



Greenwood ARS

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

APRIL

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

W4GWD@ARRL.NET

2009 CLUB

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K4GBH

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WW4I

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K14WJO

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Tedd Davison,
A14WN

Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis,
W4DEW

Activities Manager/ Editor in Chief

Adam Shirley,
WJ4X

The W4GWD
Repeater Network
147.165+ t107.2
443.900+ t107.2
W4DEW/R
146.910- t123.0

April Meeting

G.A.R.S. will meet Monday, April 20, 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.

Tailgate Party at Shealy's

The Ridge Amateur Radio Club of Batesburg/Leesville invites you all to a free TAILGATE PARTY on Saturday, April 25th 9AM - NOON at Shealy's BBQ grass parking lot on US # 1, the Lexington/Columbia side. Breakfast Buffet is now available between 6:30 and 9:30 AM at Shealy's on Saturday mornings. Stay for lunch at Shealy's BBQ starting at 11 AM. Come join the fun, fellowship and great food! Swap, sell, buy, trade and do it all in the sun and shade. For more information, contact Russ D. Rhodes, KD4HDR
KD4HDRuss@hotmail.com

Newsletter Name

The past 7 months we have seen a different newsletter, and the feedback has been positive. As most editors do, I receive 6 or 7 different newsletters, and most other clubs tend to have a name for theirs. Do you think we need a name? The Blue Ridge ARS calls theirs "The Live Wire", WC8VOA calls theirs the "HF Chronicles", WA4TFZ calls theirs "The Beacon". If you have a catchy name we could use for our newsletter, let the newsletter staff know with an email to WJ4X@amsat.org -Ed



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).

June 2, 2009 VE Exam Session 7:00pm Greenwood Red Cross

GARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VE) Team will have an exam session 7:00pm Tuesday June 2nd 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!

Jimmie Dean Hill	KI4VFQ	Apr 12
Jewell Mimms	KI4WJO	Apr 24
Tedd Davidson	AI4WN	Apr 26
Alice Taylor	KC4JWM	May 9

Happy Anniversary!

Buddy (KI4VJS) and Janice Howle	Apr 7
David (KJ4BWG) and Margret (KJ4HDK) Haynes	May 14

Club Corner

Some club members took part in the ARRL's International DX contest. This was a great way to get those rare entities for your DXCC.

The CQ WPX contest has come and gone, hope everyone got all the strange prefixes they wanted.

Remember to support your local and special interest Amateur Radio Clubs!

Let us know what you're up to by sending an email to Adam, WJ4X@AMSAT.ORG

Missing Q signals #8365:

QBA?

- How big is your antenna??

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
\$ 25.00 2 Ringo ranger antennas (parts missing)	\$ 20.00 Kenwood mike
\$ 25.00 CDE Rotor control box	\$ 20.00 Mirage pre-amp RCI
\$ 25.00 CDE Rotor control box	
\$ 30.00 three 2 meter antennas \$10.00 each	call or email
\$ 10.00 3 amp power supply 12 volt	Dewey "Buddy" Willis
\$ 20.00 VHF meter	W4DEW@arrl.net
	(864) 445-7574 home
	(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

Does your Repeater have a case of the winds?

Do you ever have problems making the machine? Maybe the wind is pushing your signal away from the repeater. High winds can affect the transmission of VHF and UHF signals by having a direct affect on the quarks that make up the signal. These Quarks, when leaving the discriminator (which decides which ones are good and can leave to the Preamp and which ones are bad and discarded by discriminating) are polarized | and —. The | polarized ones tend to be attracted more to horizontal polarized antennas as the molecules are just like people and opposites at-

tract. The ones we're concerned with are the — ones, which tend to be the most used quarks in FM radio transmission. These Quarks, when positively energized leave the antenna and are exposed in the open where wind, where we know can affect things like blowing chairs and curtains about, can grab onto these Quarks and move them away from the repeater antenna, causing your once booming full scale signal to not be so great. Sometimes it's better to just stand inside so your signal isn't affected so much.

-APRIL

CQ Test with N4XL

Last month we talked about ways to improve your success at running stations (calling CQ). This time we'll look at how to Search and Pounce (S&P). It's pretty safe to say that virtually all of us will have to combine the two in order to be competitive. Running stations is where you will get most of your rate — and remember that rate is the key to high scores. However, most of us will actually start out doing almost exclusively S&P. I did.

There are several reasons why S&P is more popular. Your inexperience with contesting makes S&P feel safer since you can pick and choose who to work. You can make sure you know their information and how to correctly pass yours before you start the QSO. It can be intimidating to call CQ and have sev-

eral stations call you at once. It takes practice to develop the skill needed to separate their calls and handle a pile-up. New contesters are hesitant to jump in-between two close stations and deal with crowded band conditions. Maybe you only want to work strong stations and you're uncomfortable dealing with the weak ones who may answer your CQ.

For this article I'm going to assume you are using the logging program N1MM Logger and your radio is connected to your computer. By connected I mean in such a way that your computer can read what frequency your radio is on. N1MM logger is a very capable program which handles dozens of different contests. It is free and there is an internet reflector where you can ask questions and people are willing to help CONT'd

CQ Test with N4XL

you with the answers. There are many other programs available and most have the same features. By the way, you do not actually need a computer logging program to contest, but it definitely helps and is a necessity to be competitive.

Let's look at S&P.

- You don't really do anything different getting started S&P during a contest than you would when you decide to sit down in front of your radio on a Saturday afternoon and make a contact. You pick a band that's open to the part of the world you want to talk to and then tune across the band looking for a station calling CQ. In this case people usually start at the bottom of the band and work up in frequency and you're looking for someone calling "CQ Contest". Once you find a station, you answer their CQ, log the contact information and then move on. Repeat that until you've reached the top of the band and start over.
- Read and learn the rules before the contest. I keep them handy during the contest. Some contests that are 48 hours long only allow you to operate for 36 hours. Break times generally must be ½ hour or 1 hour long. Some contests let you get points for working stations in your own country and some don't. The rules state what exchange to use. Some contests have rules as to how long you stay on one band before shifting to another. You won't know this stuff unless you've read the rules.
- Don't waste a lot of time trying to call someone if they don't answer you right away. If you've spent a couple minutes trying for a station then you are probably not loud enough and you're wasting precious minutes when you could be working someone else. Remember: Rate is King. Many times I've come back a few minutes later and gotten right through. Propagation changes, stronger stations move on, there are fewer stations calling, there is a new operator on the other end; who knows why you get through later but it often happens.
- The typical exchange goes like this:
 - Them- "CQ Contest GM3A"
 - You – "N4XL"
 - Them – "N4XL 59 1K"
 - You – "59 100"
 - Them – "Thanks. GM3A"
- My assumption for this hypothetical contest is that the contest exchange is a signal report and power. "1K" means one kilowatt. The 100 is my stations power. 59 is the de-facto exchange just about always used even if the real report is actually 11. Keep alert though, sometimes people use different signal report numbers. Not all stations do so, but the "Thanks" or "QSL" or "Good Luck" they send at the end means they believe that they got your information correct.
- Use your full call phonetically when answering a CQ. Don't just use the last two letters. It slows things down too much.
- It often helps to get a feel for how the other station is selecting stations. Sometimes they work the first one they hear. Sometimes there are so many stations calling they don't hear anyone until the last bit of the pile-up. Sometimes they look for someone slightly off frequency. If you have trouble getting through and you really want to work this one instead of tuning away, listen for a couple or rounds and figure out what they're doing. Then jump in and give them a call. DON'T continue to call once they've answered another station though. It only slows everything down because they have to ask the person they're talking to for repeats because you interfered with their QSO.
- Use your band map. N1MM shows you what frequency your radio is on. Once you work someone and hit enter their call appears on the band map in gray. Once you go across the band your map will have several stations on it. When you're tuning through a second time and you come across a strong station – look at your band map. Don't waste your time waiting to hear that stations call if there is already a station logged in gray on that frequency. Chances are it's the same one you've already worked.
- Your band map will clear stations you've put up there after an hour or so (user selectable). N1MM assumes that stations won't camp out on the same frequency forever and someone else might be there after an hour.
- When you type a call into N1MM it checks to see if you've worked them before. If so, the call turns a light gray. If not, it stays blue. If not AND they are a multiplier, they turn red. That should be a guide to you whether to spend some time trying to get a multiplier or not. You can set N1MM to automatically put any station you've typed into the call field up on the band map when you tune off frequency. The color coding goes with the call to help you find stations you haven't worked later on.
- You can have N1MM check the internet Telnet Cluster of your choice. It will go the cluster and pull down all stations spotted by other people and what frequency the stations were on. N1MM will automatically populate your band map with those calls – and they are color coded to let you know if you've worked that station already or not. Be careful though, someone may have typed the other stations call in wrong or the station you're looking for might have moved and some else is now on the frequency and you work someone else. If you do this you must claim yourself as being in an "assisted" category.

CONT'd

If you want to see your article here, please send an email to the newsletter staff WJ4X@amsat.org

Homebrew Challenge



Get out your soldering irons, and sharpen your pencils! It's time to get designing and building!!

In the last episode of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society newsletter, we briefly mentioned the Homebrew Challenge. Now we'll go over some of the guidelines to the challenge.

First off, all creations must be constructed and operated in a safe manner and with good amateur practice. That is, no HV

lines hanging out and nothing to injure yourself or others with.

Your creation should be something useful, It should serve a purpose in the Amateur Radio Service.

Your project should be somewhat easy to operate, i.e. you should be able to explain it's operation to someone with minimal amateur radio experience.

Your project can be anything you wish, but you must comply with all Part 97 criteria, and if the de-

vice emits RF, you need to properly test or support your findings before submitting it to the Homebrew Challenge Committee.

And remember to have fun!

Projects will be judged by secret designees of the Newsletter Staff at the November meeting and the winner will be presented a plaque at the December Christmas Party.

More to follow next month!

CQ TEST with N4XL

- When your band map is populated with stations you can use CTRL-SHIFT-UP/DOWN ARROW to automatically tune your radio up or down in frequency to the next station you haven't worked yet. That saves time.
- Did I mention to use the band map? You should just about always be turning your dial looking for new stations to work.
- If you're not actively talking into the microphone trying to work someone or waiting for them to finish with someone else so you can call them you should be tuning around looking for another station.
- Set your station up so you don't get arm fatigue reaching back and forth between your keyboard and your rig. I keep my rig at the same level of the keyboard. I angled it up slightly so the front face controls are easier to see and so the tuning knob is at a comfortable height. Even so my arm gets tired and sore after thirty-plus hours of tuning.
- Look for weaker stations next to strong ones. I've found many a station worth multiplier points calling CQ right next to a major European contest station. I needed to really adjust the filters and pass band (another month's topic) to hear them. After I work them I often hear someone else come in right after me before I can tune away.
- If your rate gets low or you just feel you're not doing well enough then shift to another band. I often switch between 15 and 20 meters. Tune up 20, then up 15, and then back to 20. During the last WPX contest at around 1700 EST 20 meters was the place to be since 15 and 10 were pretty much shut down. European stations were worth 3 points and U.S. only worth one so everyone was trying to work Europe. The band was really crowded – too crowded for me and my 100 watts to run -- and I'd been over it several times so I went to 40 meters and switched to running instead of S&P. Even though I the stations calling were only 'local' 1 point stations I was working so many stations that I put over a hundred thousand points in the log in a couple of hours.
- Learn propagation. 10 meters isn't open very often this time of the sunspot cycle. It does tend to open up around 1600 local towards South America, but not for very long. Every now and then I flip over to 10 to see if anyone is there. I also turn my antenna toward Alaska when propagation is open that way. It allows me to pull in that multiplier, some of the rarer Canadian provinces, and occasionally I get Japan and the Marshall Islands by doing that. You can also sometimes time back scatter on the higher bands by pointing your antenna due west near sunset to get other district 4 area stations or New England when propagation isn't going that way direct.
- When using N1MM for split operation you don't need to tune the second VFO for your transmit frequency. If the other station is listening on 3814 for example, all you have to do is type /3814 and the radio changes automatically. That is much quicker than tuning manually. (Tedd – Icom radio's don't do this because of their command codes. Yaesu's do!)
- Did I mention it is beneficial to use a computer based logging program?

Well, I've rambled enough for this month. I'll probably tackle using your receiver next time.

73's.
N4XL

COMING HAMFESTS and EVENTS:

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

9 May 2009

Heart of Georgia Hamfest 2009

Middle GA Radio Assn., Central GA Radio Club, & Byron Middle School ARC

<http://www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com/>

Talk-In: 146.850 -600 (no tone required)

Contact: Larry Keith, KQ4B

231 Shenandoah Trail

Warner Robins, GA 31088-6289

Phone: 478-957-3734

Email: kq4b@arrl.net

Byron, GA

Byron Middle School

201 Linda Drive

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!

8 Aug 2009

Ellijay Amateur Radio Society (EARS)

<http://www.ngamtn.com/w4hhh/>

Talk-In: 145.170 -600 kHz

(PL 100)

Contact: Dave Meadows,

K4LDI

401 Vanilla Lane

Ellijay, GA 30536

Phone: 706-276-4043

Fax: 706-276-4043 (call

Dave first)

Email:

dmeadows@ellijay.com

Ellijay, GA

Ellijay Lions Club

1729 South Main Street

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**