



# June 2018



## The Newsletter of the Alford Memorial Radio Club

# 2018 ARRL Field Day Frenzy



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# President's Notes June 2018

## Thoughts from my Shack:

**Field Day-** ARRL Field Day is planned for June 22nd-24th. The AMRC will be in Stone Mountain Park at the Events Meadow. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and new HAMs there. There will be radio contesting, great food, camping, and all kinds of fun. We will have a GOTA station where any visitor can try amateur radio. Bring your family and friends and get them on the air. We will have 2 SSB stations captained by Allison AB4YL and Greg KM4RKT. The 2 CW stations will be captained by Al Hughes and Kevin Wood. Our digital stations will include FLDIGI, PSK31 with captains Beau, KM4YMI and yours truly, KK4KHS.

**Set up and Break Down:** Please plan to set up on Friday and/or break down on Sunday. The more the merrier and divided work makes these times easier and faster.

**"Old fashioned Dinner on the Grounds"-** at Field Day on Saturday late afternoon, drinks and BBQ will be provided by the club. Club guests and members are asked to bring a side dish. Please sign up on the web page listing your side item. As a rule of thumb, please bring enough for your family plus one.

Note: There is a 15\$ fee to enter the park unless you have a valid park pass for the year.

**Field Day Special Calling of the Turnip Truck Net-** The Turnip Truck Net will come live to you from Field Day. Net control will be from the Events Meadow and this year we have special guest, Karl, K4GZZ from the old days on the Net with fun stories from the past.

Field Day Chair is Al Hughes, NZ4A and co-chair is Zargon W4PSB. They will prepare us with the program at the June meeting. Please contact Al and Zargon with questions. Click [here](#) for ARRL info on Field Day.

On July 4th- **The Annual Peachtree Road Race** takes place and volunteers are needed. 60,000 people participate in this race and we need 15 HAM radio operators to assist as volunteers. For more

info click [here](#).

**Stone Mountain Hamfest monthly meetings** will start in July and will continue through October—meetings to be announced. Hamfest is our largest event for the year and financially supports the club activities along with equipment storage and repeater management. Please consider being active in volunteering and planning for this event.

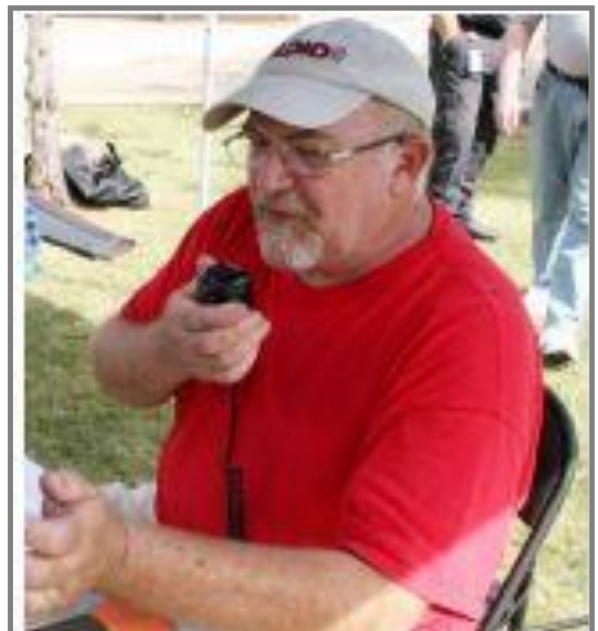
In November we will have our homebrew show and tell meeting. You won't want to miss it. Show off your Radio Projects for the year.

If you are not signed up to receive messages through the Alford Memorial Radio Club Groups, [IO](#) or Alford Memorial Radio Club facebook [page](#), you should do so as soon as possible. Our Totr newsletter, club meeting minutes, pictures, club financial reports, as well as some presentations will be available under "Files and Attachments" in IO.

We'll see you at the meeting,

73,

Mike, KK4KHS



# AMRC Upcoming Meetings

**June 14th 7pm**

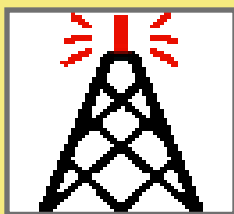
**Field Day Prep:**

**Al Hughes, NZ4A**

**Annistown Road Baptist Church**

**Club meetings are open to non-members.**

The Alford Memorial Radio Club 76 Repeater is located on top of Stone Mountain, approximately 110 ft. up the TV transmission tower. Echolink is often available on this repeater.



Since February of 2015 Kenwood commercial grade repeater equipment has been located at Exchange Park.



July 2018 7pm

TBD

Annistown Road Baptist Church.

ARRL Field 2018  
Friday, June 22nd– June 24th

See you there!!  
The Events Meadow  
Stone Mountain Park

# AMRC Membership

**As of  
June 1, 2018  
Total Memberships= 132**  
Welcome New Member  
Allan Staunton. W4ODD

## AMRC MEMBERSHIP

To become a AMRC member, or to renew your AMRC membership, please visit our website

<http://totr-radio.org/membership/memapp.htm>

To make changes to your AMRC membership (moved, new email address, new phone number, etc.), please email the Membership Chairman-[steve.n4tty@gmail.com](mailto:steve.n4tty@gmail.com)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Steve Garrison,  
N4TTY

**Club Dues Help Support  
Our Repeaters and Club  
Activities**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

**From All of Us at AMRC**

Steve Garrison, N4TTY

June 2	Harvey Pierce	K4HAP
June 4	Bob Kimsey	KM4BHK
June 5	Gillian Reid	KM4DEY
June 11	Mike Hough	KC4YCF
June 11	John Ackermann	N8UR
June 15	Al Hughes	NZ4A
June 15	Jeri Buchwald	N6OTU
June 15	Shahe Akyan	
June 17	John Morgan	KD4ATL
June 18	Susan Kimsey	KM4FMT
June 19	Mac Russell	WB4OZV
June 30	Jim Reed	N4BFR



**7AM Saturday Morning Breakfast Club  
Hardees (all are welcome)**  
5259 Stone Mountain Hwy. (St. Mtn)





## Ham Radio Devices Are Not Included in Restricted Communication Devices in New GA Law

§ 40-6-241.2. Writing, sending, or reading text based communication while operating motor vehicle prohibited; prohibited uses of wireless telecommunication devices by drivers of commercial vehicles; exceptions; penalties for violation

(a) *As used in this Code section, the term "wireless telecommunications device" means a cellular telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a stand alone computer, or any other substantially similar wireless device that is used to initiate or receive a wireless communication with another person.*

**(b) It DOES NOT include citizens band radios, citizens band radio hybrids, commercial two-way radio communication devices, subscription based emergency communications, in-vehicle security, navigation devices, and remote diagnostics systems, or Amateur or Ham Radio Devices.**

(c)

(1) No person who is 18 years of age or older or who has a Class C license shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while using a wireless telecommunications device to write, send, or read any text based communication, including but not limited to a text message, instant message, e-mail, or Internet data.

(2) No person shall operate a commercial motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while:

(A) Holding a wireless telecommunications device to conduct a voice communication;

(B) Using more than a single button on a wireless telecommunications device to initiate or terminate a voice communication; or

(C) Reaching for a wireless telecommunications device in such a manner that requires the driver to maneuver so that he or she is no longer in a seated driving position properly restrained by a safety belt.

(c) The provisions of this Code section shall not apply to:

(1) A person reporting a traffic accident, medical emergency, fire, serious road hazard, or a situation in which the person reasonably believes a person's health or safety is in immediate jeopardy;

(2) A person reporting the perpetration or potential perpetration of a crime;

(3) A public utility employee or contractor acting within the scope of his or her employment when responding to a public utility emergency;

(4) A law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services personnel, ambulance driver, or other similarly employed public safety first responder during the performance of his or her official duties; or

(5) A person engaging in wireless communication while in a motor vehicle which is lawfully parked.

(d) Any conviction for a violation of the provisions of this Code section shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$150.00. The provisions of Chapter 11 of Title 17 and any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the costs of such prosecution shall not be taxed nor shall any additional penalty, fee, or surcharge to a fine for such offense be assessed against a person for conviction thereof. The court imposing such fine shall forward a record of the disposition to the Department of Driver Services. Any violation of this Code section shall constitute a separate offense.

# **Antennas:**

## **Sometimes It's More Than Just Performance**

**Richard G3CWI**



Every few months I see debates on the internet about the best type of antenna for portable operating. Inevitably in the mix is the end-fed Half-wave antenna. The mere mention of this antenna results in well– rehearsed arguments from the antenna experts. These arguments revolve around the fact that using end-fed half wave antennas tend to result in the whole system (including the radio and any conductors attached to it such as headphones, mic leads, batteries, feeder, etc) being part of the radiating system.

Anyone professionally involved in radio systems will understand that this represents a bad situation. RF in the wrong place can cause all sorts of problems including RF feedback (often noticeable on SSB or when using data modes). It can also be a safety concern as RF burns are possible and painful and RF exposure will be hard to model. Having the whole system “live” is potentially rather lossy too as uncontrolled radiation may well occur from parts of the system that are on or close to the ground. Armed with these undeniable facts, the experts condemn the end-fed half-wave.

They are missing an important part of the story. In some situations an end-fed half-wave antennas may be a good choice. It has some advantages over other antenna types- ,mainly related to convenience. It can be an easy antenna to erect, lightweight, and flexible to use. On low power, the RF feed back issue is seldom a big problem and safety is not a problem. Of course, as discussed above, the antenna probably won't work quite as effectively as a dipole or elevated quarter wave ground plane but if you can live with somewhat weaker signals, the balance may swing back in your favor of this much maligned antenna; despite what the antenna experts might say.

73, Richard G3CWI

# Member Spotlight of the Month

## Doug Rea, KX4IB

My origins are Long Island NY but lived a good part of my life in Florida.  
Had a stint in the 90's in NC as well.  
Been living in Georgia since '99 and Atlanta since the summer of 2014.

AGE: 58

Married for 35 years, 4 daughters and 6 granddaughters.

Took my tech and general on the same day and became licensed 10/02/17  
Got the Extra and the current call sign on 1/15/18. I am also ARRL/VE certified

Currently on the bench is the Kenwood TS-590SG.  
The Heathkit SB-220 amplifier provides about 1200w when I need a bit of help  
punching through the pile-up.

Everything passes trough a MFJ 998.

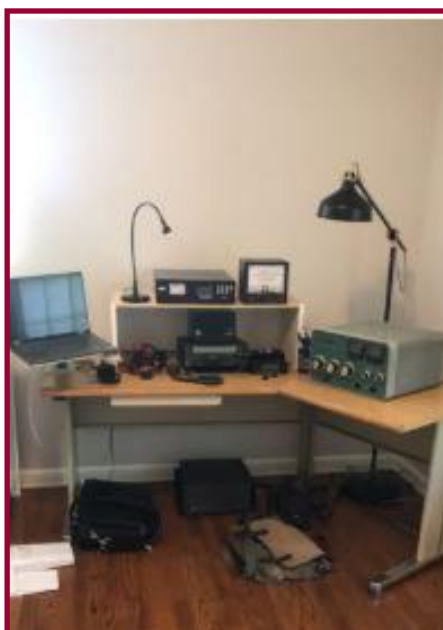
A homebrew 20/40/80 fan dipole will be close to 50' at the feedpoint for HF  
It tunes well to 60 and 17.

Have the 590SG linked to the Windows 10 machine via  
SDRplay2 for a

panadapter.

Signalink provides digital  
modes.

**To be member spotlight of the  
month- please update your QRZ  
page.**





## Agnes Scott Announcements: (Steve Vogel, W4PSV)

Agnes Scott College Monthly Sessions and Ham Shack are closed for the Summer. These sessions will resume in the Fall TBA.



Please go to page 15 for a link that will take you to a youtube video about  
**Guglielmo Marconi and his contributions to science.**  
**Enjoy!**

KK4AGN, Margie, a local YL had a Quilt made out of QSL cards she received. The cards are actually printed on cloth.



### Merchandise from Alford Memorial Radio Club

Stop by and see Greg Mann to order your Field Day clothing. You will save on shipping when ordered at the meeting. Also available ham vests, polo shirts with club logo and your call sign. See Greg Mann, KM4RKT or email him [km4rkt.greg@gmail.com](mailto:km4rkt.greg@gmail.com) at with questions.

## 2018 AMRC Officers and Committee Chairs

Mike Smith, KK4KHS  
President  
[smithrm71@yahoo.com](mailto:smithrm71@yahoo.com)

Pat De Loe, N4MPC  
Vice President  
[patdeloe@gmail.com](mailto:patdeloe@gmail.com)

Allison Lynch, AB4YL  
Secretary  
[allison48fan@yahoo.com](mailto:allison48fan@yahoo.com)

Greg Mann, KM4RKT  
Treasurer and Apparel  
Manager  
[km4rkt.greg@gmail.com](mailto:km4rkt.greg@gmail.com)

Gene Blackburn, N4UJ  
W4BOC Trustee  
[g.blackburn@ieec.org](mailto:g.blackburn@ieec.org)

Jim Penland, N4RAR  
DeKalb ARES EC

Steve Vogel, W4PSV  
Public Information  
[svdec@bellsouth.net](mailto:svdec@bellsouth.net)

Steve Garrison, N4TTY  
Membership Chairman  
[Steve.n4tty@gmail.com](mailto:Steve.n4tty@gmail.com)

Jim Penland, N4RAR  
Counsel

Al Hughes, NZ4A  
Field Day Chair

Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
VE Team Chair

Gretchen Mann, W1MKW  
TOTR Editor  
[gretchelby@gmail.com](mailto:gretchelby@gmail.com)





## Tip Of the Month

### Cheap Shielded Box

Tom Roderick WA4GIM

**TIP:** The local Big Box home store can provide inexpensive ,and with the aluminum tape, shielded enclosures for projects.

I was testing an idea for using a relatively inexpensive headset (Koss SB-40) with my FT-450D transceiver. Since the FT-450D uses an RJ-45 connector for the microphone and the head set uses 3.5 mm connectors I needed a way to interface the headset to the radio and provide for push-to-talk.

Since I didn't know if this would even work, I didn't want to use a fancy and expensive metal box so I used a single gang plastic electrical box and cover plate for my prototype build.

Early tests seemed to indicate it did work, but I was getting reports of high levels of RF on my transmitted SSB signal. I then realized I REALLY needed to have used a shielded box. Instead of starting over in a more expensive box I got a roll of the ALUMINUM duct tape (can't seem to get away from that stuff) to cover the box and lid outside with it lapping over the seam so that both the top and box would be shielded and grounded. At first it did NOT work until I realized that the Microphone ground is NOT connected to the Transmit/Receive ground. A small piece of electrical tape isolated the microphone connector. This worked and, along with a change to using a regular Cat5 cable to connect the box to the FT-450D it has eliminated the RF from getting into the transmit audio.



# Volunteer as a HAM

Volunteering in your community as a HAM radio operator affects the hobby and the community in so many ways. The first thing it does is assist the community in providing a safe environment and a means of communicating necessary information to those who need it. HAMs who volunteer for races and parades provide information vital to the program we are assisting. Sometimes this information can be updates on where the race leaders are on a course to something as important as getting medical assistance to participants in need. HAMs help save lives and help coordinate needed care. As a service we provide it allows a free and useful means of communication connecting people over distances.

Volunteering helps us be better communicators. Being mobile teaches us lessons about radio that you can't learn in your easy chair at home. Propagation and reception can be challenging and you really learn how terrain and structures affect radio waves. At some time interference is inevitable. It helps you understand what is happening when it occurs. It teaches you proper emergency communication protocol and allows you to practice your radio skills.

When HAMs are actively visible in the community, it makes HAM radio a current active hobby, and takes us out of the past for many civilians. People always ask questions and they many times comment on how they did not think HAM radio was a "thing" anymore. It allows us to be an ambassador to the hobby and educate people on this amazing world of communication. Digital modes always seem to surprise people.

If races and parades are not your thing, you can volunteer at other venues like maker fairs, schools, Scouts, dog shows, hamfests, hospitals, or just activate a cool historical site. The Alford Memorial Radio Club supports its members in these types of activities. If you have questions about volunteering, please contact an officer of the club for more information.

We appreciate all of you that make HAM radio a part of your giving back to the community. Barry and Judy Kanne, W4TGA, K4JLK, respectively, are pictured below at the recent Tour de Cure (bike race for raising money for Diabetes Research). They were the communications for Rest Stop 5, volunteering through DeKalb Ares. For more information about DeKalb Ares Click [here](#), or contact Jim Penland, N4RAR.



10 June 2018

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### State Net Listings:

#### Georgia State SECTION HF NETS!!!!

- Georgia ARES Statewide 3975 KHz 2200 UTC Sunday K4GK Net Manager
- Georgia ARES Digital 3583 KHz 2100 UTC Sunday K4GO Net Manager
- Georgia Single Sideband Net 3975 KHz 7 PM Daily KE4VPD Net Manager
- Georgia Traffic & Emergency Net 3982.5 KHz 7:15 Daily KI4NGD Net Manager
- Georgia Cracker Net 3995 KHz 7 AM M-Sa & 8 AM Sun AF4XZ Net Manager
- Georgia Traffic Net 7287.5 KHz (3587.5 Alt) Mon-Sat; WA0CGZ Net Manager
- Georgia Training (CW) Net 3549 KHz slow speed CW; 9 PM Daily; KG4FXG Net Manager
- Georgia State Net (GSN) 3549 KHz 7 PM & 10 PM Daily; K4GK Net Manager

Georgia ARES Web Site, Check it out!!!

<https://gaares.org/index.php>

## Peach Corner Recipe of the Month

### Easy Oreo Cookie Ice Cream Gretchen Mann, W1MKW

Ingredients:

1. Half Gallon Vanilla Ice cream (you can also use other flavors (coffee or chocolate))
2. One container of Cool Whip.
3. One package of Oreo Cookies

Let Ice cream soften. Take out all the Oreo cookies and place them in a Ziploc bag. Get te air out of the bag and close bag. Take rolling pin and crush into desired sized pieces. Add to softened ice cream. Fold in the cool whip and place in plastic container with lid in freezer to set.

Tastes like homemade oreo cookies and cream.

Enjoy!!!!

Send recipes to  
Gretchen Mann,  
W1MKW



- ♦ Monthly club meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm
- ♦ Every Sunday at 7:00 pm: AMRC Sunday Night Net on the 146.760 repeater.
- ♦ Every Sunday at 8:00 pm: DeKalb ARES Net on the 145.450 repeater.
- ♦ Every Saturday at 7:00 am: AMRC Weekly Breakfast, Metro Café Diner, Stone Mtn, Ga.
- ♦ Turnip Truck Net at 11pm Saturday Night





## BUY, SWAP, and SELL

1. Kantronics KAM Plus TNC– 75\$

Hardware Terminal Node Controller, supports VHF and HF (dual port), comes with both sets of cable and powerpole power cable. Has latest firmware installed

2. Deltron Battery 12V Lithium Battery-75\$

12V Lithium Crank Battery-21-24Ah SLA equivalent. Will run a mobile rig for several hours. Weighs less than three pounds. Contact Greg Mann by email- [km4rkt@arri.net](mailto:km4rkt@arri.net)

**Volunteer Opportunity:**  
**The 49th Annual AJC Peachtree**  
**Road Race. July 4th**  
**Volunteer Hams Needed**  
**Click Here for more information**

**Mill Springs Academy Students Speak with the**  
**International Space Station. Click [here](#) to read the AJC article about Lo-**  
**cal HAMS here in GA helping expose youth to the hobby.**

**Gene Blackburn, N4UJ, visited a local church vacation bible school this month and taught students about Morse code, telegrams, and the first “wireless” transmissions. He brought his Morse code equipment to show to the class which the children loved. He told them how the two radio men on the Titanic were responsible for saving all those who lived through that disaster by sending out the SOS. Gene invited the class to visit "Field Day" at Stone Mountain. The children really enjoyed Gene as their special guest. Hopefully we will see some of the students at field day. Thank you Steve Vogel, W4PSV, for making this opportunity possible.**

## May NETS REPORT

AMRC		DeKalb ARES			Turnip Truck	
Sunday Night Net			RF	Winlink/DRats		
May 6	29	May 6	15	11/9	May 5	21
May 13	26	May 13	11	8/0	May 12	22
May 20	25	May 20	12	7/0	May 19	1
May 27	27	May 27	12	8/0	May 26	18

## AMRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net</b>  <b>8pm DeKalb ARES NET</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>7am Breakfast at Hardees, Fox Hunt</b>  <b>11pm Turnip Truck Net</b>
<b>3</b>  <b>7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net</b>  <b>8pm DeKalb ARES NET</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>8pm Em Com</b>  <b>RagChew Net</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>7am Breakfast at Hardees</b>  <b>11pm Turnip Truck Net</b>
<b>10</b> <b>7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net</b>  <b>8pm DeKalb ARES NET</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>8pm Em Com</b>  <b>RagChew Net</b>	<b>14</b> <b>AMRC Monthly Meeting—</b> <b>Annistown Road Baptist Church</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>7am Breakfast at Hardees</b>  <b>11pm Turnip Truck Net</b>
<b>17</b> <b>7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net</b>  <b>8pm DeKalb ARES NET</b>  <b>Publix Marathon</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>8pm Em Com</b>  <b>RagChew Net</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Field Day Set up</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>7am Breakfast at Hardees</b>  <b>11pm Turnip Truck Net</b>  <b>FIELD DAY</b>
<b>24</b> <b>7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net</b>  <b>8pm DeKalb ARES NET</b>  <b>FIELD DAY/Break Down</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>8pm Em Com</b>  <b>Ragchew Net</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>7am Breakfast at Hardees</b>  <b>11pm Turnip Truck Net</b>
<b>31</b> <b>AMRC SUN PM Net</b>  <b>8pm DeKalb ARES</b>						

## Activities

Date	Event	Website	Location / Notes
Monthly	Club Meetings	<b>First Thursday of Month</b> → <b>Second Tuesday of Month</b> → <b>Second Thursday of Month</b> → <b>Third Tuesday of Month</b> →	Atlanta Radio Club <a href="http://www.atlantaradioclub.org">www.atlantaradioclub.org</a> (Atlanta) Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society <a href="http://www.gars.org">www.gars.org</a> (Lawrenceville) Alford Memorial Radio Club <a href="http://www.totr-radio.org">www.totr-radio.org</a> (Stone Mountain) North Fulton Amateur Radio League <a href="http://www.nfarl.org">www.nfarl.org</a> (Alpharetta)
Second Saturday of the month	North GA QRP Club meeting	<a href="http://www.nogaqrp.org">www.nogaqrp.org</a>	This small, but growing, group of amateur radio enthusiasts, most of whom are within 90 miles (and more) of Atlanta, are interested in promoting the development of low power amateur radio known as QRP. Meetings are normally held at the <b>Shepherd Center</b> , 2020 Peachtree Rd., NW Atlanta, GA 30309
Second Sunday of the month	Sunday Tech	<a href="http://SecondSunday.tech">SecondSunday.tech</a>	2:00 – 5:00 PM at the <b>DeKalb Peachtree Airport</b> . This is a monthly hands-on technical session for hams and people interested in Amateur Radio activities. Check website for any changes in location.

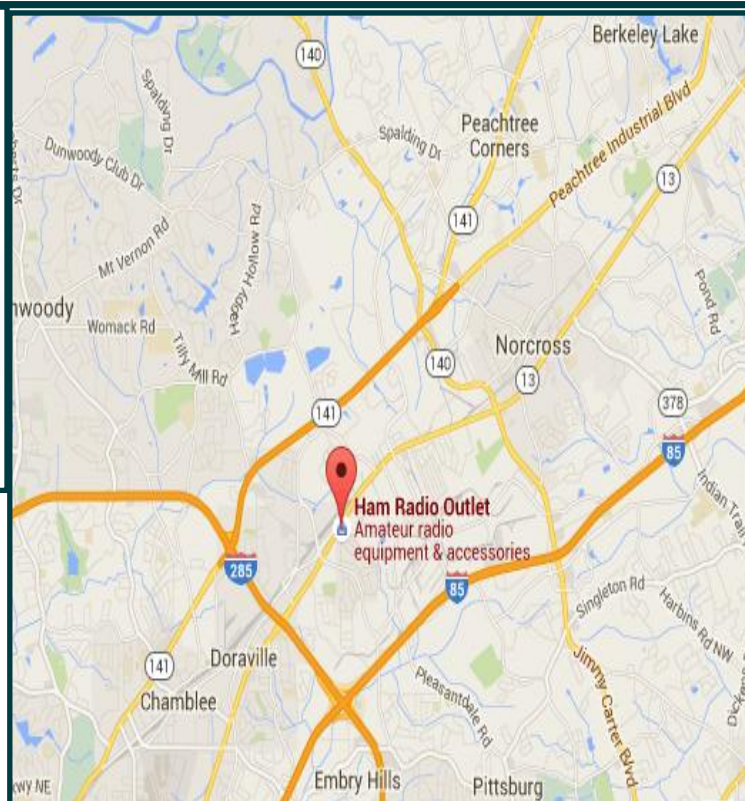
### HAMFESTS IN YOUR FUTURE

08/18/2018 | Southeastern Division Convention (Huntsville Hamfest) Location: Huntsville, AL Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Association Website: <http://www.hamfest.org> For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar> Click [here](#).

### Historical Sites to Activate in Georgia

Are there any historical sites you would like to see the Club activate? Please email Gretchen at [gretchelby@gmail.com](mailto:gretchelby@gmail.com) with your suggestions. Thank you for helping the club with your input.





**ATLANTA, GA:**

**Store Hours:**

**10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat**

**Telephone hours:**

**9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat**

**LOCAL: 770-263-0700**

**FAX: 770-263-9548**

**Special Thanks from the Editor (W1MKW) to everyone who submits items for the Totr. It is your newsletter and only as good as its contributions.**

**Apology for the belated release of this month's newsletter. The editor appreciates your patience and kindness this month.**

**Click [Here](#) to learn about Guglielmo Marconi's life and his contributions to science and radio.**

**Wanted  
Program Manager for the Alford  
Memorial Radio Club to help  
organize and plan meeting  
topics.**

**Hamtoons**  
**CARTOON QSLs**  
**-- AND MORE!**  
Jim Massara,  
N2EST  
n2est@hamtoons.net

## **ARRL Contest Calendar**

**<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>.  
Or click [here](#) to go to contest page.**

**L&M Mobility**

**Robert (Mike) Smith**  
5191 La Paloma Dr.  
Lilburn, GA 30047  
Phone (404)-509-3104  
[Smithrm71@gmail.com](mailto:Smithrm71@gmail.com)

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