



# Greenwood ARS

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

JANUARY

## 2008 CLUB OFFICERS

### President

Earl Powell,  
KC4AXY

### Vice President

Joe Mimms,  
K4GBH

### Secretary

Jewell Mimms,  
K14WJO

### Treasurer

Tedd Davison,  
AI4WN

### Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis,  
W4DEW

### Activities Manager

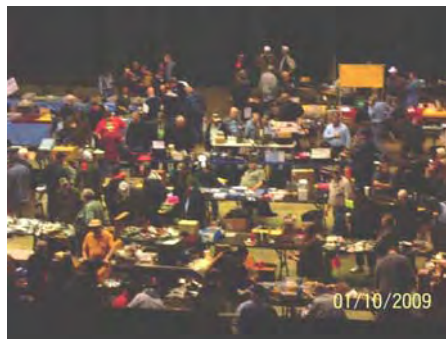
Adam Shirley,  
WJ4X

## Welcome to 2009!

The newsletter staff would like to remind everyone to have a safe and happy new year and Gud DX to all!

## GREENWOOD HAMFEST!

The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Hamfest was a fantastic success. Many people attended from all over the southeast. Club members, as well as the public were entertained by vendors, tailgaters, and visitors who made our 2009 Hamfest one of the best ever!



## Club Dues

Just a reminder that 2009 W4GWD club dues are due January 1st. Tedd, AI4WN reminds us that dues may be mailed in, or handed to him at any club event he may be at. The club address is W4GWD, PO Box 2404 Greenwood, SC 29646. Membership dues supply our club many benefits, including repeaters, Field Day, and the Holiday Dinner. Tedd also reminds us to renew our ARRL Membership, also through him. The ARRL is the Voice of Amateur Radio. Membership provides many benefits, via print and on the web.

# Upcoming Society Events

## Chat N' Chew

Every Friday at 11:30am the members of the Greenwood Amateur Radio society meet at Ryan's Steak House, Bypass 25 NE, Greenwood.

Everyone is welcome to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while.

**(Dutch treat).**

## February 3, 2009 VE Exam Session 7:00pm Greenwood Red Cross

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.

## 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.

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.

# Congratulations

### Happy Birthday!

Debbie Moore		Jan 6
Buddy Willis	W4DEW	Jan 7
Kin Maffett	KJ4BAK	Jan 13
Gail Davidson		Jan 21
Mamie Wise		Jan 25
Dan Farmer	KK6AA	Feb 16
Nelson Henry	KG4ZLU	Feb 24

### Happy Anniversary!

Kevan (N4XL) and Elizabeth Nason	Feb 14
Roger (KJ4EPL) and Debbie Moore	Feb 20

The most important brand of Ham Equipment you can own...

Mastercard.

# Mr. Screwdriver turns 90

On the first moment that the FCC allowed mobile operation on 75 Meters, Don Johnson, W6AAQ, was there. It was 0001 Pacific Time, 15 July 1948, and he's been there ever since, collecting many friends along the way.

Sixty years and two weeks later, he and his XYL, Letha, W6HMD, threw a 90th birthday luncheon for a gathering of Northern California area Amateur Radio operators.

Noted mostly for inventing the "Screwdriver" HF mobile antenna, he also shared his many decades of accumulated knowledge in the books "40 Years of HF Mobileeering," "40+5 Years of HF Mobileeering" and "Everything You Forgot to Ask About HF Mobileeering." (The last two were published by WorldRadio Books.)

Prior to working for some major electronics companies, Don spent 31 years in the U.S. Navy, including being in the thick of things in the WWII South Pacific in a noted PBY squadron.

At the luncheon he told of how a group of Hams in the Navy played the major role in the search for an aircraft that crashed and the crew being rescued after eight days.

His 75 Meter net frequency is 3905, which is also the last numbers of his Esparto, CA, phone number.

Many say one of the great attractions of Amateur Radio is the camaraderie. All the conversations at this festive luncheon proved that such is quite true. — Armond Noble, N6WR



Don Johnson, W6AAQ, reading the many Happy Birthday cards.

## Classifieds

**Cubic ST-2R 2KW antenna tuner \$350 obo, contact Jeremy Manning [ki4ccz@gmail.com](mailto:ki4ccz@gmail.com) for additional info and photos.**

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)

## Club Corner

Dan, KK6AA, is finally getting his HF going with a set of new antennas.

Tedd, AI4WN, is researching Quagi antennas, and planning an array on 80 meters.

Adam, WJ4X (with lots of help) finally gets that tower up, only to have to take it back down.

David, KJ4BWG, and Roger, KJ4EPL, are getting their verticals working correctly and racking up gud DX!

Let us know what you're up to by sending an email to Adam, [WJ4X@AMSAT.ORG](mailto:WJ4X@AMSAT.ORG)

# Contests and Special Events:

By N4XL

You're in for it now! Adam, WJ4X, asked me to do a monthly column on contesting, so here we go.

To start with let's look at a couple things about contesting in general. Why contest at all? There are many different reasons. If you would like to get your WAS or DXCC award it is possible during a contest to get it in a single week-end. Some like the thrill of competition – pitting themselves and their station to the limit against other people. Others, like me, enjoy learning how to make their stations perform better and the simple thrill of making contacts around the world. I compete against myself by trying to better last year's score.

Most people are intimidated by what they see as the chaos of a popular contest. They are afraid to jump into the fray and do something wrong. I sure was.

So I listened to what people in the contest were doing and then went to a website and read the contest rules to learn what all those funny numbers and letters people were exchanging meant. Then I found someone who seemed to be calling and calling with few answers to his pleas for a contact. The speaker blared "CQ Contest, CQ Contest. W2XYZ."\*

I listened for awhile and copied down his exchange information. Then I simply said: "NT8A" after his CQ was done. He answered "NT8A. Tom. New York." And then he stopped. I looked at what I'd already written

down and it matched. I said "Tom, this is my first contest and I think I'm supposed to say Kevan. South Carolina. Is that right?" He actually stopped calling CQ and took a few minutes to thank me for the contact and welcome me to contesting. We also exchanged signal reports. That's all there was to it. I had New York in the log. Because of contesting I've worked thousands of stations around the world and exchanged hundreds of QSL cards.

Instead of being upset with a new person contesters WANT your call. In fact they depend on and welcome the casual operator stopping by because it helps their scores. If it weren't for people just having fun it would be a fairly boring time working the same people over and over again. Sure, there are jerks everywhere. Just ignore them. Go ahead. Jump in and get your feet wet!

The upcoming North American QSO Party (NAQP) is a great place to start. The dates for the next NAQP are January 10 and 11 for the CW, January 17 and 18 for the SSB, and February 28 and March 1 for RTTY. They all start at 1800z the first day and end at 0600z the second. You are only allowed to operate for 10 of the 12 hour period. Breaks must be at least ½ hour, but you can take the entire 2 hours at once if you want.

See <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php> or ask me for a copy of the rules.

\* I really don't remember his call or what contest that was but have a vague recollection it went something like that. People have done similar things with me over the years – so treat it like it really happened this way.

a note from the editor:

I'd like to thank the contributors to this month's newsletter. I hope they continue sending in story ideas!

If you'd like to see your article here, send an email to [WJ4X@amsat.org](mailto:WJ4X@amsat.org)

## VHF/UHF Skip

by K4LEO

When high pressure systems move in, sometimes there is exceptional 2 meter skip. It can be heard by the way distant stations are clearly received into the repeater. Mostly this is a summer time phenomenon; however, this type of V/UHF skip does occur during the winter as well. Repeaters from hundreds of miles away may be heard and stations working repeaters with the same input as the local repeater may break the local repeater or be heard in the background when an area station brings the local

repeater up.

The cause of this occasional DX propagation is a large, warm high pressure system approaching your location or perhaps overhead. The warm air of the pressure front becomes stratified about 600 ft. above the ground. In weather forecasting language, this is called a "tropospheric duct inversion" The refractive index of air in the layer of warm air between the inversion above and the cool air at the ground can support a VHF transmission with almost no reduction in signal strength

for hundreds of miles.

If your VHF antenna is above the cooler surface air at ground level, and in the inversion layer, there can be a smooth path for 2 meter transmission and reception to distant locations. This is why Lexington stations are sometimes heard by the repeater like they are in Greenwood.

Watch for "tropospheric duct inversions" and you may be able to talk through repeaters about a hundred miles or more away in the Carolinas or Georgia.

It was a slow night in Small Town, Midwest on the 2m repeaters and some bored soul put out "CQ" on one of the machines. Anyway there was a brief silence after the 'k' pips and a deep voice comes back - "This is the voice of God speaking" and then a 'k' to which the caller says - "We must have some GREAT ducting OM!"

## Hams celebrate 25 in space.

AMSAT-NA V.P. for Human Spaceflight Programs and ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO announced, "Twenty-five years ago this week, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, made history by being the first amateur radio operator to talk to hams from space. Owen's historic flight on the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia mission was launched on November 28 and landed on December 8, 1983. Owen's ham radio adventure on STS-9 ushered in a host of outstanding outreach activities that continue today with the ARISS program."

Frank continued, "Many will recall that first set of contacts and downlinks with Owen. Those first contacts allowed each of us to share the excitement of space exploration through Owen's first-hand eyewitness accounts. Owen's ham radio legacy enabled space travelers that have flown on the Space Shuttle, the Space Station Mir and now the International Space Station to share their journey of exploration."

"Owen's son Richard, W5KWQ just a month ago carried the torch further to become the first 2nd generation amateur radio operator to talk to hams from space. What other hobby, except amateur radio, could or would open the

communications lines of space travelers beyond that of the space agencies or international heads of state?"



To celebrate our 25 years of amateur radio operations from space, the ARISS team has a set of special event opportunities during the month of December and part of January. A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS, either 2-way direct (with the ISS crew, the digipeater, or cross band repeater), or 1-way reception of SSTV or voice downlink. Several events will be described here with several "surprises" planned over the month-long celebration. The surprises will be announced once we are pre-positioned to accomplish them.

# COMING HAMFESTS and EVENTS

7 Feb 2009

South Carolina State Convention  
(Charleston Hamfest & Computer Show)  
Charleston Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.wa4usn.org>  
Talk-In: 145.250 (PL 103.5) - linked  
repeater system  
Contact: Jenny M. Myers, WA4USN  
2630 Dellwood Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: 843-747-2324  
Email: [brycemyers@aol.com](mailto:brycemyers@aol.com)  
Ladson, SC  
Exchange Park Fairgrounds  
9850 Highway 78

28 Feb 2009

Dalton Hamfest #27  
Dalton ARC  
<http://www.w4drc.com>  
Talk-In: 145.230(-) no tone  
Contact: Harold Jones, N4BD  
PO Box 211  
Rocky Face, GA 30740  
Phone: 706-673-2291  
Email: [n4bd@windstream.net](mailto:n4bd@windstream.net)  
Dalton, GA  
North Georgia Fairgrounds  
501 Legion Drive

14-15 Mar 2009

Roanoke Division Convention  
Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest.html>  
Talk-In: 145.290(-) & 146.940(-)  
Contact: Mary & Tom Hunt, N4MH & KA3VVJ  
16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway  
Huntersville, NC 28078  
Phone: 704-948-7373  
Email: [hamfestinfo@w4bfb.org](mailto:hamfestinfo@w4bfb.org)  
Concord, NC  
Cabarrus Arena & Event Center  
4751 Highway 49 North

21 Mar 2009

Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.w4bti.org>  
Talk-In: 146.880 - offset (PL100)  
Contact: Don V. Heppe, W5LGK  
1425 Ridgeway Drive  
Acworth, GA 30102  
Phone: 404-630-1249  
Email: [W5LGK@bellsouth.net](mailto:W5LGK@bellsouth.net)  
Marietta, GA  
Jim Miller Park  
2245 Callaway Road

11 Apr 2009

North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest)  
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>  
Talk-In: 146.640 - (no tone)  
Contact: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF  
2005 Quail Ridge Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone: 919-872-6555  
Fax: 919-872-6555  
Email: [k4hf@arri.net](mailto:k4hf@arri.net)  
Raleigh, NC  
Exposition Center Building  
1025 Blue Ridge Road

2 May 2009

South Carolina Section Convention (2009 Upstate Hamfest)  
Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.upstatehamfest.org>  
Talk-In: 146.61  
Contact: Rusty Kirkpatrick, AJ4RK  
351 Old Georgia Road  
Moore, SC 29369  
Phone: 864-978-7519  
(Days) or 864-576-9643  
(Eves)  
Email: [aj4rk@bellsouth.net](mailto:aj4rk@bellsouth.net)  
Spartanburg, SC  
Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds  
575 Fairgrounds Road

6 Jun 2009

Georgia State Convention  
Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC)  
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>  
Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 146.2)  
Contact: John Talipsky, N3ACK  
385 Madison Chase Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
Phone: 678-618-2190  
Fax: 678-985-2906  
Email: [johnn3ack@comcast.net](mailto:johnn3ack@comcast.net)  
Marietta, GA  
Jim Miller Park  
2245 Callaway Road

22-23 Aug 2009

West Virginia State Convention  
West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council  
<http://www.qls.net/wvsarc>  
Talk-In: 145.39 (Alt. 147.88)  
Contact: Patrick Shea, N8MIN  
27 Jackson Street  
Weston, WV 26452-1513  
Phone: 304-269-3468  
Fax: 304-427-2187  
Email: [pshea@citynet.net](mailto:pshea@citynet.net)  
Jackson's Mill, WV  
WVU Convention Center & Jackson's Mill 4-H Center  
Jackson's Mill Road

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR HAMFEST OR  
EVENT LISTED HERE, PLEASE CONTACT  
ADAM, WJ4X@AMSAT.ORG**