147.165 2m Net Thursdays 9 p.m.
443.900 70cm Net Mondays 8 p.m.
 - * Callsign info <http://www.ae7q.com>*
 - * Track us on APRS: <http://aprs.fi>,
 - * Swamp Fox Contest Group <http://swampfoxcontestgroup.com>
-

Classifieds:

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

2m/440 antenna with channel master telescopic mast. Less than a year old, buyer must take down. Sale includes antenna, mast, approx. 50' coax, picture available on request. Make offer. 864-554-6005 or [Wayne, K4KF](#).

I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Please contact me at Mike31406@gmail.com with any ideas/comments/suggestions etc.

Mike