



# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2022

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

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

## 2022 CLUB

### OFFICERS

#### President

Russell Myrick, KN4TUI

#### Vice President

Tommy Owens, K4XB

#### Secretary

George Crane, W3RXF

#### Treasurer

Tedd Davison, AI4WN

#### Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis, W4DEW

#### Activities Manager

Mitchell Litwer, KJ4JGP

#### Editor in Chief

Michael Wills, KA4CSM

#### Librarian

Jack Witt, KN4SIK

#### 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



Analog Repeaters are up.  
DMR and D-Star are up.  
Echo link is down.  
Repeater Linking Project-Linked during nets and special occasions

## February 2022

*Unless otherwise notified* the next GARS club meeting will be held "On the Air" and on Zoom on February 8, 2022 at 8 p.m. A net roll call will be taken and it will become the official attendance roster for this meeting. The GARS 2m (147.165) and 70 cm (443.900) repeaters will be linked during this meeting time.



## Greenwood Amateur Society Recurring Events:



Like US on  
Facebook

facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

### Chat 'N' Chews

Have been postponed until further notice due to Covid.

### 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, A14WN](#).

### VE Exam Session

Due to Covid all GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) sessions have been postponed until further notice. Please contact Buddy Willis, [w4dew@arrl.net](mailto:w4dew@arrl.net) with any questions.

## 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>**



Like US on  
Facebook

facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

# Presidents QSO



Russ is not feeling well and asked me to pass along several of his thoughts.

He would like you all to reconsider your support for the Imagine Lakelands STEAM Festival proposed by [Mitch](#), KJ4KGP. The survey results were rather disappointing. It is scheduled to be held in Greenwood during October of this year. I feel it would be good for our club and to let our community know we have an active amateur radio club; who knows we may even pick up some interest in our club.

Annual dues of \$25.00 per individual with an additional \$2.00 per spouse and student are payable to [Tedd](#) Davison, AI4WN. They can be mailed to him at his home address as shown on the club roster.

A nomination committee chaired by David Davenport, KY4GM has been established. Please contact [David](#), KY4GM if you have any input or would like to volunteer.

All club gatherings continue to be placed on hold. All will resume just as soon as we feel it is safe to do so. Unfortunately, Covid is still spreading within our community.

*Russ*, KN4TUI via Mike KA4CSM

DB9 & DB 25 Breakout Boxes, courtesy of Kevan N4XL

Many pieces of ham gear use DB9 and DB25 connectors. Although becoming less common, many devices sold today still use them. Connecting 24 gauge (or smaller) wires to the close spaced pins used on such connectors is not easy. It has become even harder with older eyes. Like many, I usually raid the junk box or secondhand stores for a cable to cut in half. It's much easier to solder wires from different cables together than wires to those little pins. The need for a Y-cable starting with a DB25 and ending at two DB9's reminded me of the frustration I felt when making a similar cable a few years back. The DB25 cables I found all had extremely small wires which created several problems. It took two hours to make that cable and a connection failed after installation because the splices needed far more support wrap than seemed necessary. There must be a better way.

Amazon came to the rescue with DB25 and DB9 break out boards. No need to identify which pin a colored wire in a preexisting cable connects to. No worries about insulating those tiny, soldered wires from each other. You can use larger wires so no more breaking off the meager five or six strands of thin copper inside individual data lines while stripping them of insulation. And if you wire incorrectly, you can easily switch a wires pinout. Just strip a wire end, push it into the numbered connecting point, and tighten the screw. Wrong pinout?



Move the wire to the correct screw. There is also a secure connection point for attaching the shielding on your cable to the connector shield. It only took 30 minutes to make the needed Y-cable.

Most casings in this type of connector are plastic which raises RFI concerns. If that is a concern, it should be possible to coat the inside housings with conductive paint. Or, if the type of signal being carried by the cable allows then a small RFI shunt capacitor could easily be connected from pin to ground inside the housing. Before purchasing, I also considered the lower reliability of screw clamp vs solder connection. The risk seemed low as our shacks already contain numerous screw-tightened connections. Should a bad connec-

-----

This may interest some of you older hams

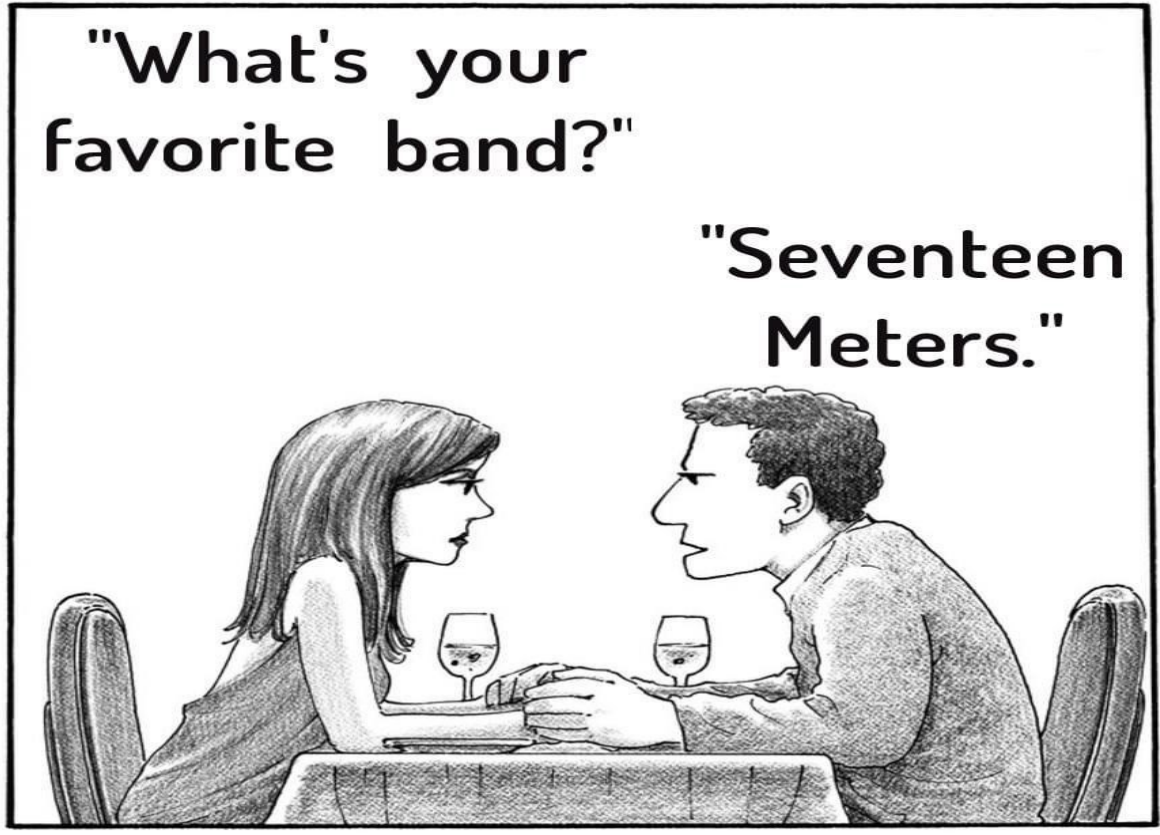
<http://qslcq.com/Base/Old-Timers.htm>

-----

[David Davenport KJ4GM](#) is researching the feasibility of our clubs participation in a winter field day on 29-30 January. To late for this year but if you are interested or have any input for future field days please contact him.

"What's your favorite band?"

"Seventeen Meters."



Every year at HamCation



'4' calls

'1,2,8,9,0' calls



facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

Provided by Sam Leach, K3KLC/VO1CBL courtesy of  
Al West KB4RA

In 1963, I was nineteen years old. I felt great, and I had boundless energy. I had enlisted in the United States Navy and was posted to an airborne early warning squadron, home based at the U.S. Naval Station, Argentia Newfoundland. Licensed since 1959, I was anxious to try amateur radio from Canada. I arrived in February, and as is the navy's way, I was initially sent to the Chief Petty Officer's Quarters to act as both front desk clerk and janitor. I quickly discovered that the early warning squadron's ham shack was in the hangar next door. I sent off to the Canadian government, requesting authorization to operate (a step that is no longer necessary) and talked someone into checking me out on the ham shack equipment. The station consisted of a Collins KWM-2 transceiver, the matching 30S-1 linear and a Telrex TM-30 tri-band antenna. Compared to the Hallicrafters S-85 and the Heathkit DX-100B, that I left behind in my childhood bedroom, the squadron station was magnificent! So, I buffed my floors (miles of floors), stood my desk watches, and came alive as "K3KLC/VO1." I immediately ordered QSL cards from Russ Sackers, W8DED. That first batch, of just 200 cards, had green letters outlined in black and, as I remember, they were gone very quickly.





Like US on  
Facebook

facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

Continued provided by Sam Leach, K3KLC/  
VO1CBL courtesy of Al West KB4RA

Fast forward about 58 years. If you asked me today, what do you still own that you owned in 1963, I have to say, “not much”. The S-85 was shipped to Newfoundland and eventually sold to another sailor. The DX-100B (AM) went too, sometime after I had returned to the states and a Hallicrafters HT-30 (SSB) had taken its place. The high school bedroom and its contents, long gone.

During the nearly three years that I operated from Newfoundland, I sent out hundreds of QSL cards. Since then, I know of just one that showed up on eBay, and that one was snatched up by my partner in a current amateur radio project, Chris (VO1IDX / K1IDX). After that, I began looking at QSL cards on eBay. I discovered that a complete history of U.S. military activity in Canada has literally written in these amateur radio artifacts. I often search “QSL Newfoundland,” finding cards that document every aspect of the U.S. military activity there. In December of 2021, I got a shock when, while browsing Newfoundland QSLs, I came across one of those original 200, green lettered, K3KLC/VO1 cards! The guy wanted a hefty \$6.00, but I bit. A week or so later, the card arrived. As I opened the envelope, I said to my wife, “I’m about to touch something that I last touched when I was 19 years old, nearly 58 years ago!” I pulled it from the envelope and flipped it over. I had addressed it to K3OLG, in Indiana PA (well before the advent of Zip codes). In a moment, I envisioned “standing the desk watch” at the chief’s quarters, filling out QSL cards, while listening to the sound of the Point Verde foghorn through an open window. The card is in perfect condition; seemingly little affected by the intervening years. And me? Not so much.



Like US on  
Facebook

facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

Continued, Provided by Sam Leach,  
K3KLC/VO1CBL courtesy of Al West  
KB4RA

### End notes

The last activity located at U.S. Naval Station, Argentia Newfoundland was decommissioned on 30 September 1994. The author, K3KLC, left the U.S. Navy only “partially,” subsequently completing a full civil service career plus another eighteen years of government contracting at the U.S. Naval Air Test Center / U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center, Patuxent River, MD.

In 2018, Sam became a Canadian radio amateur, VO1CBL, and shares a network of remote amateur stations with Chris, VO1IDX/K1IDX (the North Atlantic Radio Project). Sam often operates 40 Meter SSB from his Canadian “home station” in Portugal Cove, Newfoundland. He is also known to occasionally represent himself as “the very last amateur radio voice of the U.S. Naval Station, Argentia, Newfoundland”. In August of 1985, Sam and squadron mate Larry Rush, (K9HXT-SK), flew Sam’s Cessna 172 back to Argentia, landing on the then abandoned runways on the “North Side” of the base and touring the abandoned AEW “Miami” hangar.

*Al West, KB4RA*

I’d like to invite & encourage interested operators to call into the US Navy Willy Victor Veterans net at 2200Z on 7244 every Monday night. The Willy Victor was the plane flown as airborne radio operators over the North Atlantic and Pacific during the Cold War years. *Al West KB4RA*

-----

**Editors note:** The above is an excellent example of the type of anecdotes/articles/personal experiences that I would like to receive more of from all you reading this. *Mike*



Like US on  
Facebookfacebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

Courtesy of Darrell, AF4E

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office. The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.'" None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his.

CW IS!

---

On July 1, 2022 a new element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for examinations.

---

We had 10 of our members meet on Zoom & 1 on the telephone, immediately after our roll call on the air on 01-11 "On the Air" meetings will continue to be held simultaneously for the time being. Russ KN4TUI, Tommy K4XB and David KY4GM are available to assist and answer questions with set up and use on there electronic devices. We hope to resume in person meetings as soon as possible. Stay tuned.



Like US on Facebook

facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS

**Mitch Litwer, KJ4JGP** gave an excellent presentation on the highlights of the N. Augusta Belvedere Radio Clubs involvement in the Science Education Enrichment Development program (SEED.) This activity got many children and adults involved in sending there names in (1) Morse Code over a practice keyer, (2) making bracelets in color coded beads with a name/phrase in Morse Code and (3) coloring a QSO card (for younger children.) The intent was to increase awareness of amateur radio and its capabilities in our community.

A steering committee was appointed to determine if our club was interested in participating in the upcoming Imagine STEAM Festival. A similar event, by a different name, in Uptown Greenwood in October 2022. Unfortunately at this time there doesn't appear to be sufficient support from club members to continue planning. The idea will be tabled for now.

If you have any questions or comments please contact [Mitch Litwer, KJ4JGP](#).

**Let's try something new. I'm trying to get more of our members involved in the newsletter.** My endeavors in the past have not worked out. So lets try something new. Anyone wishing to participate simply send 1 or 2 sentences highlighting anything you have done since the last newsletter relating to amateur radio. Could be anything from putting up a new antenna, getting new radio equipment, participating in any contest etc. Here's how mine might look. Send yours [here](#)

KA4CSM Mike - Worked Australia on FT8, on 20 meters, 40 watts

December 2021 Net Reports, courtesy of Tedd AI4WIN

2m		70cm	
check-ins	110	check-ins	64
traffic	5	traffic	4
sessions	5	sessions	4

Have you ever wondered about the accuracy of your iPhone, iPad or computers ability to keep accurate time? Simply click on [Time.is](#) to find out. If it needs adjustment there are several programs available to keep your time accurate. I use Dimension 4: install it and forget it. It runs seamless and quite in the background and does what it does best.



Like US on  
Facebook

facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS



A Nominating committee has been established. It consists of [David Davenport](#) KY4GM as chair and [Dave Russ](#) K4DWR and [Jack Witt](#) KN4SIK as members. If you have any input please contact one of them.

---



Annual dues for the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) are now due and payable to [Tedd Davison](#), AI4WN. They are \$25.00 per individual membership, plus \$2.00 for spouse, plus \$2.00 more per student. In order to remain current they must be paid before April 1, 2022.

---

Vintage Radio, September 1993

<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Old-Radio-Groups/Radio-Collector/Radio-Collector-1993-09.pdf>

---

If anyone in the club has an interest of becoming the Public Information Officer (PIO) for our club please contact [W4EGM@outlook.com](mailto:W4EGM@outlook.com) with a note to [Russ Myrick](#), KN4TUI.

# HAMFESTS & EVENTS

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

Amateur Radio Club of Augusta [Winter Tailgate](#) Feb. 19, 2022

[charlotte-hamfest](#) March 11 & 12 2022

Daytona [Hamvention](#), 20-22 May 2022

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Hamfest January 14, 2023



- \* 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:

None submitted.

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*



facebook.com/  
Greenwood ARS



## Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Silent Key Memorial

Established in Memory of all Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Radio Operators who were club members and are now Silent Keys.. They were friends, family, associates and all are missed.

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Silent Key</u>	
W4GSW	Willis, Gay	8/11/2010	*
KD4YDI	Hendrix, Todd	3/8/2014	
W4PY	Wise, Warren	2/14/2015	*
KC4KZ	Henderson, Don	4/3/2015	*
KC4WM	Taylor, Alice	12/11/2015	*
KC4IAV	Elledge, Marion	12/27/2015	*
K4GBH	Mimms, Joe	12/29/2015	*
AD4XA	Pruitt, Charles	10/6/2018	
KJ4VJ	Keck, Bert	10/23/2018	*
WW4I	Henry, Phil	1/1/2019	*
KC4UU	Henry, Jo	10/6/2019	*
WB4MLU	Banks, Homer	6/7/2020	
KI4WJO	Mimms, Jewell	7/14/2020	
AK4EK	Gresham, Jim	7/7/2020	*
W3COX	Cox, Jim	7/16/2021	*
WD4BWK	Mitchell, Franklin	9/25/2021	
KB4YON	Keck, Eldora	10/14/2021	
AJ4PU	Haynes, David	11/26/2021	*

\* indicates GARS member when became SK