

# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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

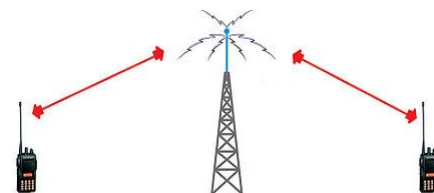
**WJ4X/R**

442.600+ t107.2 / DV

## Ham Radio - Social Distancing for Over 100 Years



## September 2020 Meeting



Our Club normally meets at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood, SC. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month making our next meeting on September 8th.

**Unless notified otherwise** it will be held “On the air” at 8 p.m.. 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. It’s still with us so continue to **practice social distancing, the frequent washing of hands and the wearing of masks, Covid-19 is still with us and continues to take lives.**

## Greenwood Amateur Society Recurring Events:



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### Chat 'N' Chew

Every Friday at 11:30 a.m. the members of the Greenwood Amateur Radio society meet at a local restaurant. However, due to Covid-19 they have been temporarily 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 nets. If you would like to fill in or be a backup net controller please contact [Tedd Davison](#)

### VE Exam Session

The next GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) Team exam date is to be determined. Currently suspended due to Covid-19.

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

## Congratulations!!

### Happy Birthday!

Betty Crane	fmly mbr	Sept 9
Tommy Owens	K4XB	Sept 13
Margaret Haynes	KJ4HDK	Sept 26
Mark Tussey	WT4KY	Sept 26
Earl Powell	KC4AXY	Sept 27
Carlis Myers	KG4RIT	Sept 28

### Happy Anniversary!

Al (KB4RA) & Jane West	Sept 8
Jim (W3COX) & Karla (WB3LNX) Cox	Sept 16

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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## JS8CALL, AF6DW

PREDICTION: JS8CALL will be a well established new 'PSK31' alternative by next year. For those who lament lack of RSTTY and Psk31 operators dwindling in number you may wish to explore JS8CALL rev 2.0 or beyond. Unlike FT-8 where many hams say 'what is the point with no QSO' JS8CALL is a full QSO scheme that rides on top of the very robust FT-8 transmission and error correction. You get keyboard to keyboard full QSO at a slightly slower rate than PSK31 in regular mode but about as fast in the turbo mode. If other QTH is near you can use the faster modes. This mode is really coming along with a great deal of attention from hams all over. It is a bit tricky to setup but numerous youtube pages are there to help as well as good documents from the program creator. In general HAMS often enjoy tackling problems getting everything to work and if you have a modern rig with built in soundcard such as IC7300 it's far easier as many examples are posted on YouTube. There are events such as the one today that happen on a regular basis (not contests, just times so more people are online and you are more likely to see and connect). It is medium busy at this time. To me I feel this will be a big deal as acceptance blossoms. 73

## FT-8, AF6DW

The art of FT-8 DX is something that many people think is a slam dunk but it is not my friends. Granted that when you first get on FT-8 that is a 'slam dunk' you pick up your first 100 QSO with little effort. That is a learning period as with any form of Ham radio. So I see many people think that you just run FT-8 using the most popular software of WSJT-X and there is zero effort. Please note that I do CW as well but I see a challenge in FT-8 that I want people to realize. When you get to the point that the 'slam dunk' QSOs are done (in maybe a half year) the goal is to try to get as much coverage as you can. That can mean all 50 states or as far as possible DX or whatever. So at that point the 'Art of FT-8' comes into play. You must sit back and watch and as possible desired DX locations come up that are not even doing CQ you must note if they are transmitting on 'even or odd'. Then you must note their transmit frequency. Next you look at their Grid square using [https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid\\_square.php](https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php) and you use QRZ and you look in your log for WSJT-X to see if you have contacted this OP or even the same grid square or perhaps his state or country. You then decide if you want to try to call this OP directly. You then place that OPs callsign in the message generation area and the signal strength you hear the OP at. You note if that OP is sending on 'even or odd' and you must set to send your call to that OP on the OTHER timeslot. It is then you can call out to this OP but NOT on the freq he/she is using. You out of courtesy go off a little bit in an area that seems quiet (to you) in the 'channels' nearby. Then you enable transmit and if that OP replies you have MADE THE QSO. So then manually advance the QSO to the next message that tells that OP what signal strength you got them at (like a RST). ALL of this happens at a very rushed pace and requires attention to details. So yes, FT-8 is not at all like a CW QSO but I can assure you it requires a lot of thinking and fast on your keyboard action to be successful. I hope this has helped people and frankly I will totally ignore all the folks that claim FT-8 is a totally easy mode. They are simply not informed. I hope this has helped. It is very different than CW but it really does have it's challenges. 73 All, Mark



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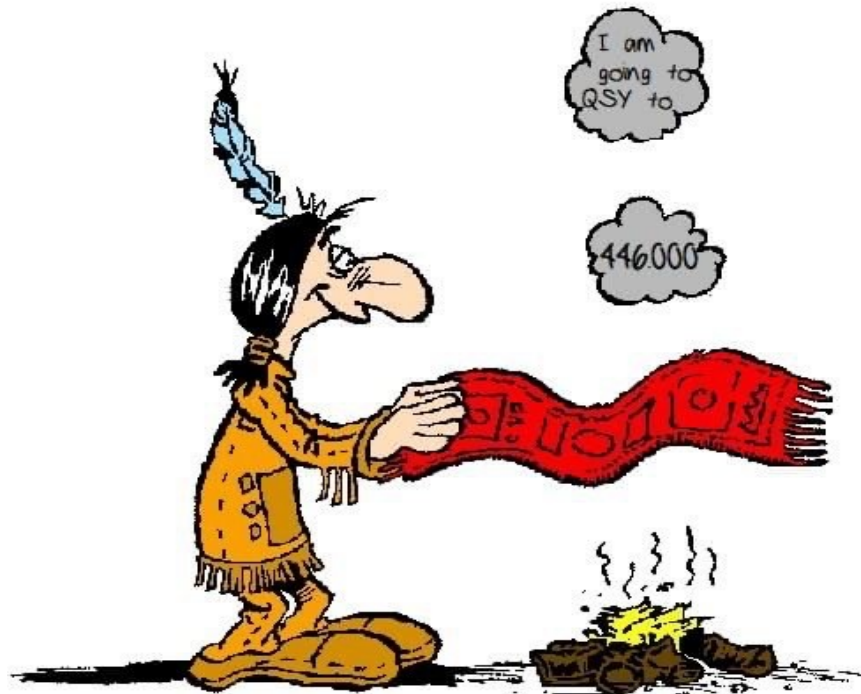


If you would like to brush up on or learn to solder,  
the below link is for you.

<https://store.learntosolderkit.com/>



If you have any ideas for books you'd  
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The below link may appeal to some of you. Ham Radio for your  
PC and Smartphone. Check it out!

<https://hamsphere.com/>





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### Ways you can support our/your club:

- Become an active club officer
- Attend monthly club meetings ( when virus clears)
- Volunteer to give training at meetings
- Participate in weekly nets (average 70 cm average 2m Average club membership )
- Participate in weekly Chat & Chew (when virus clears)
- Publish club newsletter
- Submit articles/ideas to be published in newsletter
- Assist with grounds maintenance at repeater sites
- Help maintain repeaters
- Participate/help plan and execute yearly club Hamfest
- Participate/help plan and execute club Field day
- Be an Elmer

If you are not doing at least two of the above, please consider doing so. Remember your club is *only as good as you make it*.



Any Veterans wishing to be recognized in the November Newsletter please submit information about your service to me at [Mike31406@gmail.com](mailto:Mike31406@gmail.com). If you were in last November's newsletter and do not desire to change what was printed, there is no need to provide me with anything as I will use the same information.

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## Hams are monitored, AF5NP

In an older post we mentioned that hams have [no expectation of privacy](#); assume that anything you say over the air is heard (someone is listening). In another post we discussed [what can you say](#) as a ham, focusing on what is illegal. Words are not the only problem; there are a number of activities against regulations.

As licensed radio amateurs we are obliged to abide by our governing authority's rules for ham radio. In the USA that is found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 97 (47 CFR 97), managed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).



As with broadcast transmissions (radio, television) the FCC enforces the rules. Other countries have similar rules and structure so if you are outside of the USA, study up your applicable regulations.

Years ago the US FCC was actively involved in monitoring not only commercial broadcast frequencies, but ham radio bands as well. There were monitoring stations set up around the country for this purpose.

They also had mobile vans for locating offenders. Violators might get a very stern letter or possibly a personal visit.

It's one of the reasons we are supposed to keep a copy of our license posted at our station. A FCC [Inspection Fact Sheet](#) gives good information related to home inspection.

## Hams are monitored (Continued), AF5NP

Those days are long gone. The FCC has closed many regional offices and pared back their enforcement staff to a minimum. However, they are still the ultimate authority for radio in the US and still have teeth.

When the FCC reduced their enforcement resources they partnered with the ARRL to have hams help do much of the monitoring and reporting. Originally called [Official Observers](#) (OOs), they were hams who were qualified and trained by the ARRL as part of the [Amateur Auxiliary](#) program. While there are fewer FCC agents, we are still being monitored for Part 97 violations, primarily by fellow hams.

G2D01-2019: What is the Volunteer Monitoring Program?

***Amateur volunteers who are formally enlisted to monitor the airwaves for rules violations***

The OO scheme was replaced by the [Volunteer Monitor](#) (VM) program in January 2020 with a new agreement between the FCC and the ARRL.

G2D02-2019: Which of the following are objectives of the Volunteer Monitoring Program?

***To encourage amateur radio operators to self-regulate and comply with the rules***

The intent of the [VM program](#) is to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. Its role is to monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used both to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by the ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines.



## Hams are monitored, (Continued) AF5NP



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Note that good behavior is also recognized. Be the ham that gets a favorable postcard from a VM, not for an infraction.

Bad behavior is what monitors are really trying to weed out. A cautionary notice may be sent to hams who violate rules. If the violation continues, the VM system has a streamlined enforcement process with the FCC who can take legal action.

So what are some of the bad practices and violations that VMs are looking for?

While not exhaustive, violations include:

- Transmitting without a license
- Operating outside frequencies permitted by license class
- Operating modes or power outside privileges
- Willful interference
- Obscene language
- Conducting business or making money over the air (for yourself or someone else)
- Transmitting music
- Failure to identify properly

An interesting (somewhat dated) list of current FCC enforcement actions is found [here](#).

Finally, the stereotypical monitoring van may still be used. VMs and federal agents may occasionally have to track down an offending signal using direction finding techniques.

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

SUCH A HAM

SH-005



Nate and John have been working all day on installing my new clothesline.





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Popular Electronics, February 1955, submitted by Darrell AF4E

<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Poptronics/50s/55/Pop-1955-02.pdf>

This answers the question "Can an unlicensed person use a Ham Radio in an emergency?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMBEceAARQM&t=197s>



### Corrected Net Controller schedule

The normal schedule should be:

2 meter	First Thursday month	Arthur Gillespie	KJ4UAU
	Second Thursday month	David Russ	K4DWR
	Third Thursday month	Tommy Owens	K4XB
	Fourth Thursday month	George Crane	W3RXF
	Fifth Thursday choices	David Haynes	AJ4PU
		Mitch Litwer	KJ4JGP
		Arthur Gillespie	KJ4UAU
		Tedd Davison	AI4WN

70 cm	rotates Mondays	Stephen Lyda	KA4PQA
		Andy Bagwell	KN4DYV
		Kin Maffett	KJ4BAK

On the bench

Kevan Nason	N4XL
Fred Pinson	K4RM
Buddy Willis	W4DEW

# HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Shelby Hamfest, 4-6 September 2020 **Cancelled**

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society Upstate Hamfest, 12 September 2020

W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention, Pigeon Forge Tn, 25 & 26 Sept 2020 **Cancelled**

Rock Hill Hamfest, October 3, 2020

Lake Hartwell Hamfest, Darwin Wright Park, Anderson, October 17, 2020 8 a.m. until ?

Stone Mountain Hamfest, November 7 & 8, **Cancelled**

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

Hamcation , Orlando, Florida 11-14 February 2021

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- \* 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 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 may be posted again after a 3 month period. 3 on then 3 off.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Please contact me at [Mike31406@gmail.com](mailto:Mike31406@gmail.com) to place a classified ad or with any ideas/comments/suggestions etc.

*Mike*