



# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 7

JULY 2022

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

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

## 2022 CLUB

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#### Vice President

Tommy Owens, K4XB

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Buddy Willis, W4DEW

#### Activities Manager

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Michael Wills, KA4CSM

#### Librarian

Jack Witt, KN4SIK



## July 2022

The next GARS monthly meeting will be held in person at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood on July 12, 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. **VE Testing to resume on August 2, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the same location as our club meetings in the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Keep in mind if your taking the Technician test that the question pool for level 2, Technician, changed on July 1, 2022.**

### 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



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

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](#).

**Breaking news** VE sessions have been restarted, the next one is on August 2, 2022 at 7 p.m.. They will be held in the same room as our regular meetings at the Westminster Presbyterian church. Please contact Buddy Willis, [w4dew@arrl.net](mailto:w4dew@arrl.net) with any questions.

## Congratulations!!

<http://www.arrl.org>



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# Presidents QSO



Field Day 2022 has come and gone. I personally enjoyed being at Lake Greenwood State Park. I think everyone else thought it was a good choice too. Our thanks to KY4GM David for suggesting that location as an option, and the club voting in favor. Also, to K4XB Tommy for the trips to pick-up food, paper products and items necessary for grilling. David and Tommy did a great job grilling and having the food and drinks ready for the group of hungry hams and guests. Also, kudos to KY4GM for setting up a couple of HF rigs for use on the air. Several members had time for making contacts. David also showed and shared software and apps he uses for logging, etc. He also reviewed POTA (Parks On The Air) utilization.

Our resident Attendance Coordinator, KJ4BAK Kin, logged each member and quests as they arrived. I personally did not confirm the final count, but throughout the day there were upwards of 18 or so in attendance. Displaying the club banner as well as the POTA Sign gave notice to passersby as to the activities in and around Shelter #2.

Location was great and until late afternoon the weather was so pleasant. For that we are grateful. Especially hearing how hot the day was for so many other clubs. Again, my thanks for everyone making it such a fun, educational, engaging and interactive day.

Another topic, VE Sessions restarting the first Tuesday of the even number month. W4DEW Buddy has arranged a VE starting 7:00PM Tuesday August 02, 2022. We have 7 VE's willing to serve that evening. More to come on this. We need to promote this date within GARS Members and the surrounding areas. Anyone interested in becoming a VE please review [http://www.arrrl.org/become-an-arrrl-ve](http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrrl-ve) I hope everyone and their family and friends have a Safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It's great to be an American and living in the USA with all of our freedoms. The Land of the Free because of the Brave!

Our next monthly meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup>. The Westminster Presbyterian Church doors open at 7:00pm with Meeting starting at 7:30pm. Attendance was good, and we encourage all of our members to attend. Everyone is important. Each of us has something to contribute and we can all learn something.

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. We appreciate our members that promote our 70cm and 2M nets as they check-in on other nets. W4DEW Buddy made the club aware the folks at the ETV Tower site have contracted a groundskeeping/lawn care group to maintain that location. We certainly want to recognize and convey our appreciation to W4DEW Buddy, AF4E Darrell, KI4CCZ Jeremy, N4WDC David and others for their diligence and efforts "in the field" of lawn care.

*Russ, KN4TUI hope to see you on the 12th*



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

Kevin N4XL, received a bottle of wine and a plaque for placing #14 out of the top 20 in the 2021 California QSO contest.

Mike KA4CSM just received his Worked all States (WAS) on FT8. Confirmed by eQSL





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We held our annual Field Day at the Lake Greenwood State Park. It was attended by 12 members and 5 guests as recorded by Kin Maffett, KJ4BAK. Thank you to David Davenport, KY4GM for putting it all together and for manning the BBQ along with Tommy Owens, K4XB who also got the groceries.





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Submitted by Al West, KB4RA

I got my license 68 years ago, and I was known by everyone as a ham who worked with radios. My senior year, the football coach told me he ordered some Heathkit walkie talkies and asked if I would assemble them. I was honored by the request. I put them together and...horrors of horrors...they didn't work. My teammates and a lot of other people knew I was working on them and the all kept asking about when we could test them. I felt immense pressure and was not (still not) skilled at tracking down and trouble-shooting building errors.

I got up one morning and my Mom told me I got up in the middle of the night, went to the pad next to the telephone, and wrote some "stuff" she didn't understand. I had absolutely no memory of this taking place, but I went to the pad, read what I had written, went to my bench and did what I had written and the radios sprung to life.

From then on, my night table has always had a pen and pad for writing things down. I cannot tell you how many teaching examples, code solutions, and other "problems" were solved by what has been written on those pads over the years. Many times, I don't remember writing anything on the pad.

So, even when you think you're not working on something, chances are your mind doesn't know that.

Jack, W8TEE





“Screening Vacuum Tubes”  
by John Atwood

Ran across this while surfing Vacuum Tube Valley issue #1 on [worldradiohistory.com](http://worldradiohistory.com). I will soon be trying to bring an old HW101 back to life and thought this information might be useful should I need a tube or two from a hamfest where I don't have my tube tester handy.

Kevan N4XL

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Visual Checks

Checking the appearance of a tube can help screen out some obvious problems, plus help determine if a tube in a box is really N.O.S. (New Old Stock - old, but unused).

The first place to look is the getter – that silvery reflective area where metal (usually barium or magnesium) is flashed onto the inside of the envelope to trap stray gas molecules. If the getter is completely white, there is a gross air leak, and the tube is no good. If the getter is very faded with just a small reflective spot left, then the tube has seen hard use and may be gassy. It may still be OK, but it is suspect. If the getter is fresh - with no darkening or discoloration around the edges, then the tube is more likely to be good, or at least have low usage, but it still may have other problems.

Shake the tube. If something rattles, look inside. If it is a small piece of glass, then don't worry, but if it is a piece of metal, then throw the tube away. Sometimes octal tubes will have loose material in the base. This is not usually a problem unless the whole base is loose.

You may find boxed tubes that appear to be unused (N.O.S.). But are they really? They may just be defective tubes ("pullouts") that a service technician stuffed back in the new tube's box. Looking at the tube can help cell if the tube is a pull-out. First, is the brand of the tube the same as the brand on the box? If not, it is unlikely to be N.O.S. Are the markings reasonably clear? Most tubes have very fragile brand markings that easily rub off with handling or cleaning. Are there obvious finger prints or dust accumulations? Is the glass substantially darkened? Is the getter noticeably eroded? While some tubes have some slight darkening or what appears to be slight getter erosion when new, most should look fresh. If any of these visual signs indicate the tube is used, go to the next step, and check its transconductance. And, don't pay an N.O.S. price for the tube!



“OKAY, LAST NIGHT YOU DID THE DISHES...  
TODAY, YOU'RE FOLDING THE LAUNDRY.  
WHAT **radio** AND HOW MUCH WAS IT?

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## Provided courtesy of Ted Johnson, AE4TJ

Two students who knew morse code spent the semester tapping out hints and answers to each other during the exams.

At the end of the final their hearts sank as the professor began tapping on his desk.

None of the other students noticed the message, but these two did, "I know morse too, you both just flunked!".

For the what's happening section:

At the Batesburg Ham Fest I learned of Mrs. Nancy Lumley's offer of a tower and antennas for anyone taking it down to get her dad's house ready to sell.

After an inspection I decided to tackle the task and with some help got it down without a hitch.

A friend needed help about 10 miles away loading a propane tank so we provided mutual aid.

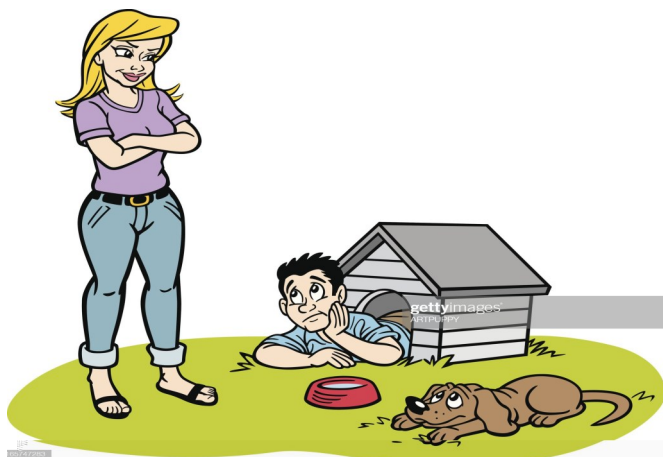
We used a cable hoist to take some load off of the installed winch used to lay it along the roof line in case the cable and joints were no longer up to the task.

We took it apart and used a rope looped over the hinged portion to lower things to the ground.

Dave Russ, K4DWR, had organized the documentation and has the Butternut HF Antenna. He will bring to the next ham fest unless someone gets to it first.

While I was looking at where to put it up, my wife asked me what I was doing with that "thing." I told her the yard needs to be balanced, just like the couch. The couch has a throw pillow at each end, so this "thing" should go right about here.

She said "Don't even think about it!".







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## The May 2022 Net reports, submitted by Section Manager Marc N4UFP

Net / Check Ins / Traffic / Sessions / Reported By  
 Anderson Radio Club 2m Net / 477 / 28 / 28 / W3SUE  
 Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Net / / / / W4DJW  
 CARES Net / / / / WX4SC  
 Carolinas Net / / / / KC4PGN  
 CARC / 144 / 34 / 5 / KU5N  
 CARC Simplex / 26 / 0 / 2 / KU5N  
 CSN / 111 / 27 / 31 / KI4KZS  
 Florence Amateur Radio Club / / / / KK4ZMK  
 Grand Strand ARC 2m Net / 192 / 15 / 15 / N4AJK  
 Grand Strand ARC 1.25m Net / 23 / 3 / 4 / N4AJK  
 Grand Strand ARC 70cm Net / 70 / 7 / 7 / N4AJK  
 Greater Pee Dee 2m Net / 903 / 67 / 31 / KK4KSZ  
 Greenwood ARC 2m Net / 122 / 4 / 4 / AI4WN  
 Greenwood ARC 70cm Net / 122 / 5 / 5 / AI4WN  
 Kershaw ARC 2m Net / 69 / 12 / 5 / KK4RUI  
 Lancaster County 2m Net / 28 / 1 / 5 / N4WMB  
 PALS Net / 833 / 53 / 31 / KK4MQN  
 SC ARES Statewide HF Net / 99 / 15 / 5 / KN4KRZ  
 SC ARES Training Net / 57 / 17 / 4 / KN4KRZ  
 SC Heart Training Net / 178 / 0 / 4 / KQ4KK  
 SC SSB Net / 1516 / 98 / 31 / KG4RUE  
 Sumter County EC Net / 62 / 16 / 5 / KF4ARD  
 Trident ARC 2m Net / 65 / 9 / 5 / K4TCP  
 York Co. ARS 2m Nets / / / / K6FNV  
 York Co. ARES Net / / / / K6FNV

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Citizens Radio Callbook, November 1922

[Call-Book-1922-Nov.pdf \(worldradiohistory.com\)](http://worldradiohistory.com)



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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The GARS Meeting held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd. Greenwood on June 14, 2022 was attended by 15 with 2 additional on Zoom. Kevan N4XL gave an excellent presentation on “Choosing the best HF antenna, part 2 to follow.

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Our legacy Hamfest is fast approaching on January 14, 2023. We are hoping that Marsha Ridlehuber, KD4AYF will agree, to once again, run the “kitchen.” We need two members , or spouses, to volunteer to assist her. Please let [Ted](#) , AI4WN know if you can assist with this or of any other ideas for Hamfest.

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[Buddy](#) W4DEW, [Darrell](#) AF4E and others have done an outstanding job in maintaining our repeater sites for years. For the foreseeable future a contract has been made by the repeater site owners to take over this responsibility.. A big thank you all for all your hard work.

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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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](#).



[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

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



Power Supply, free to good home [Stephen Lyda, KA4PQA](#)



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<http://www.arri.org>

<http://www.sera.org>

<http://www.sedxc.org>

<http://www.ae7q.com>

<http://aprs.fi>

<http://swampfoxcontestgroup.com>



*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.

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