

# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 5

MAY 2023

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

[W4GWD@ARRL.NET](mailto:W4GWD@ARRL.NET)

**Our new mailing address is:**  
Greenwood Amateur Radio  
Society  
P.O. Box 49591  
Greenwood, SC, 29649

## 2023 CLUB

### OFFICERS

#### President

Russell Myrick, KN4TUI

#### Vice President

Kevan Nason, N4XL

#### Secretary

George Crane, W3RXF

#### Treasurer

Mitch Litwer, KJ4JGP

#### Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis, W4DEW

#### Activities Manager

Di Litwer, N4DLL

#### Editor in Chief

Michael Wills, KA4CSM

#### Librarian

Jack Witt, KN4SIK

#### The W4GWD Repeater Network

147.165+ t107.2

Echo link: 584003

443.900+ t107.2

**W4GWM/R**

145.420- DV

**W4DEW/R**

146.910- t123.0



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

The GARS D-Star repeater amp is back up thanks to Tommy K4XB

Repeater Linking: our 2m and 440 repeaters are not linked

## May 2023

The next GARS monthly meeting will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood on May 9, 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



## 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 become a net controller or a backup please contact [Kevan Nason, N4XL](#).

### VE Exam Session

The next VE testing session is on June 6, 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 [Tommy Owens, K4XB](#) with any questions. No walk-ins, please preregister with Buddy W4DEW.

## Congratulations!!

### Happy Birthday!

John Fradella	N4FJ	May 3
Jerry Smith	KO4NNR	May 4
Theaster Willis	Fmly mbr	May 10
Richard Donald	N4LRD	May 21
Tom Blease	KO4CM	May 22
Elizabeth Meadows	W2LIZ	May 26

### Happy Anniversary!

Dan (KM4AJ) & Cristy Curry  
May 20

**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 certain everyone is busy in a number of ways and activities. Hopefully, you can find time to be on the air in your favorite frequency and bands. Remember we are interested in what everyone is doing in amateur radio. So please share in the rag chew segments of our nets as well as giving some information to KA4CSM Mike for the newsletter.

Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> is our monthly meeting with doors open at 7:00pm and meeting starting at 7:30pm. Attendance has been better at recent meetings, the more we have present, the more fellowship and information exchange we have. Bring a friend as everyone is welcome.

W4DEW Buddy has transitioned the duties and responsibilities of VE activity and sessions to K4XB Tommy. The next VE Session is scheduled for Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Buddy has been committed in that area for many years. And has served most effectively and efficiently both up front and in person as well as behind the scenes in the planning, preparation and administrative side. For that we are all thankful.

ARRL Field Day June 24-25<sup>th</sup> is rapidly approaching. We are looking for good turnout and activities that day. So plan now to attend and be thinking what you would like to do that day, individually and as a club activity.

N4DLL is Chairman for the January 13, 2024 GARS Legacy Hamfest. As time gets a little closer be thinking how you may help her make it a great event.

Our Nets continue to be strong and for that we are thankful for the efforts of each of the net controllers. We are watching and reviewing the number of check-ins after we no longer have the repeaters linked to see if the average is going up or down. Remember to check-in yourself as frequently as you can and of course promote them as much as you can. Be sure to reply to the email from N4XL Kevan, our new Net Manager, with any suggestions or comments regarding our nets.

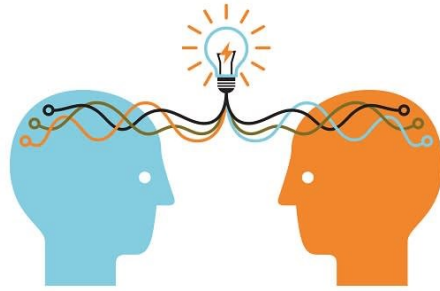
That's about it for this session.  
Enjoy life, it seems to get by at a faster pace more than ever.

*Russ - KN4TUI - 73*



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## **Greenwood Amateur Radio (GARS) club meeting April 11, 2023**

There was 18 members present, 2 on zoom (Kevan N4XL & Stephen KA4PQA) and 1 guest

2 new members were introduced, voted & welcomed into the club.

### **Dave Richmond AG4DR & and his wife Suzanne N4IEO**

Congratulations & thank you **Di Litwer, N4DLL** for stepping up and taking on all the responsibilities of Hamfest Chairperson.

There will be a meeting of the committee appointed to review and revise the GARS Articles of Association & Bylaws at 0700 May 9 in the room across from our normal meeting space.

Di N4DLL provided an interesting presentation on weather balloons

A discussion prompted by Kin KJ4BAK about the Monday night 70 cm net was had. Topics included changing the time, relinking the 2m and 70cm repeaters, turning off the tone. It was decided to leave them both as they are for now. Both nets need better support from club members. We have approximately 37 licensed hams in the club yet nets frequently run between 8 & 24 participants. We can do better than this. Please continue to promote them and check-in. Full and part time net controllers are needed.

Field Day is fast approaching, 24 & 25 June 2023. Dave KY4GM hosted a successful one last but will be out of country for this one.

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Kevan N4XL will be doing a presentation and demonstration of coax, crimp and connector weather protection at the May meeting.

Because soldering takes more time and several folks want hands-on learning, the soldering presentation and training will probably be at the June or July meeting.

*See you there Di, N4DLL*



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Good morning, everyone!

I am putting together the planning committee for Field Day. If you are interested in participating on this committee, [please let me know](#).

I'm looking for folks who can:

Set up and take down our equipment,

Help new or inexperienced members participate on the radio,

Give a short presentation about ham radio to the public.

#### Other News

Tee-shirts have been ordered! I will let everyone know when they need to be paid for.

Thanks much

*DG, N4DLL*

#### Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for a fun-filled Field Day, Saturday June 24, 2023!

#### Quick Facts:

Started by ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio in 1933, Field Day is the largest all-volunteer radio communications exercise in the world.

This year marks the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual ARRL Field Day.

Amateur radio was suspended during World War II by the FCC, so Field Day was not held from 1942-1946.

Normally ARRL Field Day consists of about 1,500 public outdoor stations, many organized by radio clubs.

Prominent Americans who are licensed amateur radio operators include comedian Tim Allen, former FEMA Director Craig Fugate, Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow, Nobel Prize laureate Joe Taylor, and guitarist Joe Walsh of the Eagles.

Courtesy of ARRL Field Day Public Relations Kit



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A big thank you to Di Litwer, N4DLL for stepping up and volunteering to be the Chairperson for our Hamfest. An even bigger thank you to Tedd Davison AI4WN for his commitment and dedication to being the chairman for many years. Please [contact Di here](#) if you have suggestions or would like to help.



At our April 4, 2023 VE testing we had 1 applicant test for Technician. He is from Lexington and passed his exam.



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## Reflections on Tik Toc by Kevan Nason N4XL

This is general interest rather than Ham Radio related. The news has lately had quite a bit about the social media platform TikTok. Governments are banning it from devices they provide workers and military personnel. During a recent newscast one user was taped saying he wasn't concerned because he didn't have any secrets that were critical like the government fears might be compromised. I subscribe to emailed news from Military.com who had a short article about the software. Besides the expected things about disinformation and propaganda, they mentioned this which should concern anyone who uses a cell phone for accessing financial or other important data. "TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, can access and record every keystroke made by American users on their phones -- even when the app is not actively being used. As a result of a 2017 Chinese cybersecurity law, ByteDance could be compelled to share data with the Chinese government. Thus, Beijing could collect sensitive information and be given a powerful tool for espionage against American targets." Although they could, I doubt I or individuals like the man mentioned earlier have anything the Chinese government would be interested in regarding national or business secrets. But it isn't hard to imagine someone benefitting from collecting usernames, passwords, and account information from millions of consumers. That could be done by hacking into and accessing TikTok's capability for monitoring keystrokes on their phones, from someone stealing the data from Chinese servers, or intentional action from the Chinese government to cause a little chaos in countries who oppose their goals. I had removed TikTok from my new phone immediately after receiving it based solely on concerns expressed by several governments, including our own. I feel even better about having done that after reading about its ability to capture keystrokes. Oh, another thought. Conspiracy theory time. Should you feel save because you don't do business with your phone I imagine TikTok could capture your phone login credentials allowing nefarious actors to place software on your phone that could infect your home network and compromise your main computer's security too. Even if they didn't do that for financial gain, should we ever have conflict with China what an opportunity TikTok infections would give them to disrupt information flow or create robot servers for denial of service attacks on critical government and business services



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Ham Radio, May 1968

[Ham-Radio-196805.pdf \(worldradiohistory.com\)](http://www.worldradiohistory.com/Ham-Radio-196805.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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**Propagation Bulletin continued on next page**, taken from the ARRL Letter dated April 20, 2023

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin.

For this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP016:

This week's sunspot numbers and solar flux were higher than the week before.

Average daily sunspot numbers were more than doubled, from 70.6 to 146.9, and average daily solar flux increased from 141 to 164.5. Both figures represent a substantial increase in solar activity.

Planetary A index averages went from 7.6 to 8.1, while middle latitude A index advanced from 6.4 to 7.3.

Predicted solar flux over the next few weeks is 145, 140, and 135 on April 20 - 22; 130 on April 23 - 24; 125 on April 25 - 26; 160 on April 27 - 29; 165 on April 30; 172 on May 1 - 3; 170 on May 4; 172 on May 5 - 7; 178 on May 8; 182 on May 9 - 12, then 175, 178, and 170 on May 13 - 15; 168 on May 16 - 17; 175 on May 18, and 172 on May 19 - 21.

Predicted planetary A index is 20, 16, 12, and 10 on April 20 - 23, then 8, 5, 15, and 18 on April 24 - 27; 15 on April 28 - 30, then 12 and 10 on May 1 - 2; 8 on May 3 - 4; 5 on May 5 - 6; 12 on May 7; 5 on May 8 - 10, then 8 on May 11 - 12; 5 on May 13 - 18, then 10, 8, 5, and 5 on May 19 - 22.

Dan Handa, W7WA, commented on the news item last week about the current solar cycle reaching a peak earlier than predicted, perhaps by the end of this year.

I told him I hope it will not peak early because I want to see several more years of increasing activity.

Dan sent a detailed graph of Solar Cycle 19, from 1954 to 1966, and wrote, "I have read more than once [that] a slow rise means a low sunspot max. The previous [Solar] Cycle 24 took 5 years to reach a relatively low maximum. A rapid increase can mean a high sunspot maximum. The granddaddy of our lifetime, [Solar] Cycle 19, peaked in three years!" I was unaware of this.

Sunspot numbers for April 13 - 19, 2023, were 154, 153, 151, 155, 162, 140, and 113, with a mean of 146.9. 10.7-centimeter flux was 159.5, 171.3, 175.8, 177.8, 166.6, 153.2, and 147, with a mean of 164.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 7, 9, 4, 6, 13, and 12, with a mean of 8.1. Middle latitude A index was 5, 10, 8, 4, 6, 9, and 9, with a mean of 7.3.



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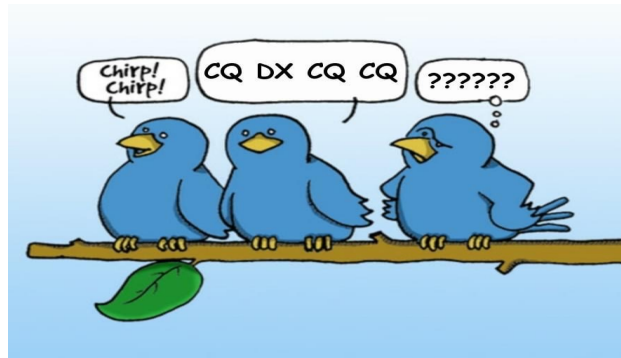
## Propagation Bulletin (Continued from previous page)

Send your tips, reports, observations, questions, and comments to [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net). When reporting observations, don't forget to tell us which mode you were operating.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean....," and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.



Taken from the ARRL Newsletter April 20, 2023, If you are studying for the General Class examination read this.

**The National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a 2nd Errata for the 2023 - 2027 General Class Element 3 Question Pool.** The [NCVEC](#) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has released the [second revision](#) of the 2023 - 2027 General Class element 3 Question Pool. This revision supplants the question pools released on December 1, 2022, and February 1, 2023. The changes are reflected in the new General pool downloadable files, dated April 15, 2023. Three questions have been withdrawn from use and removed from the pool: G6B09, G9C06, and G9D13. Most of the other questions had minor changes. ARRL VEC teams are advised to check the [NCVEC website](#) or the [ARRL website](#) regularly for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions. **The new General Class Element 3 Question Pool goes into effect on July 1, 2023.**

## HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Dayton [Hamvention](#) 2023 , May 19-21

[Atlanta Hamfest](#) June 3, 2023

[WCARS Hamfest](#), Waynesville, NC July 29, 2023,

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](mailto:Mike31406@gmail.com) to place a classified ad or with any ideas/comments/suggestions etc.

*Mike*



## 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, & fellow hams and all are missed. Page 1 of 2

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Silent Key</u>
WA4DLB	Harry	Davis	Thursday, November 11, 2010
KF4Y	Jim	Long	Thursday, November 10, 2011
KD4BKV	Margaret	Fort	Monday, September 16, 2013
KD4YPI	Todd	Hendrix	Saturday, March 8, 2014
W4PY	Warren	Wise *	Saturday, February 14, 2015
KC4KZ	Don	Henderson *	Friday, April 3, 2015
K4FPF	Paul	Valentino	Saturday, May 23, 2015
KC4JWM	Alice	Taylor *	Friday, December 11, 2015
KV4IAV	Marion	Elledge *	Sunday, December 27, 2015
K4GBH	Joe	Mimms *	Tuesday, December 29, 2015
KN4D	Max	Sisson	Saturday, November 12, 2016
N4IDL	Jack	Wheless	Tuesday, January 17, 2017
KG4WRC	Don	Finlayson	Monday, March 13, 2017
AD4XA	Charles	Pruitt	Saturday, October 6, 2018
KJ4VJ	Bert	Keck *	Tuesday, October 23, 2018
WW4I	Phil	Henry *	Tuesday, January 1, 2019
KC4UU	Jo	Henry *	Sunday, October 6, 2019
WB4MLU	Homer	Banks	Sunday, June 7, 2020
AK4EK	Jim	Gresham *	Tuesday, July 7, 2020
KI4WJO	Jewell	Mimms	Tuesday, July 14, 2020
KC4JUC	John	Marchi	Tuesday, June 22, 2021
W3COX	Jim	Cox *	Friday, July 16, 2021
KE4NL	Bill	Sargent	Sunday, August 29, 2021
WD4BWK	Franklin	Mitchell	Saturday, September 25, 2021
KB4YON	Eldora	Keck	Thursday, October 14, 2021
AJ4PU	David	Haynes *	Friday, November 26, 2021
N2OEE	Bob	Wiener *	Tuesday, April 12, 2022
WB4KXE	Harvey	Hill	Friday, October 7, 2022



<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Silent Key</u>
N4LTL	James Wellmaker	Tuesday, February 5, 1991
W8MID	Jack Mc Guffee	Monday, September 7, 1992
KD4EHP	Anne Miller	Thursday, March 24, 1994
WA4TME	Brenda Fort	Tuesday, October 25, 1994
KC4LSN	JR Labron Jones *	Thursday, March 21, 1996
KC4JWL	James Taylor *	Monday, January 13, 1997
K4VIA	Earle Gillian *	Monday, January 12, 1998
WV4B	Glen Jennings	Friday, January 14, 2000
WA4JOS	Robert Buffington	Saturday, August 12, 2000
KC4ZJP	Cecil Sutton *	Thursday, January 25, 2001
K4QMY	Dan Hammett	Friday, September 28, 2001
KC4CMF	Fred McKinney *	Thursday, April 4, 2002
KB4BUR	Nell Spearman *	Sunday, November 17, 2002
KC4MQA	Elbert Shirley	Sunday, January 12, 2003
W4WQM	Margaret Duchett	Thursday, June 19, 2003
WD4JOU	Walt Spearman *	Monday, June 30, 2003
WA9FWO	Franklin Kolar Jr *	Saturday, August 9, 2003
KA4PQA	Odel Lyda *	Thursday, September 25, 2003
KC4GZV	Walter Davis	Sunday, May 16, 2004
KG4LEZ	James Shiles *	Sunday, January 1, 2006
K4HIH	Richard Addison	Saturday, April 15, 2006
KB4CK	Guy Copland *	Monday, April 17, 2006
K4HAN	Ancel Ouzts	Wednesday, June 21, 2006
KD4BBZ	Richard Gillian *	Friday, February 2, 2007
KA4OPC	Paul Savage *	Thursday, January 10, 2008
WA4TNO	George Fort	Tuesday, June 10, 2008
KE4QQS	Stanley Green	Saturday, September 27, 2008
KC4IEL	Brenton Bailey	Friday, May 15, 2009
W4JAK	Allen Kennemore	Monday, June 29, 2009
W4LS	DR.George Miller	Thursday, August 13, 2009
K4DOK	Morton Sanders	Tuesday, June 15, 2010
W4GSW	Gay Willis *	Wednesday, August 11, 2010