



# G.A.R.S. Monthly Newsletter

Web Page: [www.w4gwd.org](http://www.w4gwd.org) Email: [w4gwd@arrl.net](mailto:w4gwd@arrl.net)

Volume 4 Issue 7 July, 2008

## 2008

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2404  
Greenwood, SC 29646

President  
Earl Powell, KC4AXY

Vice President  
Joe Mimms, K4GBH

Secretary  
Tedd Davison, AI4WN

Treasurer  
Tedd Davison, AI4WN

Activities Manager  
Adam Shirley, KI4WQD

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAMFESTS

### VE Testing 7PM

American Red Cross Service Center  
(520 Epting Ave)  
Jun 3, 2008  
Aug 5, 2008  
Oct 7, 2008  
Dec 2, 2008

### 23 Feb 2008

**DALTON HAMFEST #26**  
Dalton Amateur Radio Club (W4DRC)  
<http://W4DRC.com>  
Dalton, GA  
North Georgia Fairgrounds  
501 Legion Drive  
Div: Southeastern  
Sect: Georgia  
Talk-In: 145.230 (-) (No Tone)  
Contact:  
Harold Jones, N4BD  
PO BOX 211  
Rocky Face, GA 30740  
Phone: 706-673-2291  
Email: [n4bd@dalton.net](mailto:n4bd@dalton.net)

8-9 Mar 2008

## July Meeting

G.A.R.S. will meet Monday, July 21, 2008, at the Turner House on Bailey Circle in Greenwood at 7pm for light refreshments and 7:30pm for the meeting.

The club meetings are now listed in the Index Journal on page 2A each month under "Community Calendar **AND** meetings are also listed in Greenwood's Town Planner which is circulated to most homes in the area.

## Silent Key

George Merchant W4GWM became a silent key about 9:00pm Monday June 23, 2008. We all extend our prayers and condolences to George's family.

## New Members

Roger Moore (KJ4EPL) & Debbie are our newest members. Welcome Roger & Debbie!!

## ARRL Field Day

GARS ARRL Field Day was a great success with lots of participation from GARS members. Although final results won't be available until February, Adam Shirley (KI4WQD) GARS Contest Logging Master, says we're claiming 1500+ points. There were 272 contacts over all modes, including satellite and digital.

## VE Testing

**August 5, 2008 VE Exam Session 7:00pm Red Cross Greenwood**

GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) Team will have an exam session 7:00pm Tuesday at The American Red Cross Building, 520 Epting Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646.

## Chat N' Chew

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

## Weekly Net

Every Thursday night at 9pm on 147.165+, The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society holds the weekly 2 meter net. Help spread the word to check into the Net.

North Carolina Section  
Convention (Charlotte  
Hamfest)  
Mecklenburg Amateur Radio  
Society  
Charlotte, NC  
Charlotte Merchandise Mart  
2500 East Independence Blvd.  
Div: Roanoke  
Sect: North Carolina  
<http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest>  
Talk-In: 146.940 (-600kHz)  
and 145.290 (-600kHz)  
Contact:  
Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC  
1122 Pine Knot Court  
Clover, SC 29710  
Phone: 704-948-7373  
Email: hamfest@w4bfb.org

**15 Mar 2008**  
55th Annual Kennehoochee  
Hamfest  
Kennehoochee Amateur Radio  
Club  
Marietta, GA  
Jim R. Miller Park  
2245 Callaway Road  
Div: Southeastern  
Sect: Georgia  
<http://www.w4bti.org>  
Talk-In: 146.88 (PL 100)  
Contact:  
Bobby O'Donald, KD4ISM  
Box 1245  
Marietta, GA 30060  
Phone: 770-439-9300  
Fax: 770-974-1249  
Email: kd4ism@arrl.net

**15 Mar 2008**  
Middle Tennessee ARS  
<http://www.qsl.net/mtars>  
Talk-In: 146.700 -600 offset  
(PL 114.8)  
Tullahoma, TN  
First Methodist Church  
208 West Lauderdale Street  
Div: Delta  
Sect: Tennessee  
Contact:  
Bill Holt, N0EUU  
420 Joe Hickerson Road  
Manchester, TN 37355  
Phone: 931-728-9015 (after  
5pm CST)  
Email: N0EUU@hotmail.com

**12 Apr 2008**  
North Carolina State  
Convention  
Raleigh Amateur Radio  
Society  
Raleigh, NC  
North Carolina State  
Fairgrounds Exposition  
Center  
1025 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Div: Roanoke  
Sect: North Carolina  
<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>  
Talk-In: 146.04 - 146.64 (no  
CTCSS tone)  
Contact:

If you would like to fill in or be a backup net control please let Buddy Willis, W4DEW know.

## Weekly Ladies Net

The GARS Weekly 2 Meter Female Amateur Radio Net began on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 8 PM on the GARS 2 Meter Repeater. This net will be held every Tuesday night at the same time. All interested female amateurs are invited and encouraged to check in. Subjects of discussion will be anything of interest to women. If you have any questions, please contact Jean (W4KKA) at 864-953-0004 or Jo (KC4UU) at 864-446-7187.

## Happy Birthday July

Homer Banks, WB4MLU, July 10  
Steven Lyda, KI4ZSY, July 4  
Jeremy Manning, KI4CCZ, July 28  
Joe Mimms, K4GBH, July 13  
Elizabeth Nason, July 21  
Betty Jean Powell, July 15

## Happy Anniversary June

Brab Dukes, WB4TRF, July 6  
Elaine Dukes, KA4PLU, July 6  
David McCall, W4MCC, July 7

**\*\* Please let us know if we've missed anyone...**

## **TACTICAL CALL SIGNS -- HOW, WHY and WHEN?**

*An EM basic studies training module)*

Tactical call signs, when used properly by well-trained and practiced operators, can prevent confusion, save a great amount of time, and also aid in making a net or operation run smoothly and efficiently. When used improperly, or with poorly-trained and inexperienced operators, they will usually cause delays and confusion.

Typically, "tactical call signs" are used during disaster or other emergency situations to identify *a specific location or a function*. They are especially helpful when multiple operators are being rotated (in shifts) at stations such as a shelter, a net control station, or for a certain job/position (e.g. - logistics or %tech support+) which may be a mobile unit.

Tactical call signs are also appropriate in regular (daily or weekly) public service, traffic and other nets. Properly used, they provide training, practice and experience. They are more commonly used on 'phone nets, but also can save time on CW nets. In the very early days of radio communication (all Morse) they were rarely needed since call signs often consisted of just two or three letters. Now that call signs are much longer, the use of tactical call signs make a lot of sense.

The use of tactical call signs can be very helpful if "mutual aid" has been invoked and operators with call signs that may be unfamiliar to "locals" arrive in an affected area. For example: A station identifying as "Riverdale EOC"\* is immediately known as to where and what it is by everyone on the net or arriving in an area, regardless who is the operator on duty. Likewise, stations in the field who want to contact the "Riverdale EOC", can simply say: "Riverdale EOC", and not have to worry about remembering the FCC call sign of the operator.

ONE COMMON MISTAKE (often heard) is an operator identifying with the station's tactical call sign and then says his or her own call sign. Example: "Riverdale EOC KJ6ERK". *This is unnecessary and defeats the whole purpose*. Amateur operators only need to identify with their FCC-assigned call sign at the end of a transmission when they do not expect to transmit again within ten minutes and at the end of their shift assignment. (Ref. FCC part 97.119)

ALSO, it is redundant and unnecessary to say, "for ID". Saying your call sign IS your "ID!"

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF  
2005 Quail Ridge Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: 919-872-6555  
Fax: 919-872-6555  
Email: k4hf@arrl.net

19 Apr 2008

Catawba Valley Hamfest  
McDowell Amateur Radio  
Association  
Morganton, NC  
Burke County Fairgrounds  
145 Bost Road  
Div: Roanoke  
Sect: North Carolina  
<http://cvhamfest.com>  
Talk-In: 147.150  
Contact:  
Don Beam, KK4NI  
172 Crescent Drive  
Marion, NC 28752  
Phone: 828-652-3102  
Fax: 828-652-3102  
Email: kk4ni@arrl.net

26 Apr 2008

Calhoun Hamfest  
Cherokee Capital Amateur  
Radio Society  
Sugar Valley, GA  
Sugar Valley Community  
Center  
3295 Sugar Valley Road NW  
Div: Southeastern  
Sect: Georgia  
<http://www.k4woc.com>  
Talk-In: 443.675+; 146.745-;  
146.805+  
Contact:  
Felton Floyd, AF4DN  
1054 Mountain Loop Road  
NW  
Sugar Valley, GA 30746  
Phone: 706-629-0369  
Email: af4dn@iwispr.net

3 May 2008

South Carolina Section  
Convention (Upstate Hamfest)  
Blue Ridge Amateur Radio  
Society  
Spartanburg, SC  
Piedmont Interstate  
Fairgrounds  
575 Fairgrounds Road  
Div: Roanoke  
Sect: South Carolina  
<http://www.upstatehamfest.org>  
Talk-In: 146.610  
Contact:  
Rusty Kirkpatrick, AJ4RK  
351 Old Georgia Road  
Moore, SC 29369  
Phone: 864-576-9643  
Email: aj4rk@bellsouth.net

10 May 2008

Hamfest & Computer Show  
Rockingham County Amateur  
Radio Club  
Reidsville, NC

## GUIDELINES for using TACTICAL CALL SIGNS

1. In any NET, INCIDENT, OPERATION or EVENT, every location or station should have its own unique TACTICAL CALL SIGN.
2. TACTICAL CALL SIGNS should be descriptive such as a LOCATION, "Maple Street Shelter," a FUNCTION, "Team Leader," or both, "SEATTLE RELAY"
3. Don't use FCC call signs to identify a particular location or function since it is possible that an operator may be at one tactical location one day and at another the next day, or even the next hour! But be sure to use FCC-issued call signs when, and as required, by FCC Part 97.
4. REMEMBER: A TACTICAL CALL SIGN remains the same for a given station and does NOT change with the time, shift, day or with an operator change. It remains the same until the net or incident is over.

\* It is not recommended that an emcomm station actually be located within earshot of the "war room" in an EOC. Ideally it is located near by and written messages are hand carried between the EOC and the radio station. Also, a message/bulletin board can be a VERY USEFUL TOOL! A land-line intercom is also very helpful to deliver and receive tactical voice messages. It is recommended that all **TYPE I ARCTS** keep a self-powered, closed circuit telephone system with enough "twisted-pair" (2 conductor wire), to reach between an EOC, command post, shelter, etc. and the emergency communications center (ECC) or other field emcomm station. Used field telephones are widely available from various military surplus

supply houses. **EMCOMM**

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## Tech Q&A

1. What unit is used to describe electrical power?
  - A. Ohm
  - B. Farad
  - C. Volt
  - D. Watt(Answer at bottom)
2. What device is used to convert the alternating current from a wall outlet into low-voltage direct current?
  - A. Inverter
  - B. Compressor
  - C. Power Supply
  - D. Demodulator(Answer at bottom)

## Tech Q&A Answers

1. D.  
The basic unit of electrical power is the WATT, or W. This unit was named after James Watt, the 18<sup>th</sup> century inventor of the steam engine.
2. C.  
Most electronic equipment, including radios, consumes power as dc current supplied at a voltage of 30V or less. Household electricity is supplied by the electric utility as ac at a voltage of 120V. The power supply converts the ac input power to dc power suitable for the equipment.

### Home Needed

The GARS Emergency Van needs a shelter. Since Alice Taylor, KC4JWM, moved to Lexington our van has been ðunder the weatherð. We need a club member to keep the van at his/her home under a shed or in a building. The location should be in or near

Community Baptist Church  
509 Triangle Road  
Div: Roanoke  
Sect: North Carolina  
<http://www.rcarc.com>  
Talk-In: 146.85 (PL 103.5)  
Contact:  
Dal Williams, W4YQY  
307 Oleander Drive, Suite D  
Eden, NC 27288  
Phone: 336-627-7076  
Email: w4yqy@rcarc.com

24 May 2008  
DurHAMfest  
Durham FM Association  
Durham, NC  
Little River Community  
Complex  
8305 North Roxboro Road  
Div: Roanoke  
Sect: North Carolina  
<http://www.dfma.org>  
Talk-In: 147.225 (no tone)  
Contact:  
Linda Jackson, KF4LJZ  
122 Infinity Road  
Durham, NC 27712  
Phone: 919-477-8368  
Email: kf4ljz@aol.com

Greenwood so it can be readily accessible for use by Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick, Saluda or any other county. If you can help please contact our Property Office, Harvey Hill, WB4KXE.

## 2m Radio Wanted

**If anyone has an abundance of newer model 2m mobile radios sitting around and you'd like to part with one....please contact Steven Lyda, KI4ZSY.**

## Classified

**Atlas 210x 10-80 meters solid state radio; with mobile power supply and two microphones. Works well on all bands and is a 9+ in condition.\$200.00**

**864 430-4778**  
**Fred Maxwell**  
**W4FCM**  
Travelers Rest, SC

**Kenwood D 700 A for sale, 2M 440 APRS, voice chip and extras, \$450**

**Contact Adam Shirley at [KI4WQD@ARRL.NET](mailto:KI4WQD@ARRL.NET) for other details.**

**If anyone has any Ham radio stuff to sell or trade... list it in this column by calling Buddy, W4DEW, 864-445-7574, [w4dew@arrl.net](mailto:w4dew@arrl.net) or David, W4MCC, 864-943-4311, [davidm@nctv.com](mailto:davidm@nctv.com)**

**Note: A special thanks to everyone who contributed articles and info for this newsletter.**