



G.A.R.S. Monthly Newsletter

www.w4gwd.org

Volume 1 Issue 13

December 2005



DECEMBER MEETING

G.A.R.S. will have their Christmas Supper for the December meeting at Ryans Steak House in Greenwood, December 19, 7pm. (Dutch treat).

At the October meeting, Dave Zugsberger KL7FO (EC for Abbeville County) announced that Harvey Hill WB4KXE has been appointed Assistant EC for Abbeville County. We also saw a presentation of Riley Hollingsworth, FCC Special Council for Amateur Radio Enforcement. It was a good speech by him. Also, refreshments were served by Gay, Alice and Jimmie Dean.

Some of the club members helped a former member, Dr. George Miller; W4LS take down a tower and three antennas. He was no longer using this equipment so he donated it to the club. The club is very grateful for this and thanks you very much Dr. Miller.

At the November meeting the Hamfest was discussed and some of the helpers were appointed. There will be another discussion at the December supper as to when those that are going to help will meet again.

The GARS Web page is up and running, thanks to Jeremy Manning KI4CCZ for the great work. Go to www.w4gwd.org and take a look. You can find this newsletter on the web sight each month too.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Don't forget Club Dues are due January 1, 2006.

Also Election of club officers is coming up. Be thinking about nominating someone or re-electing the officers that are now in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GREENWOOD HAMFEST 2006
JANUARY 14, 2006

CHAT N' CHEW

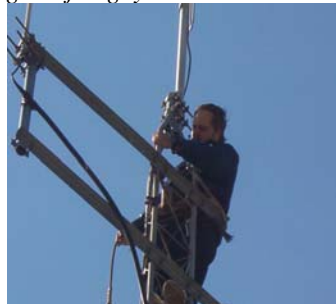
Every Friday at 11:30am to 1pm at George's Family Steak House, 713 Bypass 25NE, Greenwood, 223-2707, a group meets to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while, (Dutch treat). Everyone is welcome to join.

WEEKLY NET

Every Thursday night at 9pm on 147.165+, Ms. Alice holds the weekly, Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Net

Tell everyone that you see and talk to come by and check in with her. She is doing a fantastic job.

The Repeater Committee is doing an outstanding job in keeping the equipment maintained. Keep up the good job guys.



Bobby Gosnell KF4ZYO hard at work on tower at the hospital replacing hard line connector.

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: One Yaesu 2 Meter Handheld, Model FT-209RH with 3 battery packs, no charger (can find one at Radio Shack) \$50.00.

Buddy Willis W4DEW
W4DEW@ARRL.NET
(864) 445-7574

For Sale: Kenwood TS 570D HF Radio with two microphones. (one is a Heil desk mike) \$700. Call Alice Taylor KC4JWM at 864-227-9773 for more details.

If anyone has anything they would like to sell or trade, that is Ham radio related, and wants to place it in this column, call me at 864-682-7374 or E-mail kf4byk@backroads.net.

IMPORTANT

ALL GARS CLUB MEMBERS,

DUE TO THE INTERFERENCE FROM SOME ILLEGAL ACTIVE ON THE INPUT FREQUENCY OF THE W4GWD 147.165 REPEATER WE MAY HAVE TO TURN ON THE INPUT TONE OF 107.2 TO

ACCESS THE REPEATER *ONLY* AT TIMES WHEN THE INTERFERENCE

IS CONSTANTLY KEYING UP THE REPEATER.

WE ARE TRYING TO GET IN CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES AND LET THEM KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS INTERFERING WITH A REPEATER AND IS ALSO A FCC VIOLATION OF PART 97.

THE TONE WILL BE TURN OFF IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY OR A SCHEDULE NET.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK. IF YOU NEED HELP TO PROGRAM A TONE INTO YOUR RADIO PLEASE LET SOMEONE IN THE CLUB KNOW. I AM SURE HELP WILL BE THERE.

**BUDDY WILLIS W4DEW
TRUSTEE W4GWD REPEATER**

SC ARES Leadership Team

The 2005 Coastal Exercise dates have been set. The exercise will be on Monday, Tuesday, December 12 and 13, 2005. However, Radio operators will only be needed on Monday the 12th. I expect that the radio operators will be released from exercise participation after the After Action

Review (Hot Wash) late on Monday afternoon. The USC Center for Public Health Preparedness has again offered to reimburse travel expenses for those amateur radio operators who travel to the exercise from out of town. That includes mileage from your home and Sunday night's stay in a Charleston area hotel. There is an upper limit on the hotel reimbursement. I'll have to get the current number from them for those who decide to participate.

Communications is a major focus of this exercise. We have an opportunity to show the served agencies what we can do. Although there are a lot of Amateur radio operators in the Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester area; additional operators will be needed to do this right.

We are responsible for supporting three venues, Sterett Hall, Project Seahawk and the I-26 Weigh Station. However, we are interested in utilizing our folks in other areas to increase awareness of our resource capabilities. Other venues will be supported based on the resources we have available.

Please spread the word to your folks. I've included the operators who participated in last year's exercise on the cc: distribution so that they can get an early notice of the drill.

I will need to submit a list of operators planning to attend. Please send me an e-mail if you think that you might attend. Do that even if you have to back out later. I need the names of those coming from out of town as well as those who are local to the exercise area.

73 Charlie Miller, AE4UX
South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

December 3, 2005 is SKYWARN Recognition Day. The following article from the SKYWARN web site best describes it.

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the Amateur Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit

NWS offices and contact other operators across the world.

There was a Weather Spotter Class on Thursday, November 10th in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 394 Hwy 28 By Pass, Abbeville, SC., at the County Office Building. Mr. Vince Dicarolo, Warning Coordination Meteorologist lead the class. The class was open to anyone who would like to attend. Club members that attended were Earl Powell KC4AXY, Brab Dukes WB4TRF, Don Finlayson KG4WRC, Buddy Willis W4DEW, Harvey Hill WB4KXE, Paul Savage KA4OPC, Gay Willis, Jimmie Dean Hill.

If you missed the last Skywarn class, just listen to some of the local nets for other forming classes in the area.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday November

Gay Willis Associate Nov.25
Harvey Hill WB4KXE Nov.26
Betty Ann Cannon KF4BVK Nov.30

Happy Birthday December

Dave Zugberger KL7FO Dec.16
Eldora Keck KB4YON Dec.31
Don Finlayson KG4WRC Dec.31

Happy Anniversary November

Buddy and Gay Willis Nov. 28

Happy Anniversary December

Harvey and Jimmie Dean Hill Dec.1
Darrell and Dena Manning Dec.3
Paul and Joann Savage Dec.14
Bert and Eldora Keck Dec.22

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 10 Sister-Friend Day
December 12 Poinsettia Day
December 17 Bake Coolie Day
December 24 Christmas Eve
December 25 Christmas Day
December 31 New Years Eve

FCC Affirms \$42,000 in Fines in Radio Jamming Case

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 2, 2005--The FCC has affirmed a total of \$42,000 in additional fines against reputed Los Angeles-area radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, ex-KG6IRO. The FCC released the two \$21,000 Forfeiture Orders (NOF) just days before Gerritsen is due to appear in federal court to stand trial on a felony charge

of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license, according to a [statement](#) earlier this year from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. If convicted, Gerritsen, 68, could spend up to 11 years in federal prison. In affirming the fines, the FCC again turned away every argument Gerritsen offered in responding to each Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL), including a "freedom of speech" claim.

"His unlicensed operation on amateur frequencies is not protected by the US Constitution as it is well established that the right to free speech does not include the right to use radio facilities without a license," the FCC said in a footnote in one of the NOFs. Both documents include detailed recitations of the charges and allegations in the case.

[One](#) of the \$21,000 forfeiture notices involves alleged willful and repeated malicious interference with Amateur Radio communications. The [second](#) NOF focuses on alleged willful and repeated interference with the radio communications of a US Coast Guard Auxiliary officer attempting to use Amateur Radio frequencies to assist a sailboat in distress. Last March, the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The government has yet to collect.

FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident last May at his home in Bell. Federal agents also seized his radio equipment. Gerritsen was released on a \$250,000 property bond and has remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment, while awaiting trial. Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

Gerritsen's history of radio-related legal problems go back to 1999 when the California Highway Patrol arrested him for intercepting, obstructing and/or interfering with police radio communications. He was convicted the following year. Shortly after granting Gerritsen's application for a Technician class Amateur Radio

license in 2001 and issuing him the call sign KG6IRO, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau rescinded the grant because his earlier conviction raised questions about his qualifications to be a licensee. While transmitting on various Los Angeles-area repeaters, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO, however, claiming the FCC could not take away his license without a hearing.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast complained for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners had taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Gerritsen's trial gets under way Monday, December 5 in Room 850 of the Edward R. Roybal Courthouse, 255 E Temple Street, Los Angeles.

A RADIO FRIEND

Mr. Tilman Ayers has relocated the Sunnyside Retirement Home in Orangeburg. We sure do miss him on the different local repeaters, but you can find him on the 147.210 tone 156.7 or Batesburg/Leesville 147.255. His address is PO Box 99, Orangeburg, S.C. 29116, phone 803-536-1683. If you can't reach him on one of these repeaters send him a card.

NOTE FROM EDITOR

I am sorry there was no Newsletter last month; I had a complete crash with my computer and lost everything I had on it. I think I have it back up like it should be but I lost all my e-mail addresses, so if you didn't get your newsletter or know someone that didn't, please let me know and I will get you back on the list.

Next Newsletter Deadline is January 6, 2006.



***Wishing all of you a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.***