



**Our mailing address**  
Greenwood Amateur Radio  
Society  
P.O. Box 49591  
Greenwood, SC, 29649

## 2024 CLUB

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#### Librarian

Jack Witt, KN4SIK

#### The W4GWD Repeater Network

147.165+ t107.2  
443.900 +

**W4GWM/R**  
145.420- DV  
**W4DEW/R**

# The Signal Report

A Publication of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2024

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

[W4GWD@ARRL.NET](mailto:W4GWD@ARRL.NET)



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

The GARS D-Star repeater 145.420's the new amplifier was recently installed.

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

## October 2024

The next GARS monthly meeting will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood on **October 8, 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 or have a question about net controllers please contact [Chris Ahif, KQ4GGG](#).

### VE Exam Session

The VE testing session originally scheduled for **October 1, 2024**, at 7 p.m. has been cancelled. This was done due to lingering power outages and road closures due to Hurricane Helene.. Contact [Tommy, K4XB](#) with any questions

## Congratulations!!

### Happy Birthday!

Russell Myrick KN4TUI Oct 6

Marsha Ridlehuber KD4AYF Oct 15

### Happy Anniversary!

David (K4DWR) & Betsy Russ  
Oct 14

David (WT3M) & Sally Strawhorne  
Oct 24

Vernon KQ4FBT & Regine Clamp  
Oct 29

Russell (KN4TUI) & Judy Myrick  
Oct 31



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As I was looking for things to put in the newsletter I thought it might be interesting to publish something using Artificial Intelligence (AI). I've never done this before. I thought some of you may find this interesting as AI is being used more and more in today's world. I have access to AI through X (formerly Twitter) it is available as part of a subscription I have to Elon Musk groups. I simply typed in the following, "write a three paragraph article discussing the use of 2 meters in emergency communications." Almost instantaneously the following appeared. That's it, nothing more, note I didn't even mention amateur radio. *Mike*

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The 2-meter band, which spans from 144 to 148 MHz, plays a crucial role in emergency communications due to its versatility and accessibility. This frequency range is popular among amateur radio operators, often referred to as "hams," because it allows for reliable local communication without the need for extensive licensing or complex equipment. In emergency situations where traditional communication networks like cell phones or the internet might fail, 2-meter radios become invaluable. They can be used for direct, simplex communication between two points, or through repeaters, which are essentially relay stations that can extend the range of communication significantly. This capability makes the 2-meter band ideal for coordinating local emergency responses, sharing critical information, or calling for help when other means are unavailable.

One of the key advantages of using 2-meter radios for emergency communications is their ability to leverage both simplex and duplex modes. Simplex communication involves direct radio-to-radio contact, which is perfect for short distances or when infrastructure like repeaters might be down. Duplex, on the other hand, uses repeaters to bounce signals, allowing for communication over much greater distances, sometimes covering entire regions. This dual functionality makes 2-meter radios adaptable to various emergency scenarios, from small-scale incidents like a local power outage to larger events like natural disasters where broader coordination is necessary. Moreover, the equipment required for 2-meter communication is relatively simple and portable, often handheld or mobile, which adds to its utility in emergency situations where mobility and ease of use are critical.

The effectiveness of 2-meter communications in emergencies also benefits from atmospheric conditions that can occasionally enhance signal propagation. Phenomena like tropospheric ducting can allow signals to travel much farther than usual, sometimes even across continents, providing unexpected long-range communication capabilities. This aspect, combined with the band's use in conjunction with satellite communications, underscores its importance in emergency planning. For instance, during events where terrestrial infrastructure is



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Ar-  
ticipulating in a Winter Field  
Day on Jan 27/28 2024.

2m Emergency Communications continued

compromised, satellite communications on the 2-meter band can still facilitate global communication, linking isolated areas with the outside world. Thus, the 2-meter band not only serves as a backbone for local emergency communications but also offers potential for extended reach when conditions are right, making it a cornerstone of emergency preparedness for many communities and emergency services. 73

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Dave AG4DR has done an excellent job updating both the [W4GWD.org](http://W4GWD.org) & [GARSFEST.com](http://GARSFEST.com) sites with information on the upcoming GARSFEST



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Veterans day is approaching. Veterans of any service and any time frame who would like to be recognized in our November newsletter please [send me](#) your name, callsign, dates of service and anything you would like us to know about your service. If you were in the November 2023 issue I will use the same information unless you tell me differently. Go to [W4gwd.org](http://W4gwd.org) and see the newsletter index at bottom of page then scroll to the November 2023 GARS Veterans day page.

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Please contact [Jack KN4SIK](#) if you have any comments or suggestions for the GARS library. It is there for GARS members use. The Wall locker (located at Westminster Presbyterian Church) 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.



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Short Wave Radio, October 1934

[Short-Wave-Radio-1934-10.pdf](http://Short-Wave-Radio-1934-10.pdf) ([worldradiohistory.com](http://worldradiohistory.com))



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I monitored the Sc Hearts network (441.625) on my Icom 51a on and off throughout Hurricane Helene. Many counties called in with local conditions and updates. The sc state emergency operations center acted as Net Control and in addition to receiving updates on local conditions also kept up with open gas stations & expected wait times. Some stations also provided information on open grocery stores & emergency services. Some were accepting cash only some only checks. Net control conducted many Net calls during this time , unfortunately maybe 2 in 10 counties were responding to the net call.

This is what I was using to charge iPads, two cell phones & rechargeable flashlights, and operate HF station Ziegu G90 during our three days without power.. Other than the HF rig all was purchased at [Bioenpower.com](http://Bioenpower.com)

*Mike, KA4CSM*







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### We've Been Invited Back: iMAGINE Lakelands STEAM Festival.

The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society (GARS) has been invited to participate in the iMAGINE Lakelands STEAM Festival scheduled for **Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** in uptown Greenwood.

The iMAGINE Lakelands STEAM Festival is designed to showcase PreK-12 education and career pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) through fun, hands-on learning for families from across Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, and Saluda Counties.

This is a highly visible street festival that engages companies, schools, and non profits in providing exciting, interactive STEAM learning exhibits for PreK – 12 students and their families. The purpose of the festival is to ignite the interest of students in STEAM learning and career pathways.

iMAGINE is a program of South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science (SCCMS) at Clemson University.

Last year over 100 people visited our booth and learned about our club, Ham radio, and Morse Code. Our GARS booth introduced kids (and adults) to Morse Code. In addition to learning how to convert the letters in their first names into Morse Code, and tap out their names on a real Morse Code key, Festival participants also tapped out "SOS SOS CQD CQD -- MOY" just like the radio room operators on the sinking Titanic. Participants also made a necklace or bracelet with their names in Morse Code.

More details to follow at the next GARS monthly meeting on October 8, 2024. See pictures from last years STEAM [HERE..](#) Go to newsletter index at bottom then November 2023 then scroll to STEAM event.

Hope to see you all there Di, N4DLL



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## Contesting tips, extracted & abridged from the Swamp Fox Newsletter, provided by Kevan N4XI

Sound excited when calling or answering a CQ. Make the other person want to work you. Excited people stick out more in the pileups. N4XL

Busting pileups is half skill and half art. When learning, stop contesting and take the time to simply listen to the music of a big pileup. How it changes as people come and go. Pay attention to how the Running station handles things and try to figure out how they pick a station out from the pileup. An example of what to look for is to see if the Runner is answering tail enders, picking the strongest of the surging pack, or waiting until the rush is over and pulling the S&P station from the quiet after the storm. Another is to listen if the Runner is answering stations slightly off frequency of the main pack or only from a specific region (i.e.: EU). Take the time to listen to both good and bad Runners. You'll be working both types in a contest and busting each type of pileup can require different tactics. N4XL

You should know how to use your station equipment and logging software so well it is second nature. You don't want to pause and figure out how to do something during a contest. You need to get to the point where you simply think "I want to do x" and your hands, brain, or mouth does "X" without you having to think about what button to push or phrase to say. That comes from many hours of Butt In Chair (BIC) contesting focused on racking up the points. In fact, it isn't a matter of thinking "I want to do x". Your subconscious should be in control during a QSO and you just instinctively realize "X" needs to be done. In that state of "flow" your body does it without being slowed by the requirement of consciously being directed to do so. Gaining that level of intimacy with your station requires you to practice, practice, practice. In the beginning of learning how to contest competitively (as opposed to simply playing radio or chasing awards), stop pushing for rate. Try different things. What filters work best in different situations? When trying to bust a pileup what clues do you hear that tell you it is better to try tail ending first rather than waiting for the initial rush of calls to quiet down? Learn to touch type so you don't have to watch the keyboard all the time. Etc. N4XL

I like to go over all the things to do associated with logs/scores pre and post contest. Make sure your logger is properly configured for and recently updated for the contest, proper mode(s), category, station data, club = Swamp Fox Contest Group. K3DNE

Post Contest. Submit QSO totals to SFOTA. Upload ADIF to LOTW K3DNE  
Post Contest. Submit/upload log to the contest sponsor and make sure to indicate Club: Swamp Fox Contest Group (both in the logger and, if asked, in the upload process). K3DNE

Make it fun and start simple. Pick a contest and category that fits your station and skill level. Consider propagation, your antennas, power and the likelihood of success. That can be assessed by looking at the scores of other stations in the recent past. 3830 summaries are a good place to look up the history. W7WZ



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## Contesting Tips *continued*

Read ALL of the contest rules before the day of the contest. Choose the contest category that best fits your stations and operator skills. WN4AFP

The more antennas the better. WN4AFP

Build your contesting skills both deliberately (like by following sage advice found in contesting newsletters), and by experimenting on your own in all kinds of contests, for short and medium bursts. Try different things -- including things that go against the advice you find here. AA5JF

AA5JF S&P is a good way to get started in contesting. Unfortunately, many of the larger testers are bad about giving their call in a pileup. If they don't send their call within about 3 contacts, don't wait for them to broadcast their sign. Send your call. If you're a dupe, it's on them for not broadcasting their sign. If not, when you get thru, ask for their call. This is actually one of my irritations in many contests. It only takes seconds to give your call. Keep that in mind when you are running! KZ3P

In general, you will need to get used to running to get the high QSO numbers. I got started running in the PA QSO party a few years ago. It is terrifying at first. I started S&P and found that many people were trying to get back to me. Turned out that I was the only station in Bedford county that year. Just keep in mind that you are running this frequency and you set the pace. Operator will work with you most of the time (especially if you are a rare mult). KZ3P

One of the biggest bang-for-the-buck things you can do is free. Stop making logging mistakes – or at least don't submit a log to the contest sponsors that has a questionable contact in it. Some contests hand out hefty penalties for a Busted or Not In Log (NIL) entry. Busted means you got their call wrong, and NIL means you are not in their log. You thought you were working them, but they were actually working someone else. Some log checkers also look for Unique calls. That means there is a legitimate ham radio call in your log, but no one else logged that station. Unique's can happen legitimately. Like someone only worked a few stations and you are the only one worked who submitted their log. More likely they happen because you didn't copy the other stations call correctly, or because you worked someone who wasn't actually participating in the contest but logged them anyway. You can be penalized for too many Unique call signs in your log. Here's a situation. You are calling CQ and a weak one answers. You give them their report but just can't pull them out of the muck. You don't want to claim them because you aren't sure of their call or exchange. But they might have copied you just fine. If you delete or don't log the "contact" then the log checker will pull your call from their log, do a check and not find them in your log. Even though they did everything correctly they will be penalized because you didn't log the attempted contact. Be a good sportsman. Log what you think is their call and exchange but mark it as "X-QSO" when you submit your Cabrillo log. That means you are not claiming that contact. Then you aren't penalized for a bad contact, but they still get their points for correctly copying you. A recent N1MM version release has made it much easier to mark a contact X-QSO during the contest right when the questionable contact happened.





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## Contesting Tips *continued*

As a Runner, even if you don't want to take a couple seconds out of your Run and make a couple mouse clicks to mark the contact X-QSO you should at least say "Not In Log" or "No Contact" on SSB or send "NIL" if using CW so the other station knows not to try and claim the QSO. Letting them know you didn't log them also tells them they need to try and work you again later. Who knows who they were? They might have been a unique multiplier that needs your state, county or grid. It's worth encouraging them to stop by in an hour.

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— IT'S OKAY IF —  
YOU DON'T LIKE  
HAM RADIO  
IT'S KIND OF A  
— SMART PEOPLE HOBBY —  
ANYWAY



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Just a reminder that the **absolute last day for orders and payment for GARS shirts is October 8th.** Contact [Di, N4DII](#) for information.

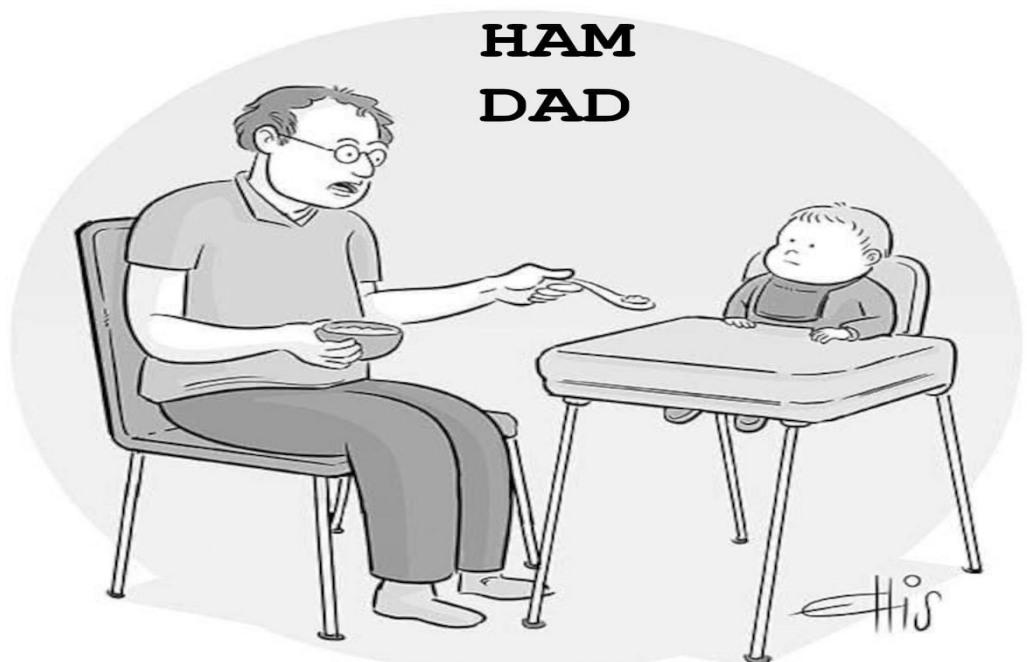
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Extracted from the ARRL Roanoke Division Newsletter September 2024, submitted by Di, N4DLL

**NEW BENEFIT FOR ARRL MEMBERS AGE 65 AND OVER** – ARRL just announced a partnership with Grouper, an organization that works with Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage insurance providers which pay members for being active in Ham Radio. If you are an ARRL member and your Supplement or Advantage plan provider is a participant in the program, you are eligible for a \$50.00 annual payment for being an ARRL member, plus if you can demonstrate that you're active by being on the air, running a net, working on a repeater, helping youth groups, participating in public service like ARES, etc., then you can receive up to \$20.00 every three months for a total of up to \$130.00 per year. That can pay for your annual ARRL membership and membership in your local club. To see if your insurance provider participates in this program, go to <https://app.hellogrouper.com/p/arrl> If your insurance company is not presently in the program, more will be added later, so keep checking.

**SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION MANAGER ELECTION** – Attention all ARRL members in the Palmetto state. It's election time for Section Manager in South Carolina, the highest ARRL position in the state. Incumbent Matthew Crook, W1MRC, of Lexington is facing challenger Billy Irwin, K9OH, from Anderson. Paper ballots will be mailed shortly and they are due back at ARRL headquarters in Connecticut by November 15. The two-year term of office will begin January 1, 2025.

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"And when I hold your food way over here, we call that 'DX.' Can you say 'DX'?"

jk

## HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Rockhill Hamfest, 10/12/2024, 1830 Celanese Rd, Rockhill, SC 29730

Imagine STEAM Festival. 10-19-2024 10:00—2:00 PM , Uptown Greenwood

[GARSFEST.com](http://GARSFEST.com) 1633 Rivers Street, Greenwood, SC, January 11, 2025,

## CLASSIFIEDS

Nothing submitted

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- \* The American Radio Relay League protects our rights as Amateur Radio Operators <http://www.arrl.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>

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I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter. Please contact me at [Mike31406@gmail.com](mailto: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
KK4RVA	Colie Floyd	Tuesday, April 9, 2024
KK4WJQ	Cynthia 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



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Call	First name last name	Date of Death
KC4IEL	Brenton Bailey	Friday, May 15, 2009
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