



W4GWD

The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2023

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

W4GWD@ARRL.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



The 2m (147.165) and 440 (443.900) Analog Repeaters are both up.

The GARS D-Star repeater is down for possible amp issue and high SWR. Tommy K4XB is working to get it back on line ASAP

Repeater Linking: our 2m and 440 repeaters are linked during nets and special occasions

February 2023

The next GARS monthly meeting will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood on February 14, 2023 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

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



Greenwood Amateur Society Recurring Events:



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Chat 'N' Chews

Begin gathering at 1115 at different locations each week. 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](mailto:Tedd.Davison@arrl.net).

VE Exam Session

The next VE testing session is on February 7, 2023 at 7 p.m.. It will be held in the same room as our regular meetings at the Westminster Presbyterian church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood SC. Please contact Buddy Willis, w4dew@arrl.net with any questions. No walk-ins, please preregister with Buddy

Congratulations!!

Happy Birthday!

David McCall W4MCC Feb. 20

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>



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Presidents QSO



Well, 2023 is off to a fast start. Our Hamfest was a success, reasonably well attended and I have had quite a number of positive comments come my way from folks that were there. Hats off and a big thank you to all that helped in various ways and attended that day.

We have several members &/or family members experiencing health issues. Others have experienced recent deaths of a loved one. Just keep them in your thoughts and prayers along with reaching out to them as you can.

Our next meeting is Tuesday February 14th. Seems that date is significant for another reason too. So a reminder to remember that date for both reasons. Also the nominating committee is busy getting names together for officers for the upcoming year. Please give serious thoughts about an area you would like to serve. We have so many good and active members able to fulfill the duties of any open office. Everyone has a different skillset as well as ideas of how to continue with the strong history of our club and integrating new activities and new technologies.

Speaking of new activities, consider becoming a net controller. We can always use additional controllers either as regulars or alternates. We have a Preamble for format and content but each net controller adds their style and personality as they engage with those that check-in. This gives you an opportunity for more air time, meet additional hams and serve our club and community. Try it you'll like it.

I understand we had a couple of guests at the last meeting. Would be nice to add a few new members to our group. I know several of you have followed up with them. And remember to invite others to attend a meeting. They may already be an operator or perhaps some interest in finding out what it's all about.

Signing off for now, be safe, be kind and enjoy life.

Russ – KN4TUI – 73 – Hope to see you on the 14th.

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) 2023 Hamfest



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Tedd, AI4WN, sends “ *This years hamfest was a huge success with a good time had by all who attended. I’d like to sincerely thank all those who helped to make it work. Several of you went above and beyond. Kevan N4XL, Dave K4DWR, Mitch KJ4JGP, Gail (family member), Kin KJ4BAK, Tommy K4XB, Stephen KA4PQA, Jack KN4SIK & Andy KN4DYV to name a few.*

The club provided free coffee, donuts, water and some soft drinks to all which was well received. Many people made unsolicited donations for it and that all went to the club. Next years hamfest we will strive to make bigger, even better and include a food bar, it is set for January 13, 2024.

The club table was a big success with all donated items being sold. Another big thank you to all who brought in items to be placed on it. The proceeds all went to the club.

Over two hundred tickets were sold at the door.

Tedd AI4WN brought this all together. He began preparations for it months ago, scheduling the venue, contacting & securing vendors and coordinating everything to insure a smooth running event. Thank you for all your hard work Tedd.





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[W4FTK](#) is a new repeater in Donald's, courtesy of David, KY4GM



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Plenty of Options When Learning CW By Kevan N4XL

There's been a lot of reflector discussion, ours and others, about the best way to learn CW. While reading a thread on the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) it occurred to me that like many things in life, there is no "best" way for everyone because we each process information differently. Some do seem to work better than others for the majority of people though. Here's what some wrote on the RSGB Technical Groups.io reflector. The last is a very long post from K9AO, but it contains so much useful information I decided to include its entirety.

G30OU: When I hold a morse class I teach the Meg Mills G2ACC method from a very old RSGB publication - it teaches character recognition starting first with the simple characters like eishtmo. (Editor's Note: in CW those characters are very easy to learn). Whichever method you choose there are some very basic rules to follow: 1. Little and often is best - 10 minutes each day/evening is far better than 2 hours just at a weekend 2. As already suggested, once you know the alphabet and numbers translate road signs, advertising hoardings etc. (but not while driving of course!) 3. Set your morse generator for about 12-15wpm with large gaps to start with so that you have some thinking time. As you improve reduce the inter-character gaps. The brain needs to be pushed so to get to 12wpm at 100% you should be aiming for 15wpm minimum. 4. Do not go near a morse key until you can copy at least 6-8wpm 100% - too easy to learn bad habits which take a long time to unlearn.

G4LPP: I came back to radio upon retirement to Norfolk 4 years ago and never having used CW since 1981 got talked into re-learning it here by Roger G3LDI. Very good CW classes and about half an hour practice per day and after 2y up to a steady 25 WPM. Now 2 years further on 30WPM is ok and callsigns occasionally at 84WPM. I found G4FON already mentioned to be an excellent learning aid. Listening to the bands at various speeds and Joining CWOPS weekly activity periods great for callsign and number recognition. The biggest boost to speed more recently has been regular use of RUFzXp which sends a series of callsigns from your chosen starting speed with one allowed repeat (by pressing F6) – speed increases with correct recognition of the call and decreases with an incorrect call. Highly recommend spending 10 to 15 mins per day on that. Now teaching CW by zoom and GB3NB on a Friday evening. It was a great way of coping with Lockdown too! □□□□□:

G0KAQY: One pitfall that I fell into is that there are too many options available to us for learning morse. It's very easy to end up flitting from one app to the next, this website and that, and then avoiding getting stuck in properly. Choose something and stick with it (like G4FON). Also it's helpful to join a class if you have the time - like CW Academy from CWOps (it's free). Whatever you do, don't learn the characters at low speed. Learn them about 18wpm, but leave honking big gaps between letters for you brain to catch up. Join [SKCC](#) and [Fists](#) too - lots of help there. Set aside a fixed regular time to learn your morse - get into a routine, and try your best to stick to it. There will be times when you'll get ridiculously frustrated and think you can't do it. You'll even get worse sometimes. That's life! Stick with it Paul, you can do it.



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Plenty of options when learning CW (continued) by Kevan, N4XL

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PART 2 & 3 coming in next two newsletters



Amateur Radio Repeaters by State, provided by Tommy K4XB

https://www.levinecentral.com/repeaters/google_mapping.php



Still looking for some assistance here, if you are using Logbook of the world, please [contact me](#) I've have had it operating for some time now but could use some help with awards. Thanks Mike



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NASA "Decodes" Secret Messages Onboard the Orion Spacecraft” published by ARRL and provided by Di Litwer N4DLL

NASA has a long history of hiding secret messages in its spacecraft and that tradition continued with the launch of the Orion crew capsule in November on top of the Artemis I rocket.

Five hidden messages were placed in the Orion capsule ranging from Morse Code to musical notes.

On the right side of the capsule below a window and next to the pilot's seat were the letters "C, B, A, G, F" - five musical notes for the first words in Frank Sinatra's song, "Fly Me to the Moon."

In the middle of the capsule, above the cockpit control console, was a Morse Code message that spelled out the name "Charlie" in remembrance of former Orion Deputy Program Manager Charlie Lundquist, who died in 2020.

Other messages included a picture image of a cardinal to the right of the pilot seat as a tribute to former Orion Program manager, Johnson Space Center director, and St. Louis Cardinals fan Mark Geyer, who died in 2021.



The other two messages were on top of the pilot's seat including Binary code representing 18. This is in honor of NASA's history of travel to the moon with the Apollo Program and to celebrate a spacecraft's return to the Moon after Apollo 17 for the Artemis Generation. The final message was in front of the pilot's seat, the country codes of each country with the European Space Agency (ESA) that participated in developing and building the spacecraft's European Service Module.



Please mark your calendars. Annual dues for the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) are due to [Tedd Davison AI4WN](#), by April 1, 2023. \$25.00 per individual membership, plus \$2.00 for spouse, plus \$2.00 more per student. Please mail to 116 Mountain Shore Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649



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We had three guests at our January meeting, & we hope to see them again. I have sent each a copy of the January newsletter and the club website. Which, of course, shows how to become a member.

Aubrey Collins, KO4UGH
Vernon Clamp, KQ4FBT
Robert Correll



If you are interested in learning or enhancing your soldering skills plan to attend our normal March meeting. **Mitch, KJ4JGP** along with **Kevan N4XL & David, KY4GM** are in the planning stages of gathering resources to schedule this. If you have any questions or resources you are willing to lend for this please contact [Mitch here](#).



David, KY4GM has volunteered to be the lead on our nomination committee. If you are interested in becoming an Officer in our club please contact [David here](#) Our club operates solely by its members stepping up and volunteering, please consider doing so.



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Provided courtesy of Kevan, N4XL

The following poster image is recommended facetiously and to only train on what NOT to do. It was posted on the Amateur-repairs Groups.io reflector. I will note that stupid stuff like this does happen. I used to doubt trained people did such things until an experience I had on the U.S. Navy Destroyer Tender USS Puget Sound (AD-38). I stepped out of our planning office one day to see two electricians replacing a fuse. It was for the lights in an office next to ours. Don't remember the exact numbers, but these are close. They were installing a 50 amp fuse. That seemed high to me so I looked at the panel label which stated a 20 amp fuse was used for that circuit. When asked why 50 amps they told me they didn't have a 20 amp fuse, it was common practice to use a higher value in those circumstances, and they had their supervisors permission. Yes, I did notify the Division Officer about what I had witnessed and what I was told. They were back in the panel a couple hours later and gave me a dirty look as I passed by. I was glad to leave that ship.



THE MODULATOR THE REAL AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

February 1923

[The-Modulator-1923-02.pdf \(worldradiohistory.com\)](http://www.worldradiohistory.com/The-Modulator-1923-02.pdf)



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November Net Reports, provided by BRENT KI4KZS CSN MANAGER

Net / Check Ins / Traffic / Sessions / Reported By
Anderson Radio Club 2m Net / 465/30 /30 / W3SUE
Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Net / 1716 / 36/30 / W4DJW
CARES Net /45 / 4 / 0/ N6WWG
CARC / 81 / 12 / 4 / KU5N CARC
Simplex / 33 / 0/ 2
Florence Amateur Radio Club / 60/ 6 / 6 /KK4ZMK
Grand Strand ARC 2m Net /180 / 17 /17 / N4AJK
Grand Strand ARC 1.25m Net / 21 /3/ 3 / N4AJK
Grand Strand ARC 70cm Net /63 / 8 / 8 / N4AJK
Greater Pee Dee 2m Net / 832 / 52 / 30 KK4KSZ
Greenwood ARC 2m Net / 91 / 4/ 4 / AI4WN
Greenwood ARC 70cm Net /27 / 2/2 / AI4WN
Kershaw ARC 2m Net / 85 / 10 / 8 /KK4RUI
Lancaster County 2m Net / 25 /0/4/ N4WMB
PALS Net / 753 / 41 / 30 / KK4MQN
SC ARES Statewide HF Net / 84 / 8 / 5 / KN4KRZ
SC Midlands ARES Training Net 11/ 4 / 1 /KN4KRZ
SC Heart Training Net / 119 / 0 / 3 / KQ4KK
SC SSB Net / 1474 / 81 / 30 / KG4RUE
Sumter County EC Net / 56 /10 / 5 / KF4ARD
Trident ARC 2m Net / 53 / 10 / 5/ K4TCP
York Co. ARS 2m Nets / 13 / 0 / 2 / KO4ICI
York Co. ARES Net / 13 / 0 / 2 / KO4ICI



For those of you preparing to upgrade to General, a new element 3 question pool for General class exams will take effect July 1, 2023. There were 51 new questions created and 73 questions eliminated resulting in the number of questions being reduced from 454 to 432.



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RST code

The RST code, in its original form, is intended for CW operation. On SSB, the final digit (tone) is normally omitted.

RST Code Commonly Used by Radio Amateurs

Number	R - Readability	S - Strength	T - Tone
1	Unreadable	Faint signal, barely perceptible	Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad
2	Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable	Very Weak	Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad
3	Readable with considerable difficulty	Weak	Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered
4	Readable with practically no difficulty	Fair	Rough note, some trace of filtering frequency
5	Perfectly readable	Fairly Good	Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated
6	not used	Good	Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
7	not used	Moderately Strong	Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
8	not used	Strong	Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
9	not used	Very strong signals	Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

In CW operation, individual digits may be abbreviated by substituting as follows: 1 = A, 2 = U, 3 = V, 4 = 4, 5 = E, 6 = 6, 7 = B, 8 = D, 9 = N, 0 = T (for instance, RST 599 could be sent as 5NN - a shorter message in CW). These are referred to as "cut numbers" and are obtained by replacing all of the dashes in a CW digit with a single dash. Cut numbers are not suitable for transmitting data which already contains mixed alphanumerics, such as callsigns.^[4]



Thank you to all that are sending articles & items for the newsletter. Your contributions make it more interesting for all.

Mike



For the latest information on the 2023 Bouvet Island DX-pedition, [go here.](#)



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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Blue Ridge 2m swap net, shared by Tommy N4XB

<http://brars.ham-radio-op.net/cgi-bin/swapnet.cgi>

March 2023 Ham Radio training & testing provided by David KY4GM

SCHEART will be offering Ham (Amateur) Radio classes in March of 2023. This is for Technician, General and Extra. All classes will be running from **March 20th through 24th**. from 6pm to 9pm. Some classes will not take the whole week, but will finish when all the material is covered. These classes run concurrently. You can only choose one of the classes.

We're presenting the classes by video conference using Zoom (<http://zoom.us>) If you didn't have the time to attend in person before, now is your chance. Email me at midlandsve@gmail.com. I'll forward your email to your instructor and they will send you an invitation to the video conference.

Here's a tutorial on how to use zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/az6ms9ua>

If you've never used videoconferencing before, Here's a couple of tips:

Use a headset or headphones. Any headphones that plug into your computer will do. Even the wired ones that came with your cell phone, if it's using the 1/8" plug. This eliminates feedback when you unmute your microphone.

Mute your microphone when not speaking to the instructor. Otherwise the class will hear any background noise from your computer.

Find the text/chat function and use it.

New hams will have to start out with the Technician course.

All classes are free. If you wish to attend, RSVP to MidlandsVE@gmail.com. Be sure to tell me which class you want to take and include you cell number.

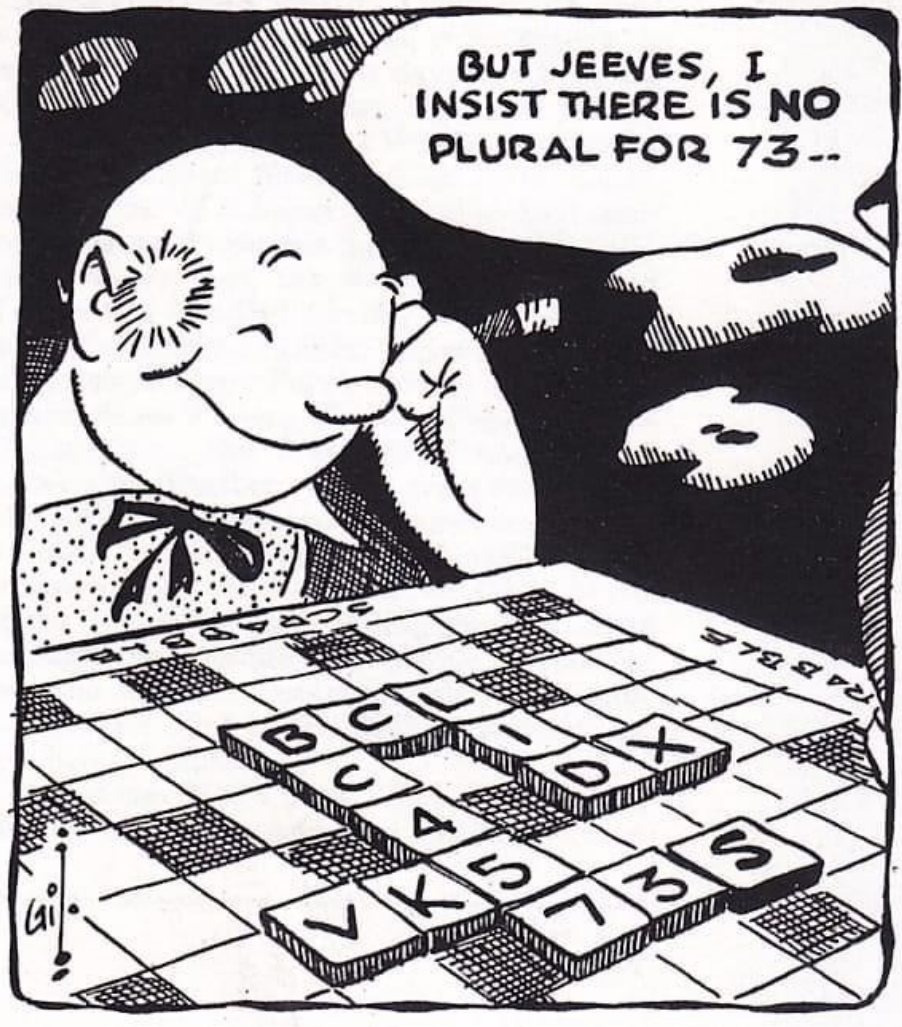
Testing will be offered on **March 25th** at 08:30 am at SCETV headquarters, 1041 George Rogers Blvd in Columbia. We'll take care of the administrative work first and start the testing at when the admin work is done. Bring a photo ID, an original and copy of any Ham Radio license, your FRN and \$10.00 cash. If a child is testing and has no photo I.D., bring a copy of a birth certificate.

If you are testing for the first time, you must bring your FCC Registration Number (FRN), which you can get here: <https://tinyurl.com/yayymn28>

If you're coming for testing only, email us so we can plan accordingly.

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MORSE CODE



Article from Smithsonian Magazine about the resurgence of CW in digital world, shared by Arthur W3WR

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/morse-code-back-looking-ditch-twitter-180981309/>

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Hamacation.com February 10-12, 2023

Augusta Winter tailgate, February 18, 2023 <https://bucket.mlcdn.com/a/1818/1818806/iages/387025c746230cf0bc2af82b8f11fa0df79b20e5.jpeg>

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Hamfest, January 13, 2024

CLASSIFIEDS

Nothing submitted



- * 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