

May 2019 TOTR

Newsletter Of The Alford Memorial Radio Club

Safety First



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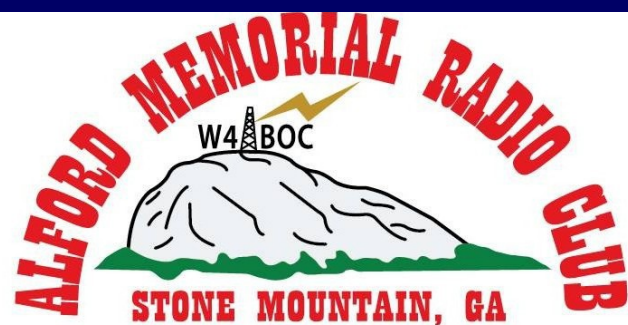
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May 2019 President's Notes

Get ready for Field Day! Yes, it's that fun time of the year again when we get to spend a full weekend playing radio outdoors with friends, eating large amounts of food, and visiting with those who we haven't seen since last year. Field day is always the last full weekend in June, so we're looking forward to seeing everyone. Bring your chair, some food, your radio experience, and help the club make a lot of contacts.

On field day, amateur operators strive to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands). They learn to operate in uncontrolled environments and in less than optimal conditions. Field day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field. And organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. Even with a technician class license an amateur operator can work HF bands with extra class privileges under the club designated call sign. Non-licensed individuals are also welcomed to come and participate in field day, including making radio contacts.

Zargon, WB2PSB is our Field Day Chairperson this year and we welcome him to this new position. If you ordered Field Day Apparel, you can get it from Greg Mann at the June meeting. Jim, W4RAR, is cooking BBQ again this year which I'm really looking forward to. It's always been very good.

I had a conversation with a new ham which I wanted to share:

Him: I'm currently working towards my technician license and I'm trying to do all that I can to prevent from screwing up right off the bat. So, what are some things I should be aware of after I get my license?

Me: Listen, listen, listen and learn. But get on the air ASAP. You'll learn. Will you make mistakes? Yes, but everyone does when they start. Hams tend to be very forgiving, however, you will eventually run into the self-appointed ham police, hell-bent on telling you that you're doing everything wrong. Politely sign, and spin the big knob.

Him: I can't find an Elmer.

Me: Then find another ham your own level and experiment together. You'll still learn more people to bounce ideas off face to face then just being alone.

If you hear a new ham on the air. Please encourage them and remember you were once in their shoes.

See you at the meeting

Mike, KK4KHS



Meeting Information June 13, 2019
7:00pm Annistown Road Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall (back of the building)
Field Day Preparation– Zargon WB2PSB

AMRC Repeaters

146.760– On St. Mtn. approximately 110 ft up the TV transmission Tower. ECHO LINK available on the 76.

441.8125– on Stone Mountain under the dome.

145.450– Exchange Park

444.250– Exchange Park

224.760– Exchange Park



Repeater Manager Barry Kanne W4TGA

radio.w4tga@gmail.com



HAMS HELPING HAMS
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on the Air since 2017.
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you want to help.

AMRC MEMBERSHIP

May 1, 2019=132

Welcome New Members:

Najee Diaab, no call yet
Jon Peters, KN4TKX
Roger Woolery, KK4CRL
Sandy Woolery

Become a member of AMRC or renew by visiting our website <http://totr-radio.org/membership/memapp.htm> Click here.

To Make Changes to your membership (new address, email, or phone number) please email

Steve Garrison

Membership Chairman

Steve.n4tty@gmail.com

Update or renew your amateur radio license with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>. Click Here.

Update or renew your ARRL membership at their website <http://www.arrl.org> Click here

Club Dues are Due in January.

Dues help support our repeaters and club activities. Thank you for promptly renewing.

Steve Garrison

N4TTY

Membership Chair



Happy May Birthday from AMRC

MAY 04 KR4NQ Randy Bassett
MAY 10 WK2Y Bob Gerzoff
MAY 11 KF4MWI Brian Siegmund
MAY 11 KK4HUE Andrea Hestley
MAY 13 KM4RKT Greg Mann
MAY 15 WoSGR Nicholas Blubaugh
MAY 15 KM4FQV Larry Bentley
MAY 18 KI4OYI Andrew Barnhardt
MAY 18 KM4YOR Richard Jones
MAY 20 KP4HF Jerry Vallardares
MAY 23 WD4FOX Jon Peters
MAY 23 N4TTY Steve Garrison
MAY 23 KJ4CUY Ade Shamblin
MAY 23 KI4VDU Doug Papciak
MAY 24 W4TGA Barry Kanne
MAY 25 W4EPI Steve Diggs
MAY 25 KA4AUB Max Maxfield
MAY 26 KJ4DCA Jacob Swanson
MAY 30 KI4HQD Mike Cooper
MAY 30 KJ4NYV Maurice Tanner (SK)

**Happy Belated Birthdays
April 2019 Page 11.**

**We hope your birthday was
special.**

Rob Bennett WD4DUI

AMRC Spotlight Member of the Month

Got my novice call, WD4DUI on April Fools day 1976 or could be 1977.... HMMM Wish I could find my original ticket..

Started my Electronics hobby and profession at about 12 years old when I built a crystal radio and it took off from there! Started my pro electronics career working on tube Black & White televisions across the street from Church Hill Downs. I have yet to go inside to watch the races or for anything else. Sorta looking like living 10 minutes from the beach and not going ...

Spent 8 years in the Air Force as a Wideband Radio technician & supervisor (AFSC 30470) and worked on analog and digital mux equipment and microwave transmitter/receivers. (TRC-97 mobile microwave radio mux, TSC-62 Tech Control Facilities, LC-4 & LC8 radios, MR300, GRC-66 (AKA JERK66) Seimens VZ-12, VZ-60 MUX & EM-400 and TRW channel banks and radios) Stationed at Feldberg Germany for 4 years, it WAS the largest Autovon switch in Europe. The tower is still there and it is **really big and tall** and I was not allowed not hang an HF antenna on it. I was DA1BT while in Germany..Spent a year in Kwang-Ju,, Korea, 4th Combat Comm,, 507 TACCS at Shaw AFB, Sumpter S.C. and a year flying a desk in Rome, NY Griffiss AFB, CCD (Continental Communication Division). Worked as a Fiber Tech for Sprint, the Chief Engineer for a wireless MMDS cable company in Port Saint Lucie, FL, a few years as a Tech Supervisor and repair facility engineer for PageNet. (remember pagers?) Also did time as a Production Manager/ Engineer for a Radio Direction Finder (TechComm) company in Sunrise, FL. Can't wait to get out of South Florida and out of this HOA and get some real antennas installed. (We finally made it outta SoFla and now live in lovely Decatur Georgia)

We (Judy and me) now live in Decatur Georgia. Gotta get some antennas in and on the air and mitigate this damned wideband noise!

Been doing the radio electronics thing for a long time starting with TV repairs and installing CB radios in the 70s(Hung around Radio Shack....alot). Went to Ahrens Trade School in Louisville, KY, Charlie Cave was my instructor.

Born in 29 Palms CA and moved to Louisville, KY in 1965, Dad was a Marine. Grew up in Louisville and joined the USAF in 1979 and moved to Florida in 1990, Okeechobbe fist and then Port Sait Lucie and then Boca Raton and presently living in Decatur, GA

I left lots out, like my fathert's call was K4MXQ, KD4TDA and K4MXQ again.

Will update more one of these days...Maybe...Guess it really doesn't matter either way.

Damned the torpedoes! Full speed ahead! (David Farragut)

73
Rob



CW OPs Level One Experience

Gretchen Mann, W1MKW

Armed with a new MFJ Electronic Keyer Paddle with Memory Model MFJ-422E and a strong “Why” nearby I enrolled in the CW Ops Level 1 program and began to practice. My grandfather was a ship to shore morse code operator on Cape Cod and having his call sign, I want to get it back on the CW air. The other why was to be able to do something in radio my husband has not done first.

I highly recommend the course. I so highly recommend it that I may be taking it over again, good thing I like it. I can send on demand and I can on good days understand what one is sending. In a class of 5, I am the only YL, and the only Southerner. I think I am comic relief as thank y’all at the end of class cause smirks and laughter from most of the guys. I will say, for northerners, they sure do have an understanding of southern hospitality. Everyone is kind and patient with everyone else. Although we are quiet we are cheerleaders for each other.

I tease often that we are the bad news bears of CW and our fearless leader Joe Fischer AA8TA is Coach Buttermaker. I tease about this to non members of the class and family and friends. Joe has been incredibly kind and patient with all of us, and I know sometimes he has to be thinking, “Are you in this class?” 8pm on Mondays and Thursdays every week can make for a long day. When I have put out fires all day, or I have pulled a long shift, sometimes my CW IQ goes down. Although I am my toughest critic, I have learned a lot from the class, seeing I knew nothing when I started. After less than 2 months I can on good days decipher small words, letters, and numbers. I am working on instant character recognition. Who knew it is a bad idea to count dits and dahs? And don't write it down....what? Hear it in your head? Don't think about it? All these things make me want to count the dits and dahs, think about it, and write it down. I get hung up when I do this and when I don't, things go better.

While I do not think Joe treats me differently there is a different strategy to coaching girls in skills. If we trust you know what you are doing and are kind to us, we tend to be loyal and work very hard to achieve and learn. I will miss Joe at the end of this class. Withdraw has begun to sink in and we still have a couple of weeks. I trust what he says. He is our biggest fan. He sends our names and calls signs until we hear it and get it, and sometimes this can take awhile. He never gives up on us, he just suffers though. I will miss everyone so much. I will miss Steve, who always has an interesting tshirt on. I will miss Marc who is often not there anyway, but comes back to show us up on occasion. I will miss Bob who is in Africa studying Malaria and really impresses me as CW and dyslexia are tough on one another. I will miss Nicholas, who always has the answer on the tip of his tongue and has audio trouble when it is time to send. See, we are the Bears. Mostly, Joe has helped me to love CW, more than what I bargained for.

CW Ops Level one is set up with assigned Homework using the Morse code Trainer website. Then we also play games, work on instant character recognition, and send things that are interesting to us. My sending was often an NHL update on the Stanley Cup Finals.

Try CW Ops and let's bring some new CW operators to the AMRC. Bring yourself, a good attitude, and be patient and diligent. This is what Joe has taught me the most. I am grateful, and full of hope.

73, Gretchen W1MKW



2019 AMRC Officers and Committee Chairs

Mike Smith KK4KHS
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smithrm71@yahoo.com



Greg Mann KM4RKT
Vice President/ Apparel Mgr
km4rkt.greg@gmail.com



Anthony Acker ND4AA
Secretary



Zack Buersmeyer KN4HKB
Treasurer



Gene Blackburn N4UJ
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Steve Garrison N4TTY
Membership
Steve.n4tty@gmail.com



Zargon W4PSB
Field Day Chair



Gretchen Mann W1MKW
Totr Newsletter Editor
gretchelby@gmail.com



Frank Haynes KV4SP
VE Team Chair

If you would like to serve on a committee or assist a chair person in their work, contact Mike KK4KHS. It is a great way to make contacts and learn. Don't be shy.

May 2019 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.	2.	3.	4. Breakfast 7AM Hardees Turnip Turck Net 11pm
5 AMRC Sunday Night Net 7pm	6	7	8 Emm Comm Rag Chew 8pm	9 AMRC Monthly Meeting 7pm	10	11 Breakfast 7am Hardees Turnip Truck Net 11pm
12 AMRC Sunday Night Net 7pm	13	14	15 Emm Comm Rag Chew 8pm	16	17	18 Breakfast 7am Hardees Turnip Truck Net 11pm
19 AMRC Sunday Night Net 7pm	20	21	22 Emm Comm Rag Chew 8pm	23	24	25 Breakfast 7am Hardees Turnip Truck Net 11pm
26 AMRC Sunday Night Net 7pm	27	28	29 Emm Comm Rag Chew 8pm	30	31	

Public Information



Agnes Scott Program will resume in the Fall. Stay tuned for information regarding programs and open house events.

AMRC Merchandise

Jackets

Polo shirts

Tshirts

Hats

Name tags

Emergency Vests

Contact Greg Mann KM4RKT

km4rkt.greg@gmail.com

Cash, Credit/Debit, Checks
Google Pay, and Apple Pay
Accepted.



Hate the heat, ticks, and bugs at Field Day? The 2019 AMRC Field Day venue has changed to an inside venue, the Stone Mtn Masonic Lodge 840 VFW Drive Stone Mountain, GA 30086. Don't miss the June Totr and June Meeting for new info.

April 2019 NET NUMBERS

AMRC		DeKalb ARES			Turnip Truck	
Sunday Night Net			RF	Winlink/DRats		
April 7	22	April 7	11	8/7	April 6	17
April 14	21	April 14	12	6/6	April 13	No Net
April 21	19	April 21	16	8/6	April 20	17
April 28	24	April 28	7	7/8	April 27	18

To participate as Net Control for the Sunday Night Net , please go to the club's website at <https://www.totr-radio.org>. Scroll down and Click on the link to the Net Control sign up sheet or click [here](#). Thanks for your help.

NVIS Propagation

When a horizontal dipole is $\frac{1}{2}$ -wave high, it has a wide null overhead, and a main signal radiation pattern shaped like an inverted cone. The reflected wave from the ground is out of phase with the antenna and so causes partial phase cancellation overhead. This makes a good "DX" antenna, with gain at relatively low angles, and a wide skip zone. Problems arise, however, on regional nets and rag chews, because of the skip zone.

From late evening to early morning, 75 meters may spread out to 1500 miles or more, as the D-layer disappears and absorption is no longer a factor in path losses. The typical NVIS antenna pattern shows the signal power at 20 degrees is down 20db, so it is more likely that 1000-2000 mile contacts are made not by the -20db single-hop ray, but two or even multiple hops from the much more powerful rays available at the higher angles.

In the morning, the sun gradually reestablishes D-layer ionization. It starts absorbing signal power like a giant blanket of attenuation, and its effect increases steadily (more or less) as the sun gets higher. With the NVIS antenna, the low angles where RF power is lowest will become useless out at some point, and the practical signal path distance will draw in to two to three hundred miles radius by mid-to-late morning. This is because most of the signal power is at high angles, and only the main lobe of the antenna is powerful enough to penetrate the D-layer twice. By late-morning (typically), signals beyond 150-200 miles usually become very weak, then inaudible. Raising both antennas substantially (to 125 feet) would provide more power at lower angles and thus increase the range and/or time available, but this is usually quite impractical. The practical solution is to switch to 40 meters, where D-layer absorption is much less and the antenna is twice as high in terms of wavelength.

All of this explains why the reliable, effective path length on 75 meters contracts and expands with the day-night cycle. A desirable effect of the NVIS vertical lobe is the reduction of received atmospheric static from distant storms (in the daytime), since most atmospheric static comes in from angles below about 15 degrees. Narrowing the vertical beam width of the antenna reduces the noise further. This is accomplished by lowering the antenna until the best signal-to-noise ratio is achieved.

Another factor to consider is groundwave. If the stations are close enough, the groundwave and skywave will mix in the receiver, and cause multipath distortion, due to the considerable difference in path lengths. For example, for stations 10 miles apart, the groundwave will travel 10 miles, but the skywave will travel 200-300 miles.

For emergency groups such as ARES, NVIS is the tactical communication system of choice in many areas, any areas without complete repeater coverage, and all situations where repeater-based systems have failed or might fail. With the mobile and even portable HF radios, HF, and antennas employing NVIS propagation, should become

much more popular and useful for disaster tactical communications.

NVIS-equipped Amateur fixed stations enjoy regional nets and rag-chews without the annoying skip zone. It is particularly useful to net controllers and emergency practice groups. All fixed stations should take steps to immediately supplement their antenna farms with at least a dual-band NVIS antenna (described herein).

Antenna and propagation experimentation is FUN! Building and deploying antennas is as close as many hams get to home brewing. NVIS is as easy as antenna experimentation can get. The antennas are simple, and are installed very low. Light-gauge wire and nylon string may be nailed to trees at extension-ladder heights. Dropping a dipole and making a change to it takes only minutes and may easily be done by one person without the need to obtain helpers or plan a big event.

NVIS antennas are stealthy. HOA property owner's associations have restricted the placement of visible antennas and severely stifled Amateurs' pleasure, emergency preparedness, experimentation, and innovation. With NVIS, a fine wire may be brought through the trees, or routed along the top of a privacy fence. The Ham thusly equipped may never win any low-band DX awards, but will still have ample opportunities for QSOs and nets within the regional circle provided by an NVIS antenna in the daytime, in addition to some low-band DX at night, particularly in the winter when the storms are gone.

By Harold Melton, KV5R



Peach Corner Monthly Recipe: Lemon Pale Ale Popsicles

- 1/3 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice (about 4 large lemons)

1/4 cup sugar

1 cup pale ale or IPA

Instructions

- 1. Mix all ingredients together in a pitcher or measuring cup with a spout, stir until sugar has dissolved.**
- 2. Pour into popsicle molds and freeze for at least 6 hours.**

Run molds under hot water until the popsicles release.



Happy Belated Birthdays April 2019

APR 02 Donna Redfern

APR 03 WA4GIM Tom Roderick

APR 05 KS4KY Neil Martin

APR 09 AB4QQ Russell Prevost

APR 10 KK4ZII Amy Lovell

APR 11 KF4VBR Robert Tyler

APR 11 Sharon Siegmund

APR 14 W4HLP Harvey Pearson

APR 16 KJ4NYU Katherine Tanner

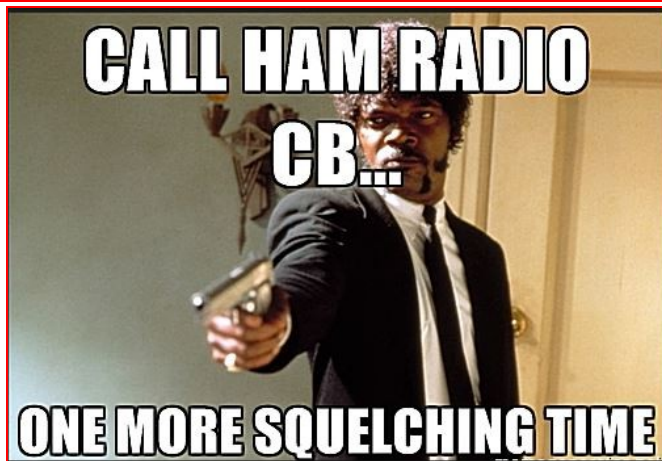
APR 17 KG4IUM Andrea Wayward

APR 20 KN4KWQ Scott Keller

APR 21 KN4KKE Jonathan Lee

APR 22 KM4PEH Jon Richardson

APR 23 W4RSO Hugh Price



So I bought a new transceiver
and she asked...



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Message from the Editor:

Thank you for your patience. My extra time was spent learning and practicing my CW skills. Please look for, in the next couple of weeks, the June Totr. Thank you for your patience.

Gretchen Mann– 73!

GIRLS ONLY WANT BOYFRIENDS

WHO HAVE HAM RADIO SKILLS