



The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2021

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

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

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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

Ham Radio - Social Distancing for Over 100 Years



April 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 April 13, 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. Although Vaccines are available to many *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.

Congratulations!!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

Ken Trapnell	KQ4RB	Apr. 4
Betsy Russ	Fmly Mbr	Apr. 5
David Davenport	KO4DZR	Apr. 22
Tedd Davison	AI4WN	Apr. 26
Mike Willis	KN4SIJ	Apr. 28

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>

Presidents QSO



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Greetings to all as a windy March gives way to April and showers. Longer Daylight gives way for more activities in the early evening. So let's talk about a few options or activities for Ham Operators. Perhaps SOTA (Summits On The Air) or POTA (Parks On The Air) with your HT or Mobile or you may even have a QRP radio. Of course the Antenna is always of importance not only for range, but also portability. Then there is battery, solar or other power pack. Doing a test run in the backyard may be a good first step.

Now I'm sure I'm talking to the choir on some of this as you are more active in this area than I am. I use a DBJ-2 Dual Band Roll-up antenna from <https://edsantennas.weebly.com/> Also use his DBJ-1 Dual Band Base Antenna mounted in the attic for the Yeasu FTM-400DXR (mobile, using as my 2M/70cm base for now. That antenna is also portable. So the next thing I need is a portable power option. Reviewing Bienno options, as well as the notes and description of the power pack George W3RFX presented to a club meeting sometime back.

Also, I'm back into HF with the Yeasu FT-840. Kudos and much appreciation to Tommy K4XB for leading the charge on installing a MyAntennas EFHW-8010. He was a great Elmer to this Gofer and student of the Hobby.

Now please understand I'm not Honking my Horn (as that dims my headlights), but describing several of the many areas a Ham Operator may pursue. And the benefit of Elmers. Everyday is a Learning Day and there is plenty to learn. There are many GARS Members ready willing and able to share their knowledge, skills and time. None of us needs to go it alone. I have learned and benefited from a number of other hams with loaner rigs, answers to numerous questions, how-to's, etc.

Several members are studying for License Upgrades. I know of a couple using online options and a couple using in-person sites. Maybe as we eventually have access to our meeting place we can have some study sessions?

ARRL Field Day, June 26th, is coming quickly. And we have access to the familiar venue of Coronaca Baptist Church, pending no church activity is scheduled between now and then. It will be good to get some in-person activity. I'm sure a number of you have completed or will have completed Covid-19 vaccinations by then. I also feel we will also do our best to social distance, mask as needed, etc. I think it may be a good idea for each participant to bring their own lunch/snacks/drinks. Anybody have any thoughts on what they would like to accomplish that day? Antennas to use. Anyone want to run a Fox Hunt?

Remember our next Meeting, On The Air, 8:00pm Tuesday April 13th. And of course our 8:00pm Monday and 9:00pm Thursday Nets. A big round of applause to all of our Net Controllers. Oh yea, we all were reminded recently of the importance of reaching out to our members and staying in contact with each other.

Thank you for reading Russ's Ramblings. It is great to be a part of such an enthusiastic group. God Bless and Stay Safe.

Russ, KN4TUI



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Congratulations to **Jack Witt, KN4SIK** our new Librarian. The club maintains a library at our regular meeting location. Once COVID restrictions are lifted please feel free to take a look at it. If you have any recommendations for books you would like to see kept available for use please contact [Jack](#) here.



Annual dues for the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) are due to Tedd Davison AI4WN, **today**, April 1. \$25.00 per individual membership, plus \$2.00 for spouse, plus \$2.00 more per student. If you haven't paid yet please do so as soon as possible.

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



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“You often get what you pay for.” Kevan Nason N4XL

Lots of inexpensive Baofeng handhelds have been sold and people generally find they perform just fine for them. But I have heard numerous complaints of their being difficult to program unless you use a computer and software to do it. A question unrelated to handhelds was asked on the N1MM contest logging forum about optional windows updates. The answer had a surprising bit of information about Baofeng. I thought it might interest owners and save them frustration the next time they decide to program their radio. Here is the applicable excerpt:

(Message #6030 at <https://groups.io/g/N1MMLoggerPlus/topic/81385044>)

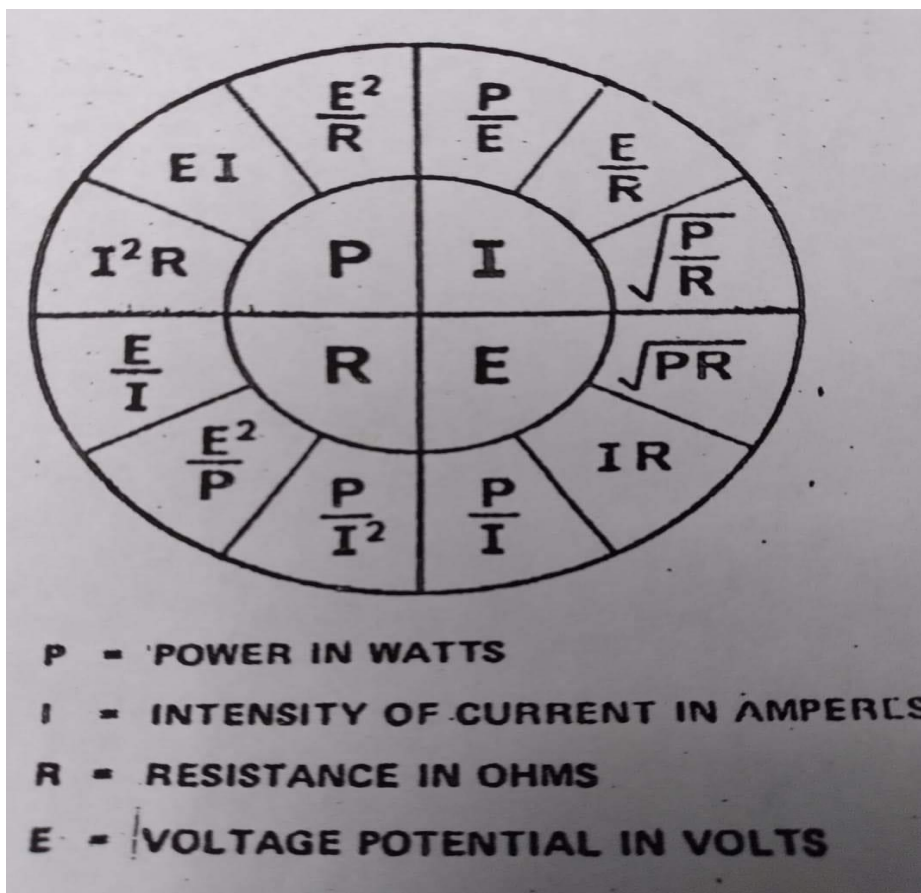
... FTDI (Future Technology Devices International Ltd) produces chips that are used in USB to serial adapters such as a cable that connects your PC's USB port to a device that uses serial port communication over USB. Some manufactures (such as Baofeng, see: https://www.miklor.com/COM/UV_Drivers.php) have shipped their devices with chips that were copies (counterfeit) versions of the official FTDI chips. Now this generally worked OK with the devices that included a cable with the counterfeit chip. But the counterfeit is not supported by FTDI and when they updated the drivers for the legal chips, it often broke the functionality of the fakes. In fact, it appears that this disabling was their intent. So while I would almost always suggest installing any Win OS updates offered to you, in this case I would advise caution.

If the updates do [break your] FTDI chip based cable or device then you often need to roll back the driver software or reinstall the version that came with your device to get it talking to the PC again. That process can be a little involved and is not related to N1MM+ so that is all I will say about it in this forum.



Field Day is fast approaching. Providing Covid cooperates it will be held on the 26th of June 2021 at Coronaca Baptist Church, 300 Highway 246 N, in Greenwood.. Remember the success of your club depends on you involvement. We need your input as to what you would like your clubs Field Day to include. We also need someone to step up and volunteer to be take the lead in organizing it. If this interests you please contact [Russ](#), KN4TUI or [Andy](#) KN4DYV Bring all ideas, suggestions, resources, etc. that you would be willing to supply to any of our online nets.

Remember this useful tool?



Popular Electronics, April 1956, submitted by Darrell AF4E

<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Poptronics/50s/56/Pop-1956-04.pdf>



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Interesting bits and pieces on headsets,
provided courtesy of Kevan, N4XL

You can include this from Ron about the CM500 headset too. Pictures from his Brain-wave pads are similar to the gel pads I reference. His pictures are of his CM500 that he modified.

Kevan

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Ron WV4P**

We Banned Heil headsets because of the pain / fatigue they caused by clamping folks heads in a vice. :) Every contest we had complaints.

We swapped to the YammaHammer CM-500's Much lighter, 1000X more comfortable and HOT mics. The only issue I had with them is background noise (Trina) even though station 2 is 16' away... I ordered a pair of Brainwave replacement pads on Amazon and installed them. They did help some with the noise but with my big ol head actually made the headset less comfortable after several hours. I am back to stock CM-500's now and use the modded set for smaller cranium ops. They have given rave reviews.

Ron, WV4P

On Fri, 12 Feb 2021 at 07:26, Kevan Nason <knason00@gmail.com> wrote:
As many of you probably know, there has been a discussion about replacement earpads for Heil headsets on the CQ-Contest reflector. I've always disliked the factory pads, so when Joe, WB9SBC, said he found some great ones that fit I decided to give some a try on my Heil Proset 6. Several were talked about, but I chose to go with these because I like the softness of gel filled products:
Krone Kalpasmos Upgraded Cooling-Gel Ear Pads for Turtle Beach Stealth Head-phones, Compatible with ATH M-Series/HyperX/Sennheiser/Sony(Full List Inside)Many Other Large Over Ear Headset Cups Cushions

Amazon has them for \$15.99 at
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07JZK792S/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o01_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

I love them. They completely fit over my big ears and the gel pads are very comfortable. Haven't done a contest yet, but wore them for an hour while fiddling with the computer and I've no doubt they will be much more comfortable than my Heil headset during a long contest. Might not even feel like shifting back and forth between the Heil and my Sennheiser HD280's during CW contests anymore.

Installation was fairly simple. Popped the old pad off, pulled a plastic ring from it, and then put it into the new pad. Repeat for the other side. I did discover the need to use a razor blade to trim some material from the edge of the new pads to let the ring snap back into the Heil phones, but that was easy and only took a minute per pad once I figured that out. The ring has a few raised portions of plastic that snap into and grab the Heil earpieces to hold the pad in place. The new pads were a bit too big for the ring and covered the snaps preventing their locking into place.

Joe put new pads on his Proset 4. He said they fit perfectly and didn't mention the need to trim. He has some picture of his installation here:
<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/cq-contest/2021-February/126175.html>

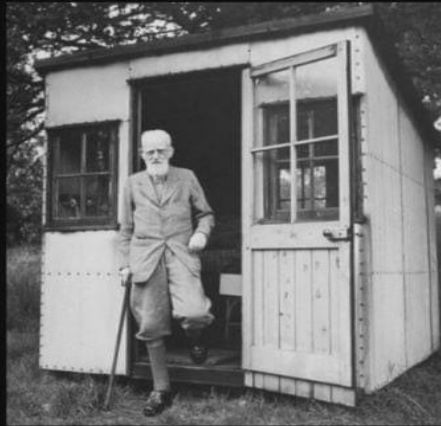
Highly recommended.

Kevan N4XL



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HAM SHACK INSPIRATION:



HISTORY
HUSTLE

Playwright George Bernard Shaw had a "writing hut" he would use to escape people. It was built on a turntable so it could rotate to follow the sunlight throughout the day. It had a typewriter, a heater, a phone for emergencies or food, and a bed so he could lie down. Shaw said, "people bother me ... I came here to hide from them."

Have you ever wondered about the term LID?

[Another explanation for the term "LID" - KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog](#)

"Uncertain future of Ham Radio," interesting read

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/the-uncertain-future-of-ham-radio?fbclid=IwAR1IqUcqtMOtsD2TFKydu3NqRZ9yJfAoLqIhzEq1B7qVzsS1qwtmxazKjYE>

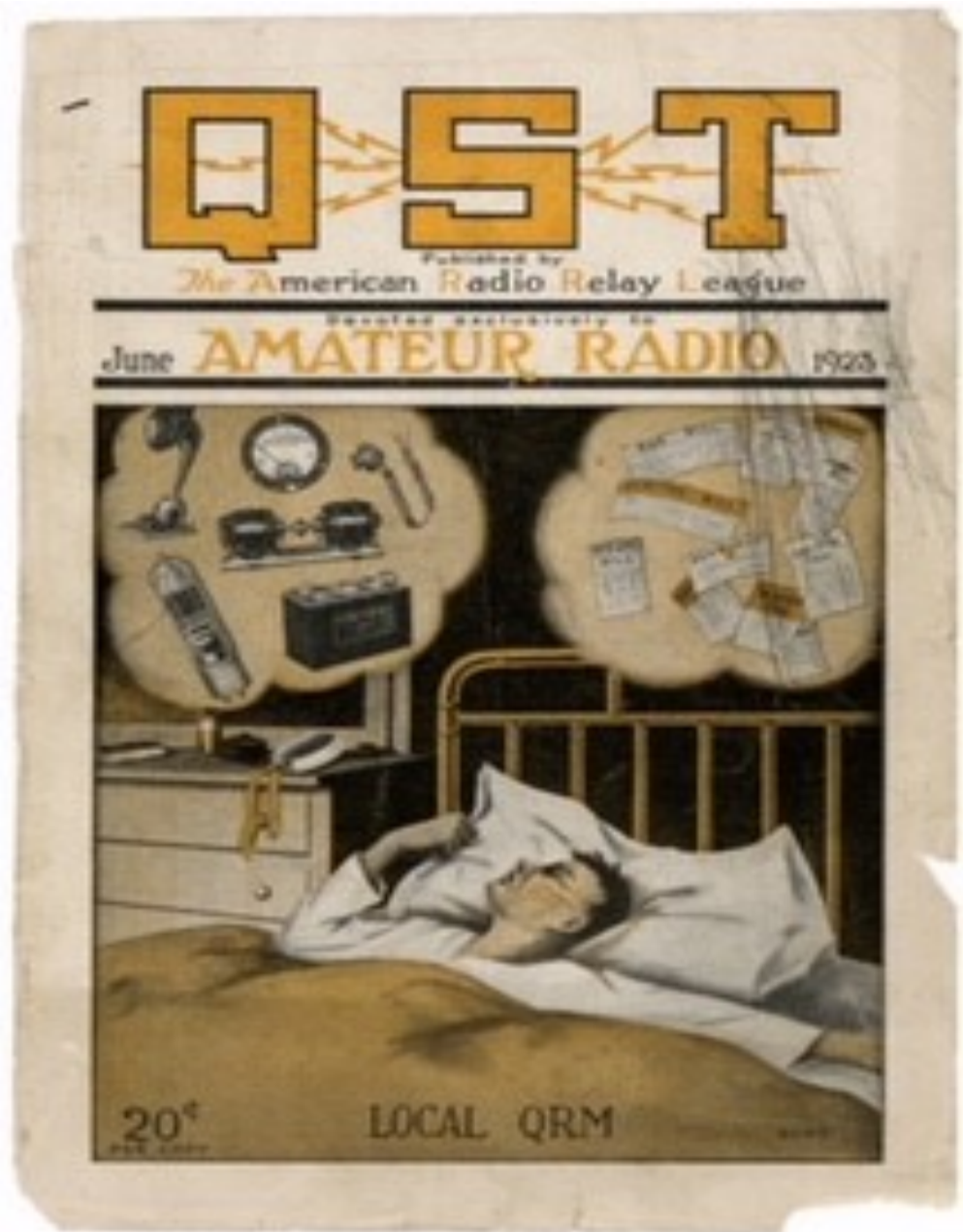
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STRANGE BUT TRUE!

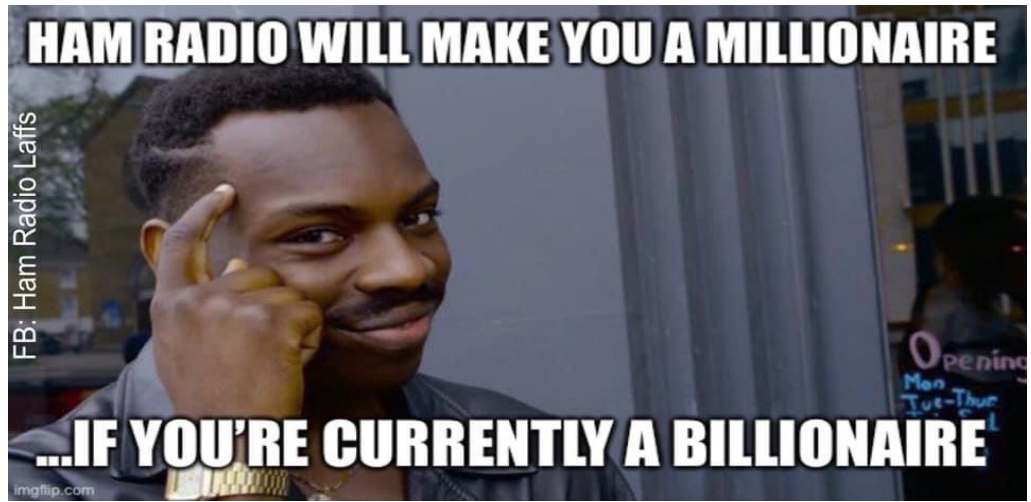
Unusual story about an AM radio station transmitting since 2013.

https://www.thedrive.com/tech/39549/the-strange-story-of-dcs-lost-am-radio-station-still-transmitting-inauguration-road-closures-from-2013?fbclid=IwAR39eK_p11iYIThpimBO3B7aA6Up3HiuRYX7UP8rQ2uc_k9ORrdBJQDKGsc

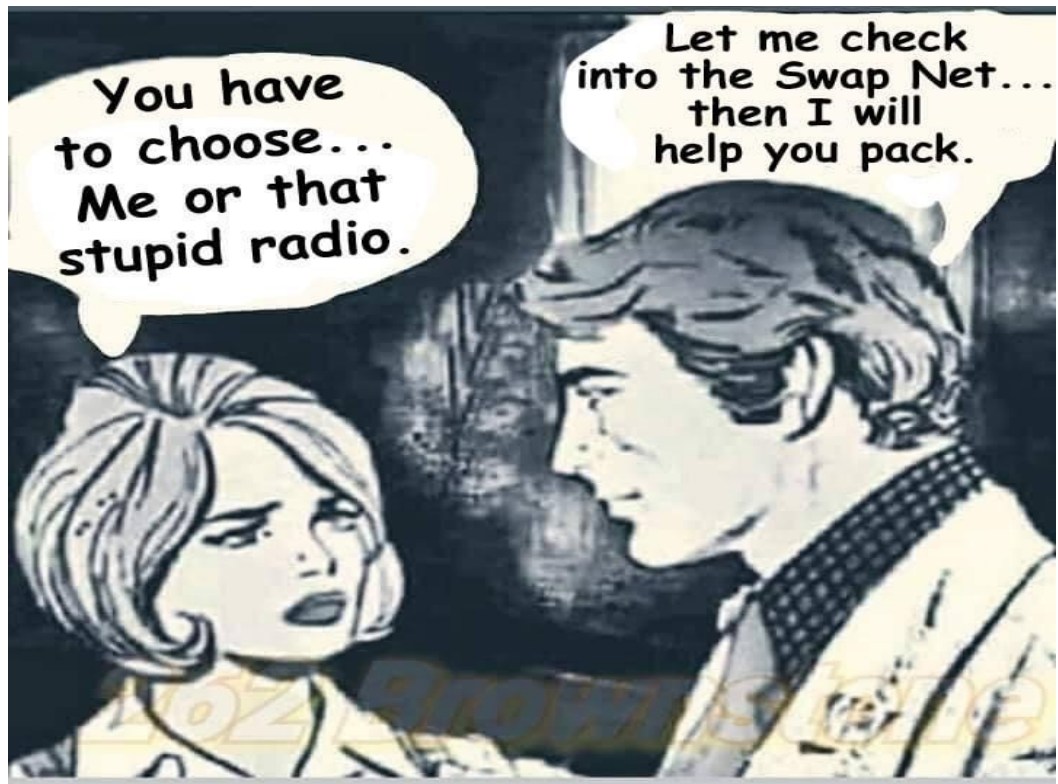


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Anyone interested in giving a short presentation, talk or leading a discussion online, please step up and contact [Andy](#), KN4DYV.



HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Field Day, June 26, 2021, Coronaca Baptist church, Coronaca SC

[W4DXCC](#) Contest Convention, Pigeon Forge, September 24 & 25, 2021

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest (GARS) January 8, 2022.

[Hamcation](#) , Orlando, Florida 11-13 February 2022,

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- * 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 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