



The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2022

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

W4GWD@ARRL.NET

2022 CLUB

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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

June 2022

The next GARS monthly meeting will be held in person at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood on June 14, 2022 beginning at 7:30 pm. The doors will be open at 7:00 pm for members to have a time of fellowship and setup for the meeting. Hope to see you all there.



Greenwood Amateur Society Recurring Events:



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Chat 'N' Chews

Have resumed Fridays, they will begin gathering at 1115. Kin KJ4BAK will announce locations on both the Monday and Thursday night nets. Dutch treat.

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, AI4WN](#).

VE Exam Session

Due to Covid all GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) sessions have been postponed until further notice. **Stay tuned for more details.** Please contact Buddy Willis, w4dew@arrl.net with any questions.

Congratulations!!

Happy Birthday!

Kevan Nason	N4X:	Jun 5
David Russ	K4DWR	Jun 9
Paul Anderzunas	KO4ALK	Jun 12
Adam Shirley	WJ4X	Jun 15
George Crane	W3RXF	Jun 20
Diantha Litwer	N4DLL	Jun 24

Happy Anniversary!

Mike (KA4CSM) & Sherree Wills
Jun 2
Earl (KC4AXY) & Betty Jean Powell
Jun 5
Tedd (AI4WN) & Gail Davison
Jun 15
Andrew (KU4LAW) & Dawn Hodges
Jun 21

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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Presidents QSO



I'm writing this on the last Friday of May as we head into Memorial Day Weekend. I'm planning to attend Chat-N-Chew today, it is rare I have a chance to do so. Hope to catch up with a few of you. KJ4BAK Kin thank you for setting these up and providing reminders for us on the Nets.

Speaking of Memorial Day, I hope each of you and your families and friends had a pleasant and safe one. We need to always remember the reason for the Holiday and that reason does not get lost in the festivities.

We had another well attended in-person meeting May 10th at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Our next meeting is Tuesday June 14th. Hope you plan now to be there. A reminder for those that have not made it there yet. We enter the building from the right side entrance as you face the front of the church. Take the steps or the elevator to the next level up. You will enjoy the fellowship, program and just getting together with fellow Hams.

Our next big event is Field Day activities Saturday June 25th at Greenwood State Park Shelter 2. Contact KY4GM David Davenport if you are interested in helping &/or attending. Please promote this event with every opportunity you have. We are looking forward to a good turnout. Reminder of the following entrance fee. \$3 adults; \$1.50 SC seniors; \$1 children age 6-15; age 5 & younger free <https://southcarolinaparks.com/lake-greenwood> Please go to ARRL.org for this and other information about Field Day. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules> Another reminder to notify KJ4JGP Mitch &/or N4DLL Di if you would like to help with the STEAM event in October. We thank those that have volunteered so far.

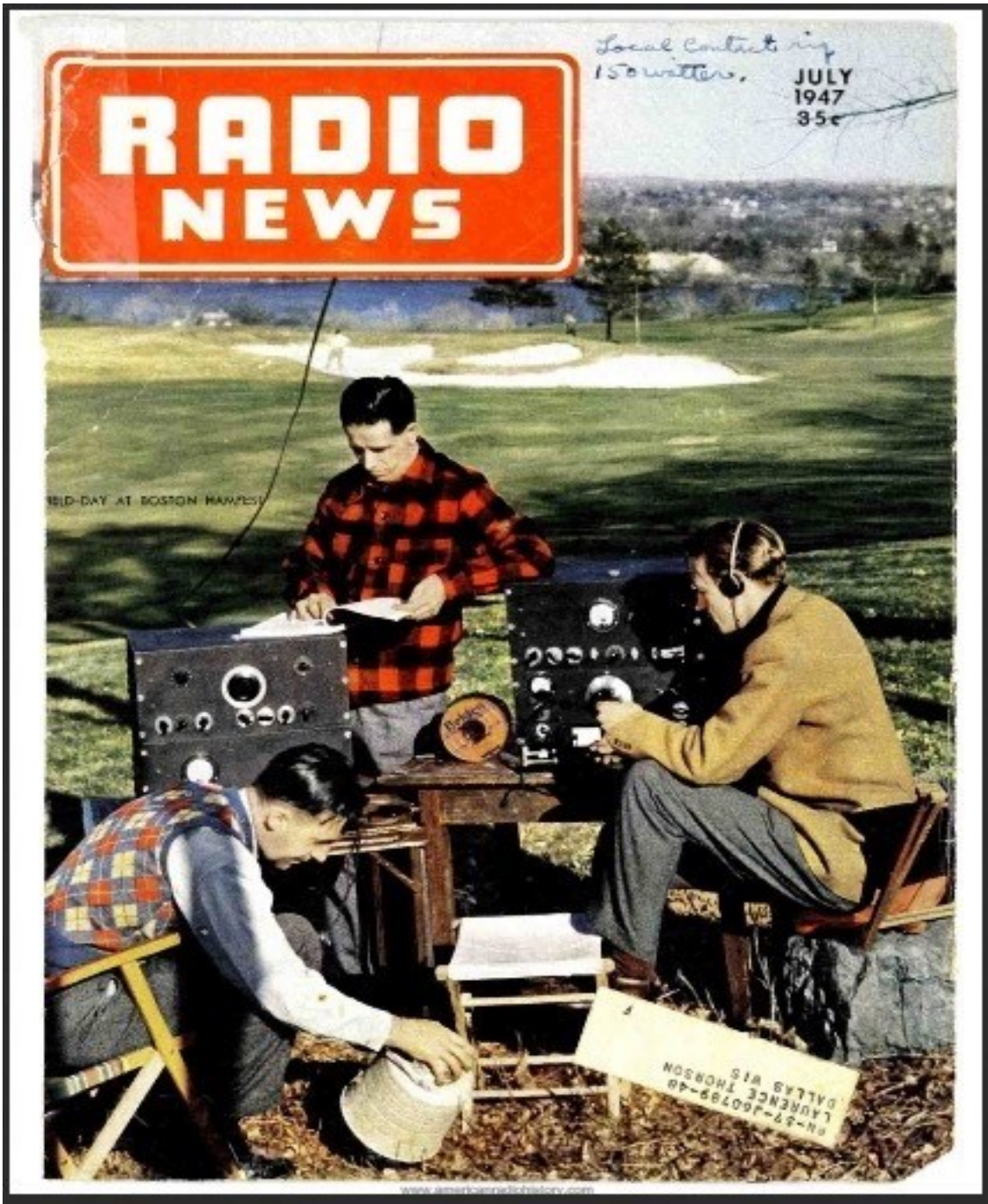
Remember we are always looking for additional Net Controllers, either as an alternate or fulltime. Please contact one of our current net controllers for more information or to add you name to the list. Our thanks to each of the current set of Net Controllers for faithfully conducting our Monday and Thursday nets. If you haven't checked-in lately, please consider one or both of these. They are always interesting and as with anything else, the more the merrier.

W4DEW Buddy and Darrell AF4E are also looking for additional groundskeepers with equipment for maintenance on the ETV Tower site. They along with other volunteers are always committed to properly maintaining the grounds and for that we are grateful.

Have not heard any interest in restarting VE Sessions. Please let W4DEW Buddy or myself know if you are interested in upgrading your license or know of someone looking for that 1st ticket. If you are a VE let us know if you are interested in being an active VE for any sessions we may have.

Russ, KN4TUI

I have been the editor of the GARS newsletter for close to 4 years. I enjoy doing it, gives me something else to exercise my mind in retirement. But it is rather discouraging when I hear questions being asked during nets or in meetings etc. that were clearly brought up in the newsletter. I frequently wonder if it is being read. If you are not receiving it please let me know [here](#). It is generally published on either the last or first day of the month.





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Touch screen, Kevan Nason N4XL

Touch screens are very common. It's the unusual ham that doesn't have at least one – a smart phone. Tablets, computer monitors, and even computers themselves have them. Modern radios, software programs for FT8, RTTY, and logging programs are all controlled or used by computers. There are so many key combinations and control functions to actuate our shack's equipment it is difficult to remember them all. Programs like AutoHotKey allow remapping keyboard buttons and gaming keyboards or gaming keypads allow quick access to commonly used commands or macros, but you have to remember what button does what, or use labels on your keyboard that eventually need to be changed or they fall off.

A program called Touch Portal has helped me solve the problem of easy identification after 30 hours of contesting and a quick way to reconfigure my operating station for different operating modes and programs. It runs under the Android operating system and can be installed on an old smart phone you may have stuck in a drawer or an inexpensive tablet. I bought an 8" ONN tablet on sale at a local store. It can also be configured for almost any computer program too. Besides Ham software I set up a page for it to control the Windows media player play music so I don't have to use the mouse to skip a track, pause playback, or change volume. Instead, I just tap a digital button on my tablet smart screen.

I've just begun to use it for contesting and love it. Here's a screenshot of my tablet with a screen I configured for use in the Michigan QSO party contest. The Ontario and Quebec QSO parties were going on at the same time and I would need to switch logs when I ran across a Canadian station. One tap of a screen button lets me do the following:

- Switch between the various QSO party logs

- Move the cursor from whatever window it was in immediately back to my logging program's Entry Window Call field for logging a contact – be it on either Radio 1 or 2 of my SO2R station

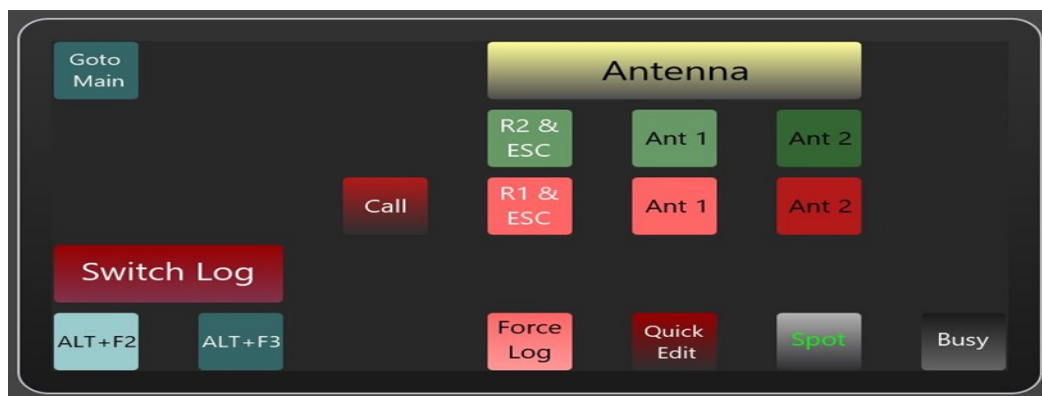
- Switch between two different antennas on each band

- Force the logging program to record a QSO even if it thought the information was bogus

- Quick edit the previous contact if I had made a mistake

- Send a Spot to the DX clusters

- Mark the frequency busy on my band map so I don't waste time listening to non-contest stations the next time I spin the VFO through the band.



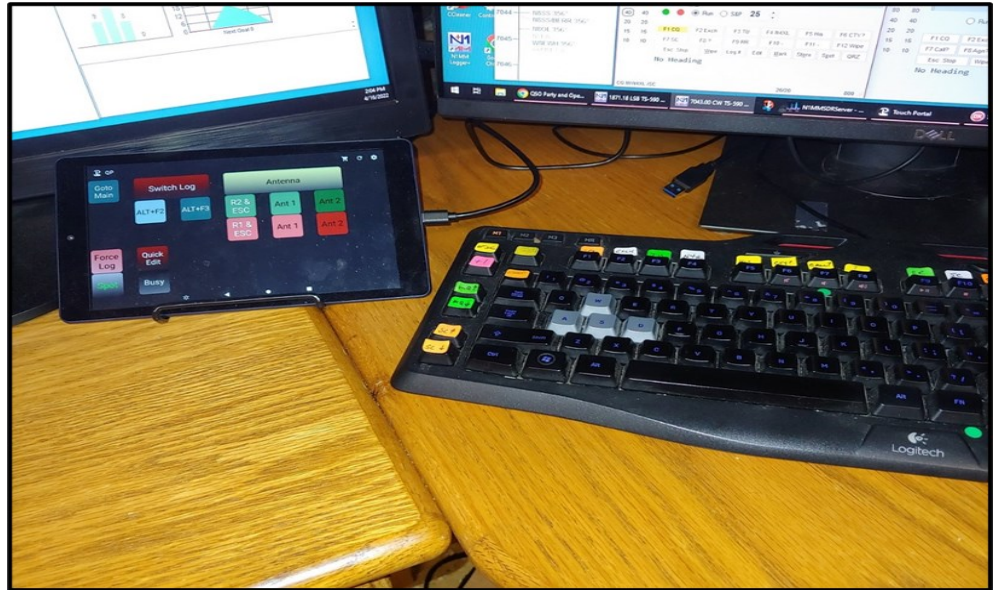


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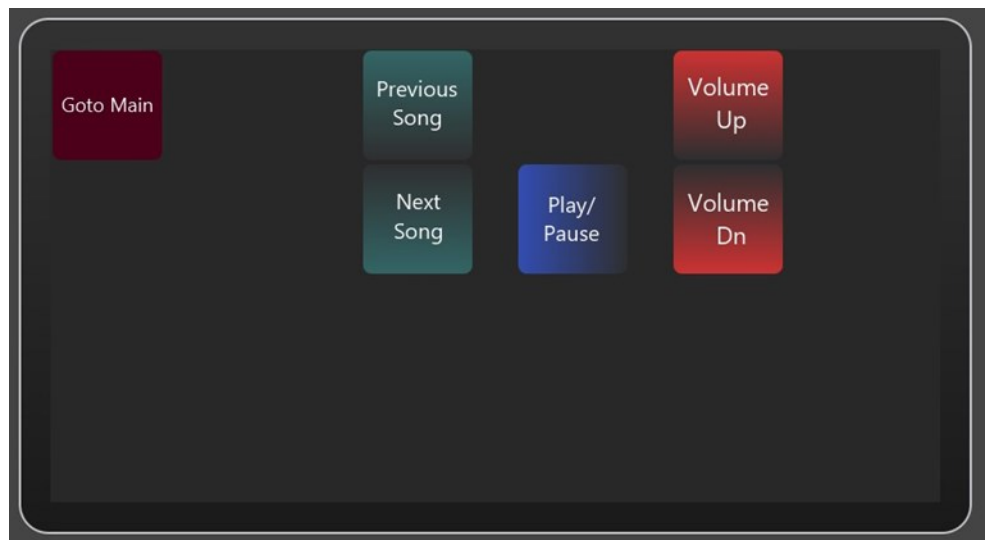
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Touch Screen (Continued) Kevan N4XL

Here's my tablet sitting conveniently next to my keyboard.



And here is the screen for Windows Media controller.

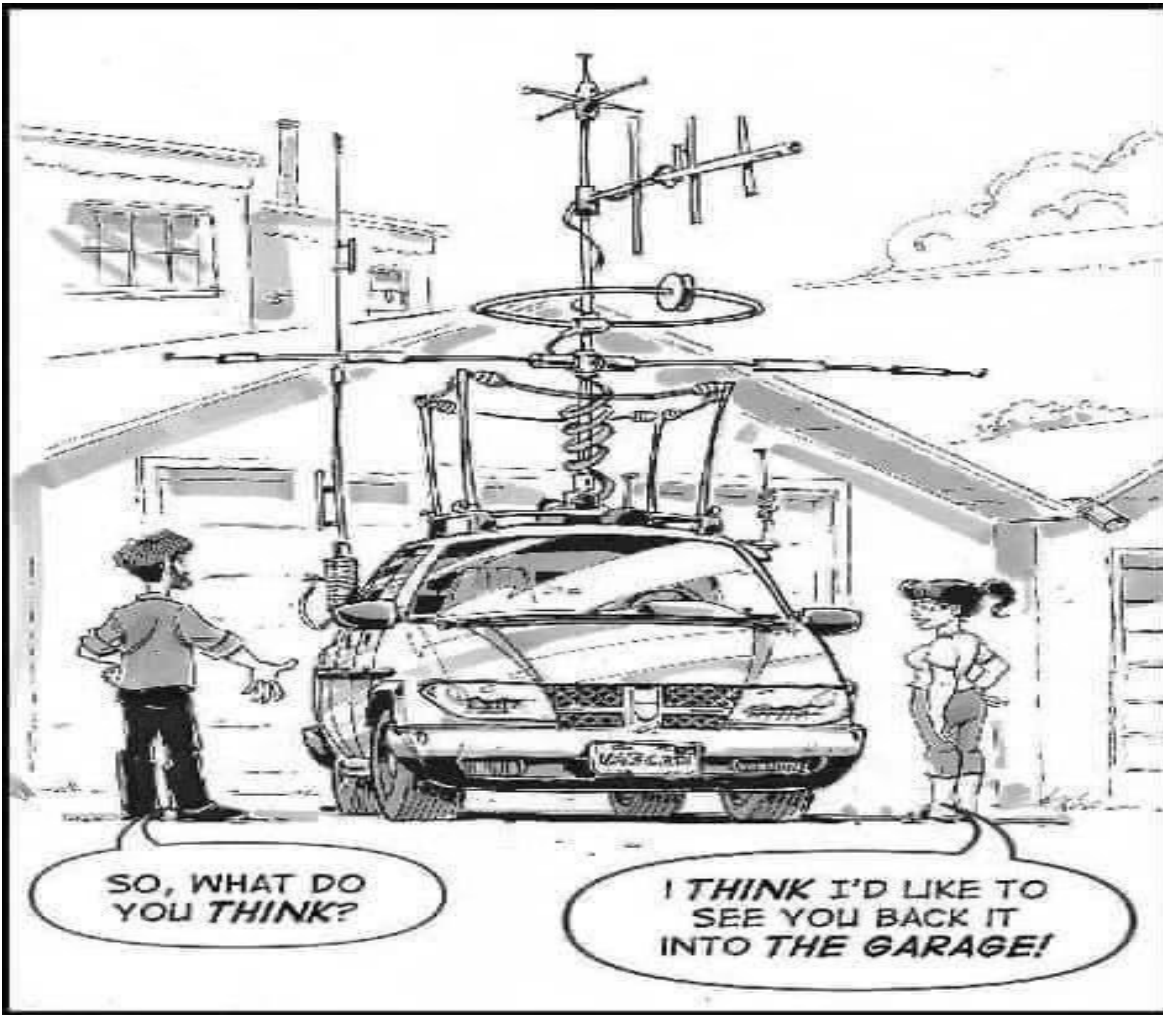


The full program costs about \$12 for a lifetime subscription. The number of buttons can be customized to your application.

Check out all the capabilities for yourself at <https://www.touch-portal.com/>

Interesting article, submitted by Di Litwer, 4DLL

<https://wpde.com/news/local/nc-weather-station-the-only-known-wireless-station-in-us-to-receive-titanic-cqd-message>

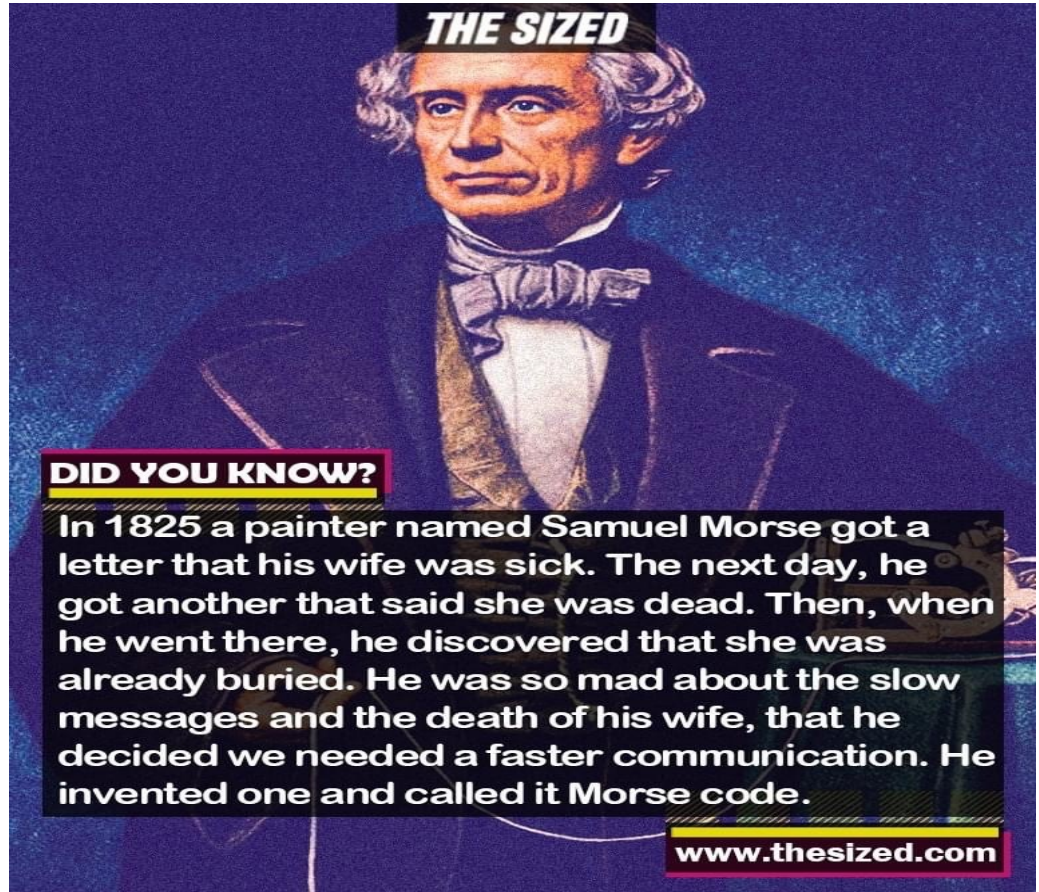


Interesting article submitted by Tommy Owens, K4XB

<https://qrznow.com/eagles-guitarist-joe-walsh-wb6acu-promotes-amateur-radio-in-media-announcements/>

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Loop, NaGOYA, Diamond, signal stick Ham Radio Antenna testing

<https://youtu.be/NrnLXImpKVQ>

QST, May 1917

<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Early-Radio-Assorted/QST-War-Number-May-1917.pdf>



Please contact [Jack Witt KN4SIK](#) if you would like to use our library or have any comments or suggestions about it.



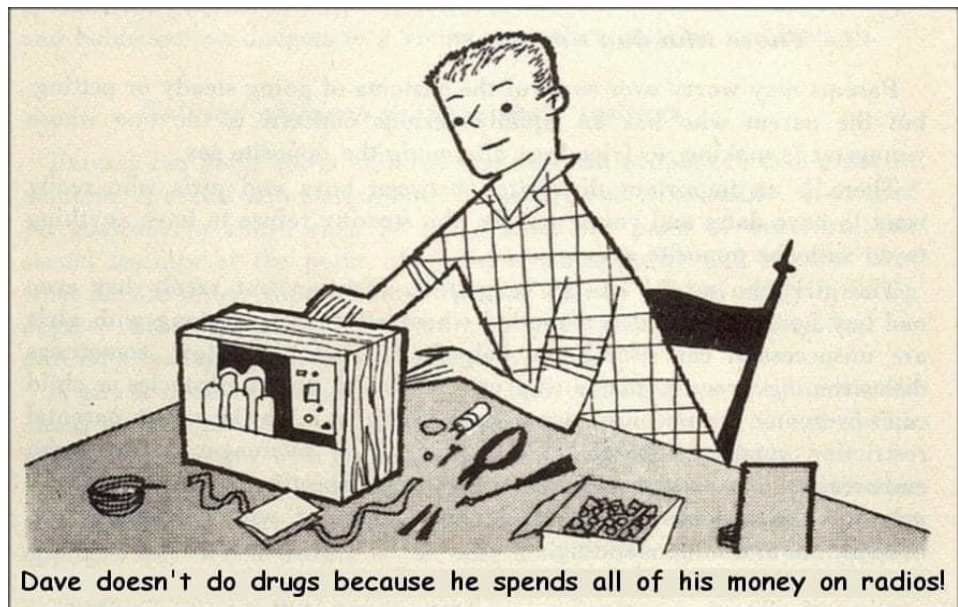
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ARRL Field Day

Field Day is fast approaching. It is traditionally held on the 4th weekend of June, making it 25-26 June this year. We will hold ours on June 25th at the Greenwood State Park, shelter 2 (near boat ramp.) There is an entry fee that must be paid prior to entry of the park: \$3.00 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors, \$1.00 for children 6-15 and 5 and under are free. We will be participating in a POTA {Parks on the Air} event simultaneously with Field Day. Dave Davenport, KY4GM is taking the lead this year. If you have any comments/suggestions or would like to volunteer to help please contact [him here](#).

Tedd AI4WN, shared his thoughts on Field Day: It is all about amateur radio operators participation in the legacy era of Amateur Radio. You must remember that from 1916 to 1933 the evolution of AM radio was a gigantic leap in engineering pioneered by unpaid hobbyists. Field day was a way to demonstrate that with short notice amateur radio operators could set up and communicate with other operators from across the county. The first Field Day in 1933 was governed by rules that evolved every year to encourage the maximum participation of USA licensed operators. During a few years of World War II, amateur radio was embargoed and field day did not happen.



GARS Member news, submit your news [here](#).

Mike KA4CSM made his longest contact on FT8 yet. Indonesia on 15 meters, at 40 watts, 10413 miles. Confirmed by eQSL



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The GARS Meeting held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd. Greenwood on May 10, 2022 was attended by 17 with 2 additional on Zoom. Kevan N4XL gave an excellent presentation on Field Day emphasizing proper radio procedures.



Mitch KJ4JGP is actively looking for operators to give presentations on any aspect of Amateur radio. He is also soliciting ideas and or suggestions on how to resurrect GARS interest in participating in the STEAM event scheduled for October 2022. Contact him [here](#).

The Amateur Radio Club of Augusta has a new VHF Repeater. It is located on the Trenton, SC tower at approximately 300' and can be found at 145.390 (-) with a pl tone of 71.9. Echo link is not included. Courtesy of David Davenport' KY4GM



It's that time of the year again. [Buddy](#) W4DEW and [Darrell](#) AF4E will be routinely asking for help in maintaining our repeater sites. Please plan on helping if you can.

We are seeking some new net controllers to augment our current ones. A big thank you to all our current controllers for your commitment. Contact any of them for more information on how to join there ranks..



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Extracted from Section Manager report from April 2022

Marc N4UFP

Net Reports

Net / Check Ins / Traffic / Sessions / Reported By
Anderson Radio Club 2m Net / 583 / 30 / 30 / W3SUE
Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Net / 1766 / 37 / 30 / W4DJW
CARES Net / 45 / 0 / 4 / WX4SC
Carolinas Net / 404 / 107 / 60 / KC4PGN
CARC / 129 / 16 / 4 / KU5N
CARC Simplex / 15 / 0 / 1 / KU5N
CSN / 126 / 21 / 30 / KI4KZS
Florence Amateur Radio Club / 52 / 6 / 6 / KK4ZMK
Grand Strand ARC 2m Net / 212 / 18 / 18 / N4AJK
Grand Strand ARC 1.25m Net / 17 / 3 / 3 / N4AJK
Grand Strand ARC 70cm Net / 53 / 5 / 5 / N4AJK
Greater Pee Dee 2m Net / 858 / 56 / 30 / KK4KSZ
Greenwood ARC 2m Net / 86 / 4 / 4 / AI4WN
Greenwood ARC 70cm Net / 50 / 4 / 4 / AI4WN
Kershaw ARC 2m Net / 57 / 9 / 4 / KK4RUI
Lancaster County 2m Net / 25 / 0 / 4 / N4WMB
PALS Net / 777 / 41 / 30 / KK4MQN
SC ARES Statewide HF Net / 59 / 10 / 3 / KN4KRZ
SC ARES Training Net / 29 / 10 / 3 / KN4KRZ
SC Heart Training Net / 178 / 0 / 4 / KQ4KK
SC SSB Net / 1574 / 94 / 30 / KG4RUE
Sumter County EC Net / 30 / 10 / 3 / KF4ARD
Trident ARC 2m Net / 75 / 9 / 4 / K4TCP
York Co. ARS 2m Nets / 1022 / 3 / 50 / K6FNV
York Co. ARES Net / 22 / 0 / 3 / K6FNV

**“I worry my wife will
one day sell my
radios for what I told
her I paid for them.”**

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

[Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society \(WCARS\) Hamfest](#), July 23, 2022.

[Shelby Hamfest](#), September 2-4, 2022

[Gaffney Hamfest](#) October 22, 2022

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

Classifieds

Wire Dipole, unknown length. Will let it go for best offer. Contact [Stephen Lyda](#), KA4PQA for more information



- * 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>



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



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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>	
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	*
N20EE	Wiener, Bob	04/12/2022	*

* indicates GARS member when became SK