



The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2024

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

W4GWD@ARRL.NET

Our new mailing address is:
Greenwood Amateur Radio
Society
P.O. Box 49591
Greenwood, SC, 29649

2023 CLUB

OFFICERS

President

Russell Myrick, KN4TUI

Vice President

Kevan Nason, N4XL

Secretary

George Crane, W3RFX

Treasurer

Mitch Litwer, KJ4JGP

Repeater Trustee

Buddy Willis, W4DEW

Activities Manager

Di Litwer, N4DLL

Editor in Chief

Michael Wills, KA4CSM

Librarian

Jack Witt, KN4SIK

The W4GWD Repeater Network

147.165+ t107.2

Echo link: 584003

443.900+ t107.2

W4GWM/R

145.420- DV

W4DEW/R

146.910- t123.0



The 2m (147.165) and 440 (443.900) Analog Repeaters are both up.

The GARS D-Star repeater is down, power supply is on order.

Repeater Linking: our 2m and 440 repeaters are not linked during nets but will be during special occasions

February 2024

The next GARS monthly meeting will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood on February 13, 2024 beginning at 7:30 pm. The doors will be open at 7:00 pm for members to have a time of fellowship and setup for the meeting. Hope to see you all there.



Greenwood Amateur Society Recurring Events:



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Chat 'N' Chews

Begin gathering at 1115 at different locations each week. Kin KJ4BAK will announce locations on both the Monday and Thursday night nets. Dutch treat.

Weekly Nets

Each Thursday night at 9pm on the 147.165+ machine, the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society holds our weekly 2 meter net.

Our UHF net on 443.900+ is held Mondays at 8pm

Help spread the word for everyone to check-in to our nets. If you would like to become a net controller or a backup please contact [Kevan Nason, N4XL](#).

VE Exam Session

The next VE testing session is on February 6, 2024, at 7 p.m.. It will be held in the same room as our regular meetings at the Westminster Presbyterian church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood SC. Please contact [Tommy Owens, K4XB](#) with any questions. No walk-ins, please preregister with Tommy, K4XB.

Congratulations!!

Happy Birthday!

Aubrey Collins	KO4UGN	Feb 5
David McCall	W4MCC	Feb. 20
Dan Curry	KM4AJ	Feb. 22
Jeff Gayle	KQ4IUO	Feb 22
Dave Richmond	AG4DR	Feb 26

Happy Anniversary!

Kevan (N4XL) & Elizabeth Nason
Feb. 14
Buddy (W4DEW) & Theaster Willis
Feb.25



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participating in a Winter Field Day on Jan 27/28 2024.

Due to adverse weather our January 9, 2024 GARS meeting was held on zoom, with 11 in attendance. Kevan Nason N4XL presided over the meeting as President Myrick, KN4TUI was unable to attend. Mitch KJ4JGP reminded everyone that dues would be due soon. Tommy K4XB stated the next VE testing would be held on February 6, 2024, currently one is signed up to test. Kevan N4XL stated the GARS trailer needed to be moved from Al KB4RA's residence to Wesley Commons. David WT3M volunteered to pull it over. Dave KY4GM stated he was meeting with the Greenwood County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) coordinator later this week, more to follow on this meeting. Kevan N4XL gave an zoom presentation on average and peak power. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8pm.

Please contact [Jack](#) Witt KN4SIK if you have any comments or suggestions the GARS library. It is there for GARS members use. The Wall locker is unlocked. If you'd like to checkout a book, find one you like and take it, then [email Jack](#) your name and its title.



As a reminder GARS newsletter can be found all the way back to January 2020 at W4GWD.org

World Radio, February 7, 1972

<https://www.worldradiohistory.com/Archive-All-Amateur/World-Radio/World-Radio-1972-02-07.pdf>



Dave KY4GM reported on our 2m net 1-11-24 that GARS ARES members will begin meeting in the Greenwood County Courthouse in February. The Greenwood County Emergency Coordinator, Robert Cribbins will attempt to attend many of these meetings. If you are interested in becoming an ARES member please contact [Dave here](#).



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Its that time of the year again. If you are interested in volunteering for the nomination committee , Please contact [Russell Myrick, KN4TUI](#) if interested. Our club couldn't continue to operate if it weren't for those members who step up and volunteer. In addition to our club's officers there are many "unsung hero's" who operate behind the scenes and do things like maintain our repeaters, organize activities, publish newsletters, provide material for newsletters, net controllers, presentation givers, VE team etc. **What are you doing for our club?** If you are currently not involved please consider it. See Russ' message *Mike* below.



A nominating committee of 3 members provides a slate of nominees to be voted on to serve in respective offices for the next year.

In the past few years I have called different members to see if they would serve on the nominating committee.

This year we are looking for 3 members to volunteer to serve. If you are interested and willing to serve please [send me an email](#) indicating your intention.

The 1st 3 members to reply will be notified by me and will serve on committee in accordance with the guidelines stated in the Bylaws and Constitution.

I have enjoyed serving as President for the past few years. The support, cooperation, input and encouragement from everyone in our club has been amazing and very much appreciated. I feel we have been successful during the trying times of Covid, weather, economics, etc. We have added a number of new members bringing enthusiasm, new ideas and activity. The officers have worked well together in the leadership roles meeting changes, new activities and maintaining longtime functions of our club. And I look forward to the directions of the next team of officers.

Having said that, I plan to continue as an active club member, but taking a break from serving in an elected or appointed position.

Thank you,

73

KN4TUI

Russ Myrick
864-980-0042





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Crank up the AF Gain

By Kevan Nason, N4XL

As many of us age the youngsters more frequently call us deaf. It isn't limited to young'uns. My wife is 15 years older than I and she thinks I'm deaf too. She admits she's confused though. She sometimes asks 'I know you can hear okay because you hear quiet things like cars approaching long before I do. So why are you asking me what I said?'

Bruce M0PUS wrote on the RSGBTechnical Groups.io reflector. "There is a big difference between being deaf and having difficulty decoding speech. However, the symptoms are so similar that most people will insist that you are deaf because they haven't experienced decoding difficulties and so don't understand that your mishearing could possibly be due to any thing other than deafness. The accepted "cure" for deafness is to turn up the volume, but this rarely improves decoding errors. Being unable to hear correctly in the presence of noise is certainly a symptom of deafness but noise has an even greater adverse effect on decoding difficulty. I should know because I've had decoding difficulty all my life even though I've had good hearing. Everyone says I'm deaf despite my being able to hear fainter sounds than they can, and despite hearing tests showing that even at 82, I have "the hearing of a man of 53". When on the air, turning up the volume does not improve matters, particularly in the presence of noise. I use a BHI noise reducer all the time, which DOES make a significant improvement. However, because this also makes an improvement (though lesser) for the deaf, I STILL get labelled as "deaf." You just can't win."

I've been aware for years that improving the S/N ratio of received audio has improved my ability to copy information in contests. Turning up the volume with S5+ band noise to copy a weak signal doesn't work for me. Turning down RF gain makes the wanted signal quieter, but it also reduces the noise making it just a little bit easier for me to separate message from noise. John W4IX taught me that trick.

I've taken over the headphones from dozens of operators while at Field Day sites, other stations, or even from people I've had contesting in my own shack. Very few of them turn down RF gain. Some use attenuation, but most instead turn up the AF gain and blast white noise and QRM into their ears at the same time as their desired signal. I prefer using RF gain over using the Attenuator because it gives me finer control than a fixed amount of attenuation. I used to preach not to use Noise Reduction in contests because it inherently introduces distortion to the signal. But I've since found it often helps me decode better too by reducing the noise more than it distorts the signal.

Another reason to avoid cranking the volume up is that not blasting S5+ noise into your ears hour after hour is less fatiguing and you get more enjoyment from your BIC time.



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Good morning, everyone!

Membership dues are due by March 31st.

You can bring them to the February and March meetings or mail them to:
GARS, P.O. Box 49591, Greenwood, SC 29649.

Dues are as follows:

Individual licensed member... \$25.00

Unlicensed Associate member with no voting rights... \$ 5.00

Junior licensed member under age 18 and full-time student... \$ 2.00

Family membership: 1st licensed member...\$ 25.00

Each additional family member (including spouse) licensed or unlicensed...
\$ 2.00

For additional information about dues, see Article IV: Dues on page 2 of the
Greenwood Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Bylaws. The Bylaws are found on
the club website, w4gwd.org under "Become a Member."

For more information or questions please contact club treasurer
Mitch Litwer at mlitwer@earthlink.net or (864)992-1446.





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Ask an Elmer

We are trying something new beginning with this newsletter. Di N4DLL, had the idea of beginning an “Ask the Elmer” column each month in our newsletter. If you have a question or simply wondered about something ask one of our Elmers. The Elmer will answer your question and send his response to both to you and me. State in your email if you want to remain anonymous. I will post in the next newsletter for all to see and learn from..

- [Russ Myrick, KN4TUI](#)
- [Kevan Nason, N4XL](#)
- [Dave Davenport, KY4GM](#)
- [Mitch Litwer KJ4JGP](#)

Select your Elmer and send in your question.

Mike

Ask the Elmers (an advice column for Hams)

Dear Elmers,

I heard there is a solar eclipse happening sometime this year (2024). When will it happen, and will we be able to see it in South Carolina? Also, does a solar eclipse cause problems with ham radio transmissions?

-- Just wondering

Dear Just Wondering,

Thank you for your question.

Seeing a solar eclipse, especially a total solar eclipse, is a truly awesome experience, and a rare occurrence in most people’s lives. Hopefully, you experienced the total solar eclipse that occurred over South Carolina on August 21, 2017.

If you didn’t, then you’re out of luck as unfortunately, South Carolina is nowhere near the path of totality for the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse. However, depending on the local weather, you may be able to catch the partial eclipse which will be visible throughout all 48 contiguous U.S. states.

As to whether a solar eclipse affects ham radio signals, the answer is yes, When the moon blocks the sun during a solar eclipse, there is a noticeable change in the Ionosphere, or upper atmosphere of the Earth. This change in the Ionosphere affects radio communications, including ham radio.

73,
The Elmers



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Here are three 2023 results from one of our own, Kevan N4XL. These are all from major contests and competitive categories within those contests..

IARU Single Operator Unlimited Low Power Mixed: #1 W/VE, #8 World, Division Record

ARRL DX SSB Single Operator Unlimited Low Power: 1st SC, 3rd W/VE, Division Record

ARRL DX CW Single Operator Unlimited Low Power: 1st SC, 4th W/VE

(W/VE is the United States and Canada)

Well done Kevan, very impressive.

GARS members send me your contesting or other interesting contacts.

Mike





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December 2023 Net Reports from SC Section Manager Report

Net / Check Ins / Traffic / Sessions / Reported By
 Anderson Radio Club 2m Net / 595 / 26 / 26 / W3SUE
 Big Ears Aynor Repeater/ 57 / 0 / 5 / KD2OJQ
 Blue Ridge 2 Meter Net / 1574 / 40 / 31 / W4DJW
 C.A.R.E.S. Net / 42 / 2 / 5 / N6WWG
 Carolinas Net / 336 / 128 / 62 / AA4MP
 Carolinas Slow Net / 145 / 23 / 31 / KI4KZS
 CARC Sunday Net / 92 / 13 / 4 / KU5N Central SC
 CARC Simplex Net / 30 / 0 / 2 / KU5N
 FARC/ 76 / 36 / 6 / WB6GUC
 Grand Strand ARC 2m Net / 171 / 16 / 16 / N4AJK
 Grand Strand ARC 1.25m Net / 18 / 3 / 3 / N4AJK
 Grand Strand ARC 70 cm Net / 43 / 7 / 7 / N4AJK
 Greater Pee Dee 2m Net / 911 / 53 / 31 / KK4KSZ
Greenwood ARC 2m Net / 51 / 3 / 4 / N4XL
Greenwood ARC 70cm Net/ 15 / 3 / 4 / N4XL
 Horry Co. ARES 2m net / 14 / 1 / 1 / AC2LB
 Horry Co. ARES simplex net/ 10 / 1 / 1 / WB4FTU
 Kershaw ARC 2m Net / 72 / 8 / 8 / KK4RUI
 Lancaster County 2m Net / 20 / 2 / 3 / N4WMB
 PALS Net / 754 / 45 / 31 / KK4MQN
 Ridge ARC VHF Net / 107 / 16 / 15 / KD4HDR
 Ridge ARC HF Net / 8 / 2 / 2 / KD4HDR
 SC Statewide ARES HF Net / 74 / 7 / 4 / KN4KRZ
 SC Midlands ARES Training Net / 45 / 24 / 3 / KN4KRZ
 SC Heart Training Net / 170 / 0 / 4 / KQ4KK
 SCSSB Net/ 1173 / 102 / 30 / KG4RUE
 South Carolina VHF/UHF ARES Net/183/2/4/ki4rax
 Sumter County EmComm Net/ 14 / 2 / 2 / KK4HFG
 Trident Amateur Radio Club / 48 / 3 / 4 / K4TCP
 YCARS / 921 / 0 / 51 / KO4IC York County ARES/ 28 / 0 / 3 /

jk

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

HamCation.com 2-9-11, 2024, Orlando, Florida

[Dalton Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#), 2-24-24

[Charlotte Hamfest](#), 3-8-24

[Ridge Amateur Radio Club](#) Tailgate party, 4-6-24

[Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Hamfest](#), 4-6-24

CLASSIFIEDS

Nothing submitted



- * The American Radio Relay League protects our rights as Amateur Radio Operators <http://www.arri.org>
- * Support for SERA supports proper coordination! <http://www.sera.org>
- * Remember your local and regional interest clubs!
- * Southeast DX Club <http://www.sedxc.org>
- * Spread the word GARS weekly nets: 147.165 2m Net Thursdays 9 p.m.
443.900 70cm Net Mondays 8 p.m.
- * Callsign info <http://www.ae7q.com>*
- * Track us on APRS: <http://aprs.fi>,
- * Swamp Fox Contest Group <http://swampfoxcontestgroup.com>



I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Please contact me at Mike31406@gmail.com to place a classified ad or with any ideas/comments/suggestions etc.

Mike



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Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Silent Key Memorial

Established in Memory of all Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Radio Operators who were club members and are now Silent Keys. They were friends, family, & fellow hams and all are missed. Page 1 of 2

Call	First name last name	Date of Death
KK4WJQ	Cynthial Penman	Saturday, February 25, 2023
WB4KXE	Harvey Hill	Friday, October 07, 2022
W8PC	Bob Skutt	Friday, July 22, 2022
N2OEE	Bob Wiener *	Tuesday, April 12, 2022
AJ4PU	David Haynes *	Friday, November 26, 2021
KB4YON	Eldora Keck	Thursday, October 14, 2021
WD4BWK	Franklin Mitchell	Saturday, September 25, 2021
KE4NL	Bill Sargent	Sunday, August 29, 2021
W3COX	Jim Cox *	Friday, July 16, 2021
KC4JUC	John March	Tuesday, June 22, 2021
KI4WJO	Jewell Mimms	Tuesday, July 14, 2020
AK4EK	Jim Gresham *	Tuesday, July 07, 2020
WB4MLU	Homer Banks	Sunday, June 07, 2020
KC4UU	Jo Henry *	Sunday, October 06, 2019
WW4I	Phil Henry *	Tuesday, January 01, 2019
KJ4VJ	Bert Keck *	Tuesday, October 23, 2018
AD4XA	Charles Pruitt	Saturday, October 06, 2018
KG4WRC	Don Finlayson	Monday, March 13, 2017
N4IDL	Jack Wheless	Tuesday, January 17, 2017
KN4D	Max Sisson	Saturday, November 12, 2016
K4GBH	Joe Mimms *	Tuesday, December 29, 2015
KV4IAV	Marion Elledge *	Sunday, December 27, 2015
KC4JWM	Alice Taylor *	Friday, December 11, 2015
K4FPF	Paul Valentino	Saturday, May 23, 2015
KC4KZ	Don Henderson *	Friday, April 03, 2015
W4PY	Warren Wise *	Saturday, February 14, 2015
KD4YPI	Todd Hendrix	Saturday, March 08, 2014
KD4BKV	Margaret Fort	Monday, September 16, 2013
KF4Y	Jim Long	Thursday, November 10, 2011
WA4DLB	Harry Davis	Thursday, November 11, 2010
W4GSW	Gay Willis *	Wednesday, August 11, 2010
K4DOK	Morton Sanders	Tuesday, June 15, 2010
W4LS.	George Miller	Thursday, August 13, 2009
W4JAK	Allen Kennemore	Monday, June 29, 2009
KC4IEL	Brenton Bailey	Friday, May 15, 2009



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Call	First name last name	Date of Death
KE4QQS	Stanley Green	Saturday, September 27, 2008
WA4TNO	George Fort	Tuesday, June 10, 2008
KA4OPC	Paul Savage *	Thursday, January 10, 2008
KD4BBZ	Richard Gillian *	Friday, February 02, 2007
K4HAN	Ancel Ouzts	Wednesday, June 21, 2006
KB4CK	Guy Copland *	Monday, April 17, 2006
K4HIH	Richard Addison	Saturday, April 15, 2006
KG4LEZ	James Shiles *	Sunday, January 01, 2006
KC4GZV	Walter Davis	Sunday, May 16, 2004
KA4PQA	Odel Lyda *	Thursday, September 25, 2003
WA9FWO	Franklin Kolar Jr *	Saturday, August 09, 2003
WD4JOU	Walt Spearman *	Monday, June 30, 2003
W4WQM	Margaret Duchett	Thursday, June 19, 2003
KC4MQA	Elbert Shirley	Sunday, January 12, 2003
KB4BUR	Nell Spearman *	Sunday, November 17, 2002
KC4CMF	Fred McKinney *	Thursday, April 04, 2002
K4QMY	Dan Hammett	Friday, September 28, 2001
KC4ZJP	Cecil Sutton *	Thursday, January 25, 2001
WA4JOS	Robert Buffington	Saturday, August 12, 2000
WV4B	Glen Jennings	Friday, January 14, 2000
K4VIA	Earle Gillian *	Monday, January 12, 1998
KC4JWL	James Taylor *	Monday, January 13, 1997
KC4LSN	JR Labron Jones *	Thursday, March 21, 1996
WA4TME	Brenda Fort	Tuesday, October 25, 1994
KD4EHP	Anne Miller	Thursday, March 24, 1994
W8MID	Jack Mc Guffee	Monday, September 07, 1992
N4LTL	James Wellmaker	Tuesday, February 05, 1991