



Greenwood ARS

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

MARCH

2009 CLUB

OFFICERS

President

Joe Mimms,
K4GBH

Vice President

Phil Henry,
WW4I

Secretary

Jewell Mimms,
K14WJO

Treasurer

Tedd Davison,
A14WN

Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis,
W4DEW

Activities Manager

Adam Shirley,
WJ4X

Elections

The new officers were elected at last month's meeting, and everyone is excited to begin a new year with the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society. The new officers are President, Joe Mimms, K4GBH, Vice President, Phil Henry, WW4I, and remaining incumbents are Jewell Mimms, K14WJO as Secretary, Tedd Davidson, A14WN, as Treasurer, and Adam Shirley WJ4X as Activities Manager.

March Meeting

The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society will meet at 7:00 pm at the Turner House on Bailey Circle, March 16th. Everyone is invited to attend!

SC SSB Net

The SC Single Sideband Net (SCSSB) is a public service body consisting of Amateur Radio (Ham) operators who meet daily at 7:00 pm on 3.915 MHz for the purpose of passing formal written traffic into, out of, and throughout the state of South Carolina. The net is a member of the National Traffic System (NTS) and is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) headquartered in Newington, Conn. All licensed Amateurs with HF privileges are invited to check in.



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).

VE Exam Session 7:00pm April 7, 2009 Greenwood Red Cross

GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) Team will have an exam session 7:00pm, Tuesday April 7th 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!

Bill Yoder	W4YOD	Mar 14
George Rambo	KI4ZSZ	Mar 29
Jimmie Dean Hill	KI4VFQ	Apr 12
Jewell Mimms	KI4WJO	Apr 24
Tedd Davidson	AI4WN	Apr 26

Happy Anniversary!

Homer (WB4MLU) and Ethel Banks	Mar 19
Bill (W4YOD) and Beth Yoder	Mar 21
Buddy (KI4VJS) and Janice Howle	Apr 7

Missing Q signals #2490:

QRG?

- Am I transmitting in or near an amateur band, and if so which one?

CQ Test:

By N4XL

Not being very competitive by nature and knowing that there aren't very many testers in the club, I have stressed having fun as the reason for contesting. The next few editions are dedicated more to those of you who want to win – or at least get a competitive score in a contest. The name of the game here is unquestionably your QSO rate. Everything you do should be focused at improving how many contacts you make in an hour.

My experience is mainly with the major HF SSB contests like the ARRL International DX or CQWW WPX contests. If you're a low power station like me you should try to average 50 contacts an hour while you're actually at the radio. A high power station should be doing over 70. I'm sure seasoned testers would dispute these numbers, and they vary based on things like your antenna system capability and where we're at in the sunspot cycle, but these are good goal numbers for people new to the sport. Just so you know ahead of time, you will probably not be anywhere close to these when you first start.

There are two basic contesting techniques. They are "Running" and "Search and Pounce" (or "S&P"). Each has advantages and virtually all successful testers use both. Running is where you sit on a frequency and call CQ to attract stations. S&P is where you tune across the band to find stations you haven't yet worked -- those stations that are running. When you find a new one you pounce on (answer) their CQ.

Let's look at running.

- Find a clear frequency and call CQ. It sounds easy, but for those of you who have tuned across the band during a major contest you know it isn't. First and foremost, remember that just because you're in a contest you are still bound by FCC rules – do not cause interference to other radio stations and operate within the frequencies allowed by your operating license. When close to band edges remember your transmit frequency is normally 3 KHz wide so don't get too close. Also, please respect net frequencies and move if you find yourself in conflict with an established net.
- When bands are crowded, as during major contests, use narrow filters. These have pass bands only 1.8 to 2.1 KHz wide and dramatically cut interference. Testers use narrow filters and that's one reason why they get so close to other stations only using standard filters and can interfere with them.
- A headset with attached microphone such as a Heil Proset is almost mandatory for major 48 hour long con-

tests. With these you can easily turn your head to look at your station equipment while keeping your hands free to type without affecting your transmitted signal. For a change of pace or to give my ears a break I sometimes use regular headphones or a good quality external speaker and a boom mike when rate is slower or I am in S&P mode.

- Your CQ should be short and to the point. A contest CQ is different from a "normal" one in that it should avoid wasted words. During a major contest people assume you are working it and not a minor one. So you don't need to say things like "CQ ARRL International DX Contest, CQ ARRL International DX Contest. This is N4XL, November Four X-ray Lima calling CQ ARRL International DX Contest and standing by." Say that out loud once. Now say "CQ contest, CQ contest. November Four X-ray Lima." Quite a difference. Imagine the time saved during a 48 hour contest. Time saved means more time available to work stations which means your rate can be higher.
- Say "CQ contest" twice since it is quick to say and gives someone a second or two to tune in the frequency before saying your call. Using phonetics for your call minimizes the chances for error. It's easy for another station to confuse dee, with pea, tee, cee, bee, etc. when you don't use phonetics. If the other station has to ask "Was that Bravo Tango or Charlie Tango" you've lost several seconds of contest time and your rate will go down. Also if they type your call in their log wrong you might not get credit for the contact.
- S&P stations are tuning quickly. They may be off frequency when calling you. I generally set the sub VFO as the transmit VFO and use the main VFO to tune in stations slightly off frequency. Some use RIT for this, but those knobs are typically smaller and harder to use than the main VFO tuning knob.
- Wait 3 to 4 seconds between CQ's. Any longer and those S&P'ers may tune right on by. Any shorter and it doesn't give a station time to start talking before you begin your next CQ.
- If more than one contest is going on you may want to identify yours in your CQ such as "CQ Contest, CQ Lighthouse" or "CQ Contest, CQ NA" (NA is generally used for the North America QSO Party).
- If you're calling CQ every 4 seconds over a 48 hour period you will lose your voice. Use a voice keyer and auto repeat your CQ.
- Sound excited when calling CQ. Make people want to answer you.

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CQ Test: By N4XL

from pg 3.

- South Carolina is often a desired multiplier. I occasionally change my CQ to say “CQ contest from South Carolina. November Four X-ray Lima” That sometimes results in a rate increase.
- Rate will vary. When first calling CQ on a new band you will probably get only an occasional response such as a QSO every 2 or 3 minutes. Eventually someone will “spot” you on the internet sites and people will come to you in a rush. It is not unusual to go from a QSO rate of 1 every 5 minutes (12 per hour) to 3 a minute (180 per hour) within a couple minutes time. Also you may get 15 contacts in a row, then only 3 or 4 in the next 10 minutes, followed by another 20 or 30 one right after another. The trick is to figure out when your rate is so low it is time to move on to either a new frequency, band, or begin to S&P.
- If you hear people giving contest exchanges on your frequency but they aren’t talking to you then there is probably someone else running that you can’t hear. If they are answering him and not you then odds are you aren’t strong enough to hold the frequency and you should move on. If people are answering both you and him then decide if you want to ‘fight’ to hold your spot. Be extra careful during these periods to ensure the station you hear is actually talking to you and not the other station. You are penalized and may actually be disqualified for having too many claimed stations in your log that aren’t in the other stations logs.
- A typical contact goes as follows. People almost always give a 59 signal report no matter what it actually is. In this case the numbers after 59 are the QSO number. Notice there are no wasted words. Phonetics should be used by both stations to ensure no mistakes are made in the call. End the contact with your call so that anyone waiting knows the QSO is over and what your call is. A S&P station may have tuned in during the exchange, recognized a contest station is on frequency and is waiting to hear who you are. Giving your call answers that ques-

tion so they can either answer you without waiting through another CQ or can recognize they’ve already worked you and move on without calling you. Either option minimizes time wasted and potentially increases your rate.

- “CQ contest, CQ contest. November Four X-ray Lima”
- “Gulf Mike Three Alpha Bravo Charlie”
- “Gulf Mike Three Alpha Bravo Charlie.
- 59. 453.”
- “QSL. 59 623”
- “Thanks. November Four X-ray Lima”
- If someone you’ve already worked (a duplicate) calls you again, just work them. Your logging program will recognize it is a dupe and will not score them twice. It is quicker to work them again than getting into a discussion about already having worked them. There is also the chance they copied your call wrong earlier which means you are not in their log so you need to work them a second time anyway to get in their log.
- Consider setting your CQ’s to be 5 or 6 seconds apart and using either your second VFO or another radio to S&P in-between CQ’s. Almost all winners of today’s contests do this. It takes practice to learn how to do this well.
- When working a rare multiplier ask if they would work you on another band where you need them. A good logging program will alert you when this situation arises. Say you work them on 20 meters and you need them on 15. Often propagation is such that you can get them on both bands at the same time. You should have selected a frequency to move them to ahead of time so if they are willing to do so you can tell them right where to go. When moving a station you should be the one calling them on the new frequency. Be aware you may lose your run frequency if you take a long time while moving stations.

That’s enough for now. Next month we’ll look at S&P.
-N4XL

DX Spots:

06.03.2009 - 11.03.2009 **ZL7** [ZL7T](#)

Lee/ZL2AL, Morrie/ZL2AAA, Lee/ZL2LE, John/ZL1BYZ, Mike/ZL2CC, Phil/ZL2RVW, Mark/ZL3AB, Wayne/ZL2WG and John/ZL1ALZ. QSL via ZL2AL. <http://www.zl7t.com>

29.12.2009 - 03.01.2009 **W** [W4/VA3RA](#)

Sanibel Island (NA-069, USI FL-021S, WLOTA LH-2044) by Peter, VE3IKV.

22.03.2009 - 06.04.2009 **VK9M** [VK9GMW](#)

George/AA7JV and Tomi/HA7RY.

<http://www.vk9gmw.com>

04.04.2009 - 11.04.2009 **VK9C** [JA1XGI/VK9](#)

Haru, JA1XGI/W8XGI.

14.02.2009 - 12.03.2009 **V5** [V5/DJ4SO](#) Klaus, DJ4SO.

Classifieds

Cubic ST-2R 2KW antenna tuner \$350 obo, contact Jeremy Manning ki4ccz@gmail.com for additional info and photos.

For Sale or Offer for Entire Lot:

- | | |
|--|---|
| \$ 20.00 Rosy test center | \$ 5.00 Radio Shack 12 v power supply |
| \$ 20.00 Workman swr meter | \$ 5.00 Radio Shack 13.8 power supply |
| \$ 10.00 GE speaker | \$ 10.00 2 way antenna switch |
| \$ 50.00 Astron RS35m power supply (SOLD) | \$ 20.00 Kenwood mike |
| \$ 25.00 2 Ringo ranger antennas (parts missing) | \$ 20.00 Mirage pre-amp RCI |
| \$ 25.00 CDE Rotor control box | \$ 25.00 Box of Assorted Tubes (SOLD) |
| \$ 25.00 CDE Rotor control box | \$ 8.00 8 pl 259 connectors (NEW) |
| \$ 30.00 three 2 meter antennas \$10.00 each | |
| \$ 20.00 Magnet mount CB antenna | call or email |
| \$ 10.00 3 amp power supply 12 volt | Dewey "Buddy" Willis W4DEW@arrl.net |
| \$ 40.00 Tram1481 2 meter antenna (SOLD) | (864) 445-7574 home |
| \$ 20.00 VHF meter | (864) 554-3543 verizon |

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

Homebrew Challenge

In the interest of promoting the advancement of amateur construction and homebrewing interesting solutions to creative problems, the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society challenges YOU to build something that shows your love for the art of Amateur Radio. The challenge runs through November, and the most interesting project will be recognized at the club Christmas dinner. So come on, get out the iron, break out the junk box and let's get building!

Your project could be anything from some sort of interesting tool, some sort of amateur accessory, antennas, or even a radio! The sky is the limit! More details to follow next month.

Club Corner

Desecheo Island is over, hopefully everyone needing or wanting KP5 got them in the log. Many GARS members did confirm K5D out of the 115,728 QSO's

The new officers were elected last month, and the newsletter staff would like to wish them well in their new leadership positions.

It's almost Spring! time to start getting ready to put up those new antennas and repair any damaged old ones.

Remember to support your local and special interest Amateur Radio organizations.

That's it this month, stay tuned for more!
Let us know what you're up to by sending an email to
[Adam, WJ4X@AMSAT.ORG](mailto:Adam,WJ4X@AMSAT.ORG)

COMING HAMFESTS and EVENTS:

14-15 Mar 2009

Roanoke Division Convention
Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.w4fbf.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@w4fbf.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
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@arrl.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
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
Marietta, GA
Jim Miller Park
2245 Callaway Road

**27-28 June 2009
ARRL Field Day**

Greenwood Amateur Radio Society's Field Day will be held this year in the '96' park, in Ninety Six, South Carolina. Come on out and enjoy operating in a casual "contest" that demonstrates both emergency operating styles and quick rapid fire contacts. Many different modes and bands will be on display, including satellite and digital modes such as PSK 31.
Please contact Adam WJ4X@amsat.org for more information!

22-23 Aug 2009

West Virginia State Convention
West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council
<http://www.qsl.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
Jackson's Mill, WV
WVU Convention Center & Jackson's Mill 4-H Center
Jackson's Mill Road

5-6 Sep. 2009

Shelby Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.shelbyhamfest.com>
Talk-In: 146.880(-) & 147.120(+)
Contact: Robby Hamrick WA4RH
wa4rh@bellsouth.net

Dallas, NC
Gaston County Parks & Recreation Department
1301 Dallas Cherryville Highway

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