



# G.A.R.S. Monthly Newsletter

Web Page: [www.w4gwd.org](http://www.w4gwd.org)

Volume 3 Issue 6 June, 2007

**2007  
Greenwood Amateur Radio  
Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2404  
Greenwood, S.C. 29646**

**President**  
Earl Powell KC4AXY

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**Treasurer**  
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**Activities Manager**  
Bobby Gosnell KF4ZY0

## June meeting

G.A.R.S. will meet Monday, June 18, 2007, at The Turner House on Bailey Circle, Greenwood, 7 pm for light refreshments and 7:30 pm for the meeting.

On the agenda Field Day June 2007

## Congratulations

To the club members that passed their new Technician exam,  
Jewel Mimms KI4WJO  
And to Earl Powell KC4AXY on up grade to General class

## **ABBEVILLE COUNTY ARES ASSASSEMBLEMENT – EARTHQUAKE DRILL 2007**

Abbeville County participated in the earthquake drill as follows:

1. The Abbeville Co. ARES

participated on both days of the drill.

2. In Abbeville Co., two ARES members participated, David Zugsberger (KL7FO), the County ARES EC, and Harvey Hill (WB4KXE), the County ARES AEC.

3 Operation began at 0900 hours on each day and secured at 1400 on Wednesday and 1200 on Thursday.

4 The drill was conducted by establishing two stations, one at the County EOC in the communications trailer, the other located at the Abbeville Regional Medical Center (Hospital).

5 The station located at the EOC operated with generator power, and the station at the hospital used battery power.

6 Communication was established between the two Abbeville stations using simplex 2 meter hand held and station transceivers. The frequency used was 156.520 MHZ. Communications were also established on the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society's two meter repeater (147.165MHZ).

7 Communications outside of the county was established using the station transceivers on the Anderson Amateur Radio Club's two meter repeater (146.790 MHZ) and the Little Mountain repeater at 147.210 MHZ.

- 8 Communication worked well on the simplex and repeaters except the 147.210 repeater which was not strong and communications dropped off after about 1130 hrs. However WB4KXE was able to maintain communication later on the 147.210 repeater from his location at the hospital.
- 9 HF communication was unreliable, although KL7FO did make contacts with W8PC in Greenwood and N4ENX near Greenville. Both contacts reported very weak and unreadable signals from Abbeville. The frequency used was 3.990 MHZ.
- 10 The antenna system for HF in Abbeville was a sloping long wire. Attempts to use a vertical antenna were less successful than the sloping wire.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (Abbeville County)**

1. A better HF and two meter antennas system should be installed.
2. The communication trailer should have lights installed in the interior.
3. A station location should be established inside the hospital.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (ARES)**

1. *More calls should be made on the ARES frequencies to announce that the drill is in progress. Oftentimes I was confused as to if the frequencies were dead or just not being used.*

Dave Zugsberger KL7FO  
Abbeville County EC ARES/RACES

[COPY KL7FO EC report](#)

### **Saluda County ARES / RACES**

Saluda County RACES chose not to participate in this years exercise earthquake drill.

Buddy Willis W4DEW Saluda County ARSE/RACES EC and Earl Powell Saluda County Asst EC chose to open up the amateur communication room at the Saluda County EOC and invited amateurs from the surrounding area not participating in the exercise to test the equipment.

Four Club members from the GARS club Joe K4GBH, Jewell KI4WJO, Bert KJ4VJ and Marion KC4IAV came down for show and tell.

The HF and VHF radios were put into operation and good 5/9 contacts were made with Columbia, Greenwood, Greenville and Spartanburg Counties Wednesday and Thursday AM.

73

Buddy Willis W4DEW  
Saluda County EC ARES/RACES

[COPY W4DEW EC report](#)

### **McCormick County ARES / RACES**

McCormick County chose not to participate in this years exercise earthquake drill.

Joe Mimms K4GBH McCormick County ARES / RACES EC operated HF from his QTH in McCormick County making good contacts Thursday thru out the State.

Joe Mimms K4GBH  
McCormick County EC ARES / RACES

### **South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator**

Exercise Participants,  
Thank you for your participation June 6 and 7. Please extend my thanks to others who helped you but are not on my distribution list.

Overall the exercise met our stated goals. However, there were things we would like to have done that didn't happen. The only way to get better, is to look for the opportunities for improvement. I need feedback from all of

you on how things went at your location. Your message logs, and a narrative of what happened would be appreciated. Your recommendations for improvement are especially valuable. Please send them. Also, Bill Dease will probably ask for an evaluation for the USC-CPHP. Please cooperate with him and fill out and submit the form that he sends to you.

As you know, DHEC has been a key player in getting the funding for the SCHEART linked repeater system and the radios in the hospitals. You got rave reviews from the DHEC management who were involved in the exercise.

They were especially impressed with the message traffic related to the evacuation of patients from the coast to hospitals in the upstate. They know that the messages had to be relayed from station to station. They know that the linked system is not implemented yet. They saw that even though the system isn't finished, we got the job done. They understand that if the system were in place, the job would have been easier and quicker.

One problem area for the SEOC was having to contact stations on the various VHF repeaters. While the SEOC was on one repeater, operators on all the other repeaters were in effect

abandoned. This was a problem throughout the entire exercise. However, the situation was magnified during the SCHEART

part of the exercise, Wednesday afternoon, the situation became impossible.

I apologize to the stations who were not in contact with the

SEOC during that time period. We will have to do better in that area. For those who helped at the SEOC, I need your comments and suggestions on how we can fix that problem. Please send your comments to me in writing even if you have already told me your suggestions.

HF was another story. We were able to contact many stations on HF. In a few instances, we were in contact with a station located near another station we could hardly hear or that could hardly hear us. For those of you who would like us to add power, yes we do have an amplifier at the SEOC. No, we did not use it. The radio was putting out 200 watts. We have not tested the amplifier. It has not been used in years. We need to check it out and confirm that it works before trying to use the amplifier in an exercise. That is another item for our SEOC TO DO list. For these stations who were unable to contact the SEOC on HF, please check your HF system (radios, feedlines, amplifiers, and antennas). Are you sure that they are working properly?

Again, I thank you for your participation.

73 Charlie AE4UX  
South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator  
South Carolina State RACES Officer

[COPY AE4UX State ARES / RACES Coordinator](#)

### **HURRICANE'S**

The hurricane season begins June 1 to November 30. To read about this year's hurricanes go to [www.hurricanes.noaa.gov/](http://www.hurricanes.noaa.gov/) or

[www.noaa.gov/](http://www.noaa.gov/). You will find all the hurricane names for the year 2007 to 2011 on this web sight.

You can find information at the same web sight about tornados, April, May and June is tornado season.

## UP COMING HAMFEST

**7 July 2007 + Rowan ARC**  
FireCrackerFest, Salisbury, NC

**21 July 2007 + Cary ARC**  
SWAPFEST, Cary, NC

**12 Jan 2008 + Greenwood ARS**  
Greenwood Civic Center 1610  
Highway 72 East  
<http://www.w4gwd.org>

## CHAT N' CHEW

Every Friday at 11:30 am to 1 pm at George's Family Steak House, 713 Bypass 25NE, Greenwood, 223-2707, a group meets to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while, (**Dutch treat**). Everyone is welcome to join.

## WEEKLY NET

Every Thursday night at 9pm on 147.165+, Ms. Betty Ann holds the weekly, Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Net.

Tell everyone that you see and talk to come by and check in with her. She is doing a great job.

## CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday June  
June 6 Paul Savage KA4OPC  
June 10 Bobby Gosnell KF4ZYO

Happy Anniversary's June  
June 5 Earl KC4AXY and Betty Jean Powell  
June 11 Bobby KF4ZYO and Tammy KG4LEW Gosnell  
June 16 Joe K4GBH and Jewell Mimms

Happy Birthday July  
July 4 Steven Lyda  
July 10 Homer Banks WB4MLU  
July 13 Joe Mimms K4GBH  
July 15 Betty Powell  
July 28 Dena Manning  
July 28 Jeremy Manning KI4CCZ

Happy Anniversary's  
July 6 Brab WB4TRF and Elaine KA4PLU Dukes

## OTHER NEWS

On Tuesday May 29, 2007 Betty Ann KF4BVK lost Scooter her friend and hero for 12 years.

## CLASSIFIED

For sale one free standing tower  
40 foot \$200.00  
Crushcraft HF beam A-3S 20/15/10  
meter \$100.00  
Call or e-mail Buddy Willis W4DEW  
[W4dew@arrl.net](mailto:W4dew@arrl.net) 864-554-3543

WTB one ICOM HM-77or HM-95  
mike.  
Call or e-mail Buddy Willis W4DEW  
[W4dew@arrl.net](mailto:W4dew@arrl.net) 864-554-3543

If anyone has anything they would like to sell or trade, that is Ham radio related, and wants to place it in this column, call me at 864-682-7374 or E-mail [kf4bvk@backroads.net](mailto:kf4bvk@backroads.net).

The GARS Web page is up and running Jeremy KI4CCZ has updated the page and has added pictures from the 2007 Hamfest.

Go to [www.w4gwd.org](http://www.w4gwd.org) and take a look. You can find this newsletter on the web sight each month also.

The club meetings are now listed in the Index Journal on page 2A each month under "Community Calendar".

**NEXT**  
**Newsletter Deadline**  
**July 9, 2007**