



The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2021

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

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

2021 CLUB

OFFICERS

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Adam Shirley, WJ4X

Vice President

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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



February 2021 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 February 9, 2021. **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!

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

Happy Anniversary!

Kevan (N4XL) & Elizabeth Nason	Feb. 14
Buddy (W4DEW) & 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>

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Your nominating committee, Jack [KN4SIK](#) Mitchell [KJ4JGP](#) & Mike [KA4CSM](#) have been talking with each other and club members for several weeks now. We have arrived at our recommendations for President and Vice President.. They will be presented to the general membership at the February 9, on line meeting. To those who stepped up and volunteered to serve in these positions, but were not selected, thank you. All other current Officers have agreed to remain in their current positions.

Mike

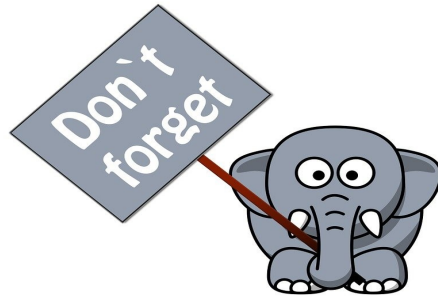


Field Day is fast approaching. Providing the virus is sufficiently behind us it will be held on the 26th of June 2020 at a location to be determined.. We need your input as to what you would like your clubs Field Day to include. Also need someone to step up and volunteer to be take lead in organizing this.. If this interests you please contact Tedd, AI4WN@arrl.net. Bring all ideas, suggestions, resources, etc. that you would be willing to supply to any of our online nets.



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

Please mail the checks to our Treasurer Tedd Davison, 116 Mountain Shore Dr. Greenwood, SC 29649

WSJT-X 2.4.0 to Introduce New Digital Protocol Q65 (Provided courtesy of the ARRL)

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 will introduce a new digital protocol called Q65, which, according to the [Quick Start Guide](#), is designed for "minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths." The *Guide* said, "On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes. Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals."

The new protocol uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, introduced in 2016. User messages and sequencing are identical to those in FT4, FT8, FST4, and MSK144. Q65 employs a "unique tone" to sync time and frequency. "As with JT65, this 'sync tone' is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display," the *Guide* said.



Anyone interested in giving a short presentation, talk or leading a discussion online, please contact Andy, [KN4DYV](#).

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I am in trouble with the XYL she has discovered that the Pan Adapter she bought me for Christmas is not a kitchen utensil. All peacekeeping advice is gracefully accepted.

What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? Re-morse code.

Firmware updates soon to be available for the Icom 705, 7300 & 9700

https://www.icomjapan.com/data/Firmupdate_IC705_7300_9700_A4.pdf?

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"Harold!!! What are you doing wasting money on more USELESS radio equipment!!!"

Popular Electronics, February 1956, submitted by Darrell AF4E

Pop-1956-02.pdf (worldradiohistory.com)

Your Grid Square, AF5NP



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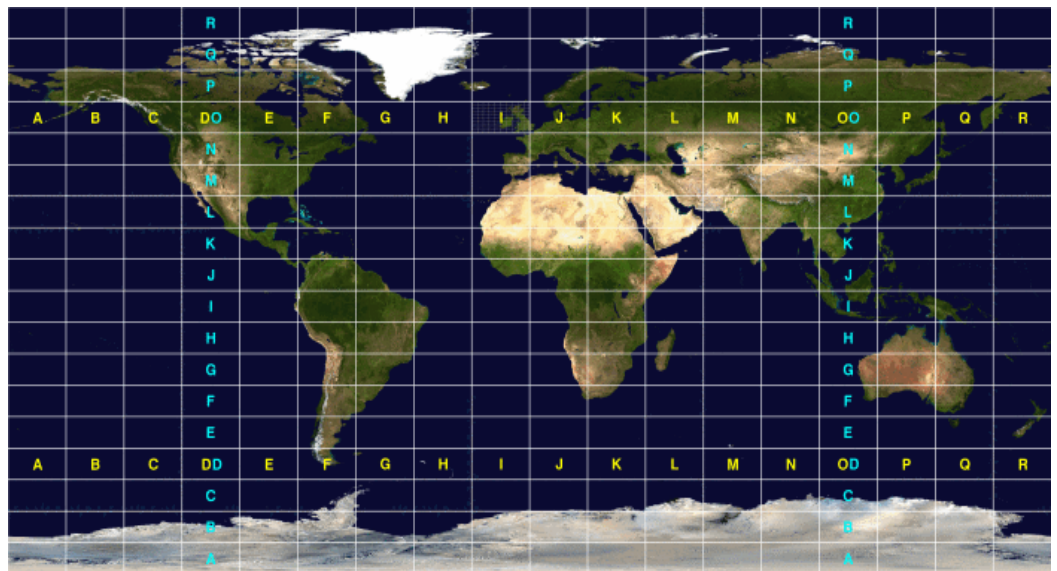
If you are active on HF or non-repeater VHF/UHF frequencies, you should know your operational grid square when making contacts. Many hams need to know your exact location for logging and awards purposes. The grid square system was adopted by the IARU for specifying amateur radio station location in a relatively small area.

T8C05-2018: What is a grid locator?

A letter-number designator assigned to a geographic location

The planet is divided up into 32,400 grid squares roughly 100mi wide by 70mi high (in continental USA) per the [Maidenhead Locator System](#). More detail [here](#).

Basically, our planet is divided into $18 \times 18 = 324$ **fields** identified by two letters (AA-RR) Each field is 20° longitude (east-west) and 10° latitude (north-south). The first letter represents longitude and the second latitude as shown below.



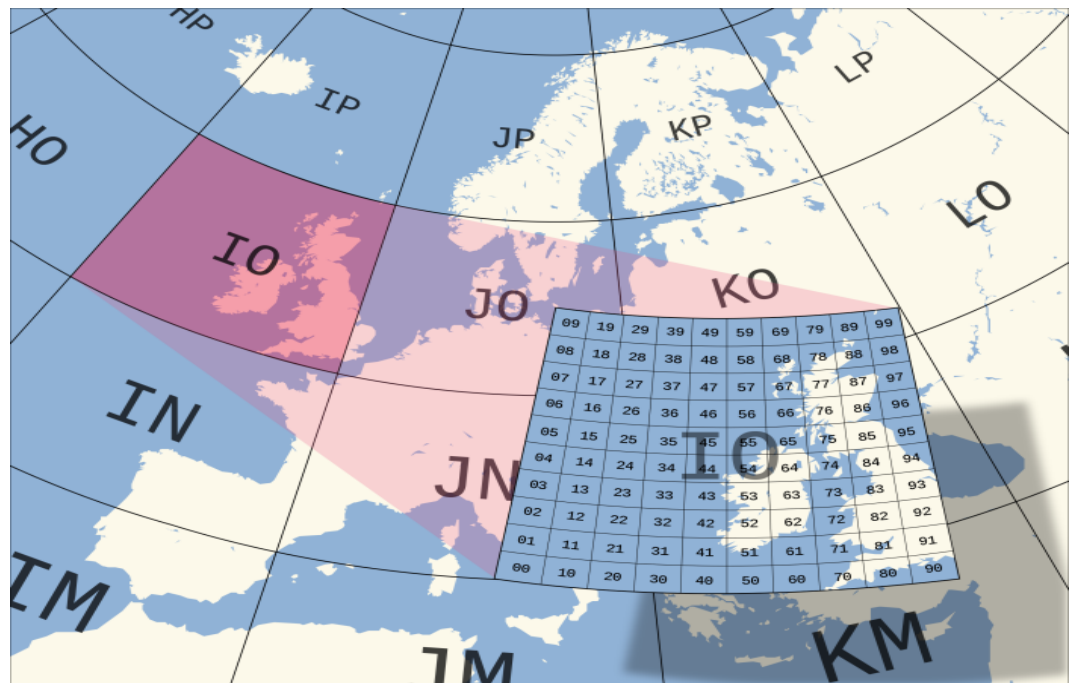
Your Grid Square, AF5NP



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Each field is sub-divided into $10 \times 10 = 100$ **squares** starting again in the southwest counting north in columns of tens and shifting east for the next ten.

If you look carefully at field **IO** above (encompassing most of the UK and Ireland), you can see this refined grid. It looks like this in a more geodetic (less flat) view:



Here you can clearly see square 00, lower left and 99, upper right with the other 98 squares everywhere in between.

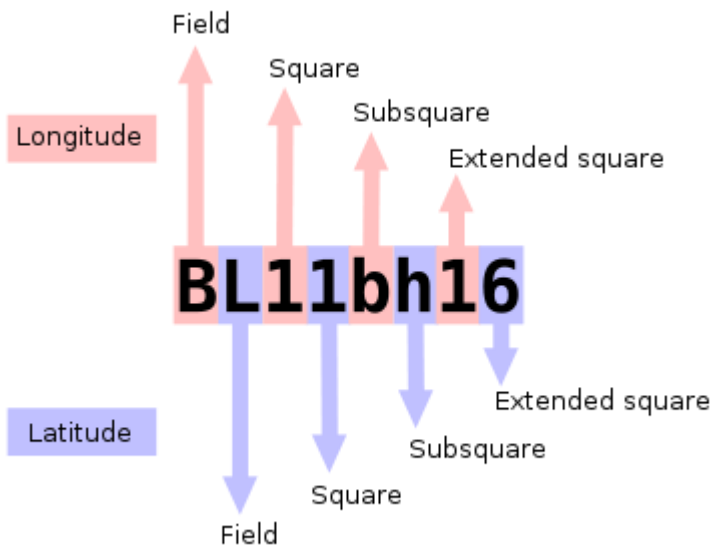
This combination of field plus square gives us the basic **grid square** system. It follows the specific format as shown below.

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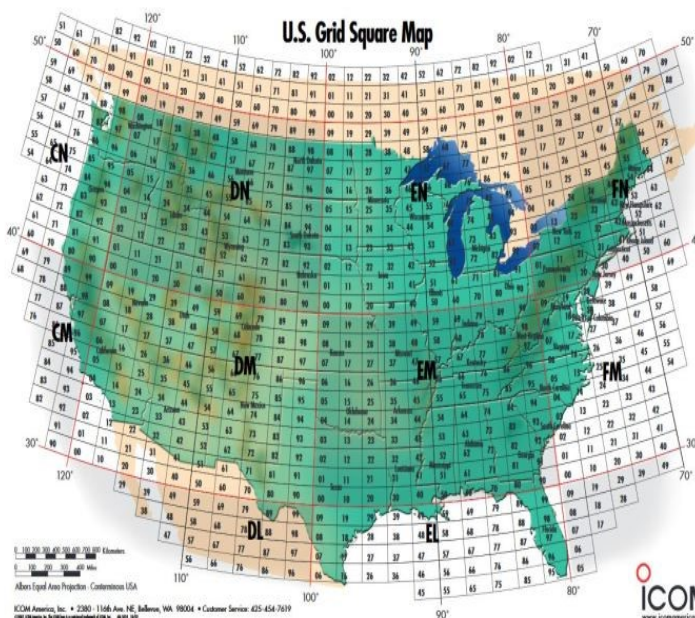
Your Grid Square, AF5NP



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Of interest to most readers of this site, the continental United States (CONUS) is dominated by fields DN, EN, DM, and EM, and encompasses 488 grid squares, including little strips of land that overlap a square. Several are rare contacts with few active hams located there.



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Your Grid Square, AF5NP

So the first four digits are the basic grid square. The grid square can be further refined into smaller chunks of sub-squares (roughly 4×3 miles) and even extended squares (tiny; not relevant to ham radio).

For most radio amateur purposes, the basic four-digit grid square is adequate. Sub-squares are generally useful only for UHF and microwave contacts where more precise location is required, and are normally lower case alpha characters.

Your grid square locator should be on any digital mode computer apps used for communication so that other stations know your location (QTH). It's also a good thing to include on your QSL card if you send one.

To determine your grid square, look at your own QRZ profile where it is automatically included based on your postal address registered with the governing national authority (FCC in USA).

For the author it is EM10bl. It's good idea to double-check this against a grid square locator application in case there is a mistake. There are good websites for grid squares [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

The [QRZ site](#) also has a nifty feature to allow one to explore grid squares and see where there might be hams in it:

Do you know what a superheterodyne receiver is? You probably have one in your HF receiver.

[Superheterodyne receiver - Wikipedia](#)



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Two Kids, a ham radio and the world... submitted by Marshall Quade WB4WZD via Darrell AF4E

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj2q5ag1-btAhWkxFkKH35CJ4QFjAAegQIAhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tapinto.net%2Ftowns%2Fclark%2Fsections%2Fcommunity-life%2Farticles%2Ftwo-kids-a-ham-radio-and-the-world-at-their-fingertips-how-the-madey-brothers-made-history-in-clark&usq=AOvVaw30eyr5p29JvFu1iLNL23Ss>

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

HamCation Feb.13-14 2021, This is a [virtual Hamfest](#) if you didn't attend virtually last year you missed out. They did a super job. Among other things it had virtual vendors, workshops, conferences etc.

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest (GARS) January 9, 2021, **Postponed until January 8, 2022**

[Hamcation](#) , Orlando, Florida 11-14 February 2021, **postponed until Feb. 11-13 2022**

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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 to place a classified ad or with any ideas/comments/suggestions etc.

Mike