

# Stone Mountain Georgia



## TOP OF THE ROCK

The Newsletter of the Alford  
Memorial Radio Club

August 2016

<http://totr-radio.org/>



**Next Meeting August 11th  
Taking your rig on vacation!**



### August Issue Contents

- President's Notes
- Club Pictures
- Apps for Ham Radio
- NPOTA Update
- Ask Your Elmer
- Next Atlanta Area Fox Hunt
- Birthdays and Member Info
- Calendar for June
- Sponsors

Aug 2016 ~



# Message from the President

90, 60, 30, and counting down!

It is just 90 days until the 2016 Stone Mountain HamFest will again be at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Be sure your calendar is marked and you have set aside some time for the weekend of November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> to come out and help your club put on the finest Hamfest in Georgia. And by coming out, I don't mean to just come out and wander the boneyard and drool over the new toys in the main exhibit hall, I mean come out and help us work!. Sure come do the wandering and the drooling, but also set aside 4 hours or so to actually work at the Hamfest. If every club member was to put in 4 hours of work in addition to their wandering and drooling it would sure make it a lot easier to put on a superb hamfest for the ones that spend countless hours at the fairgrounds that weekend and the days before.

As for the 60, that's how many days it is before elections for next year's executive board is scheduled to take place. That's right, at the October meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, we will hold the elections for officer that will be helping the club move into the future. Have you thought about where you want the club to be headed or what you want it to be doing in the future? This is your chance to have a say so in what the club will be doing as time marches on.

And 30, well that is the number of days until nominations for next year's officers will be opened for nominations from the floor. The nominating committee (the executive board) will have a slate of officers to present to the membership, but then the floor will be opened for members to submit their nominations. If you've

thought about running for office to help set the direction of the club this is the time to throw your hat into the ring for one of the officer positions. Or if you know of someone that you think would do a good job as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Trustee, this is the time to nominate them, with their permission. The floor will be opened again on election night before the official vote for any last minute nominations.

I have served long enough as President, and before that as Vice President, so I will not be running for re-election. I will not be going away, so you aren't getting rid of me just yet. I just won't be sitting at the tables in the front of the room, but hanging out somewhere in the back.

And on a last note, there is going to be another *Fox Hunt!* *This one put on by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL).* *It will be on Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>.* It kicks off at 8:30AM from the Publix parking lot near the intersection of GA20 (Cumming Hwy) and GA372 (Ballground Rd) in an area referred to as Free Home. More details later. Alford walked away with the honors in the last Fox Hunt, let's see if we can do it again!

That's about it for this month, see you next time!

73 Steve, **N4TTY**



# AMRC August Meeting Program

## Planning Your LxPedition And Taking Your Rig On Vacation

*Thursday, August 11th, at 7:00 pm*

*Join us at Shane's Rib Shack for supper before the meeting*

Meetings are held at the Annistown Road Baptist Church  
at 4554 Annistown Road, Snellville, Ga. 30039

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



In February of 2015 the old Micor 145 and 444 repeaters and the cabinets associated with that equipment were replaced with brand new Kenwood commercial grade repeater equipment .

Located at Exchange Park, up and running beautifully,

## THE TICKET BOOTH IS OPEN!

The ticket booth for this year's Stone Mountain Hamfest and ARRL Georgia State Convention is now open — and there's incentive to buy your ticket sooner rather than later. <http://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/ticket-booth/>



Hams who purchase their tickets before Oct. 30 will be entered in a drawing for a Signalink USB sound card interface. Connect it to your PC and radio, and you're good to go for almost any digital mode!



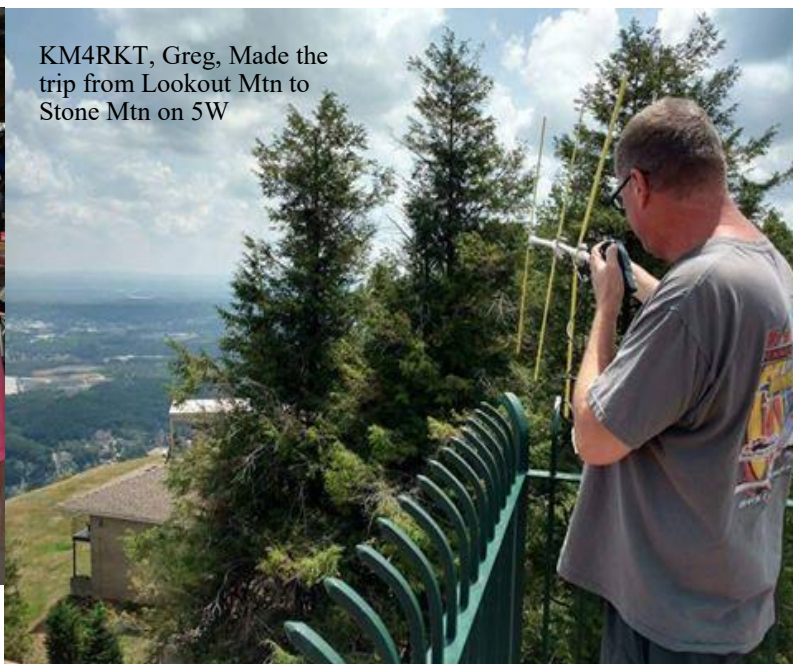
# LxPedition, NPOTA & Club Pictures







YLRL YLs at the Nashville Hamquest. Lots of fun! A great inaugural hamfest. Already looking forward to next year!



KM4RKT, Greg, Made the trip from Lookout Mtn to Stone Mtn on 5W



On Saturday, July 30th, Dale, AE8DL, and I went to the inaugural Greater Nashville-Mid Tennessee HamQuest. It was an ARRL sanctioned event and had a turnout of about 300 people, which was good especially for its first year. The HamQuest was run by the Wilson Amateur Radio Club (WC4AR) and the Wilson Radio League (KM4GHM) of Wilson County, Tennessee. There were prize drawings and I won a \$100 gift certificate to DX Engineering! Dale and I met a number of people and made some new friends including Ed, N1NUT, the President of the Nashville Amateur Radio Club. I also enjoyed meeting fellow YLRL members Cathy, KK4IWN and Sena, N11Y. We enjoyed seeing fellow GARS member Mitch, N0DIM. We are looking forward to going next year. You can read about the HamQuest on its website, <https://midtnhamquest.com>.

73,  
Allison, AB4YL

### Just Do It

**Don't be intimidated by SWR. Your rig will not blow up and kill you. Most modern rigs will politely refuse to transmit into a really bad match. A perfect 1:1 SWR is for sissies, anyway. All \*real\* hams have conducted perfectly good QSO's at 3:1 (or more) at some time or another. You may be surprised to know that the vast majority of hams didn't fret about SWR until after WWII when coax cable and SWR meters ("SWR Bridges" as they were first known) became available on the commercial market. Before that time, you simply cut your antenna to frequency, loaded the transmitter final for best output according to the plate current meter, and that was that.** <http://www.qsl.net/wb1gfh/antenna.html>

# Ham Radio Android Apps I Have Found Useful:

## Greg Mann KM4RKT (Rocket Man)

**HamGPS**-Provides GPS coordinates in 3 different formats, altitude, and grid square locator to 10 digits.

**HamClock**-You can set multiple time zones and UTC with this clock.

**Heavens-Above** - Provides you with precise pass predictions for the ISS, visible satellites, Iridium flares and radio satellites. Awesome live sky chart! Can integrate with your phone calendar to remind you of upcoming passes.

**Echolink** - Stay in touch with the folks at your home repeater when away.

**Repeater Book**-Enables every Ham to easily find repeaters across the World!

**Attention: Georgia Gwinnett College has their new repeater on the air** from the campus. W4GGC, the new club call, is a Yaesu Fusion repeater operating in AMS mode for FM or Fusion operation. It is located on a building on campus, but not at a very high location which limits its coverage to around the Lawrenceville area for now. The repeater is on 442.225+ with PL of 100.0.

Program it in your radios and give it a try. John WB4QDX

## Why have a club newsletter?

The purpose of our newsletter is to serve as a resource for you to find the most up-to-date information as to what is going on within the club and the amateur radio world.

Our newsletter continues to grow each month, but with the start of a new year comes the need for fresh, new articles and stories to share with you! All articles, stories, and blurbs (whether they are 2 sentences or 20) are always welcomed and appreciated!

Please send us your most interesting finds or stories and we will publish them in an upcoming edition of TOTR Newsletter. We look forward to seeing what you all come up with!



## NPOTA Update:

Recently, Donna (KM4FMW) began her first National Park Service activation and I (KK4TKJ) continued my NPOTA activations. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> till the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, we traveled to Saint Marys, Georgia. On the way, we stopped off on Saint Simons Island and activated Fort Frederica National Monument (MN-29). Checking in with the rangers in the visitor center, we informed them we would be activating from the parking lot. Since we were operating portable from the car with a Yaesu FT-857 and screwdriver antenna, we did not need a permit.

Since we get no chaser credit for activating, we first had an intra-park QSO on two-meter simplex. That taken care of, Donna began calling CQ on 40 meters. We made a few contacts, two for her and two for me, but the band was really dead except for two yokels that had dropped down to our frequency from a net on 7.200 MHz, checked in with us, and then decided to keep the frequency for their own QSO. We continued to call CQ and picked up two additional contacts even through the DQRM. Finally we went to 20 meters.

Donna called CQ and immediately had a small pileup going. In 19 minutes she made 27 more contacts. Safely assured a good activation, I took over the mic and in 15 minutes made 19 contacts. Contacts were mainly from the Central U.S. and across the northern U.S. with some from the Northwest. Twenty meters was definitely open.

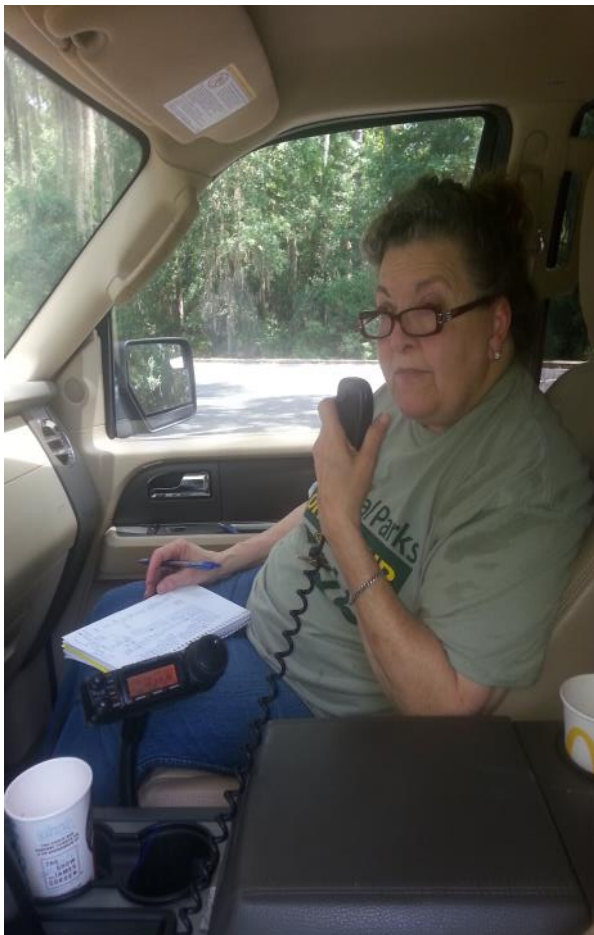
Sunday morning we went to the Cumberland Island National Seashore visitor center and checked in with the rangers there. One was familiar with National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) and told us where others had activated from on the park property. With an initial intra-park FM simplex call between us, I started calling CQ on 40 meters. In 10 minutes I had 10 contacts, all from the Southeast plus Indiana and Michigan. We then were off to a family breakfast and afterwards went back to the park.

This time we found a shady spot, and Donna started calling on 40 meters to see if we could get any Georgia stations. After a few regional contacts, she shifted to 20 meters and in 10 minutes had 15 contacts. We had to get on the road so went QRT.

As we passed through Macon, Donna needed a restroom stop. As Ocmulgee National Monument (MN-56) is just off I-16, we decided to stop there. After a brief visit to the visitor center, we did our FM simplex contact and Donna started announcing the park on 20 meters. In ten minutes she had 11 QSOs, mainly from the far West and Northwest, and we went QRT and got on the road home.

It was an enjoyable weekend, allowed us to log a nice number of QSOs, and put three park activations on the leader board for Donna. Though we will probably wait till it cools a bit before we go out again, we would like to finish activating all Georgia sites and also hit a few of the Alabama parks, too, since we can get chaser credit with HTs. Those nearby parks are hard to hit on HF.

*Charles Mc Cord, KK4TKJ*



# ASK YOUR ELMER

They say one of the best ways to learn something is to ask questions, and some of our best resources are right within our club.

Teletype RTTY	Steve Garrison <a href="mailto:steve.n4tty@gmail.com">steve.n4tty@gmail.com</a>
Kenwood & Fusion Radios	Berry Kenne W4TGA <a href="mailto:radio.w4tga@gmail.com">radio.w4tga@gmail.com</a> Greg Mann <a href="mailto:km4rt.greg@gmail.com">km4rt.greg@gmail.com</a>
Yaesu Radios	Kevin <a href="mailto:kq4le@bellsouth.net">kq4le@bellsouth.net</a>
Icom Radios	
Flex Radios	Berry Kenne W4TGA and Steve Garrison N4TTY
Ten Tech Radios	
CW	Gene, <a href="mailto:g.blackburn@ieee.org">g.blackburn@ieee.org</a> or Karl, <a href="mailto:k4gzz.karl@gmail.com">k4gzz.karl@gmail.com</a>
SSB/Phone	Karl, <a href="mailto:k4gzz.karl@gmail.com">k4gzz.karl@gmail.com</a> or Mike KK4KHS
Your next exam	Allison AB4YL <a href="mailto:allison48fan@yahoo.com">allison48fan@yahoo.com</a>
Go Box	George <a href="mailto:george@universalcogs.com">george@universalcogs.com</a> , Pat <a href="mailto:patdeloe@gmail.com">patdeloe@gmail.com</a>
Psk 31	Mike KK4KHS <a href="mailto:smithrm71@yahoo.com">smithrm71@yahoo.com</a>
Installing your rig in your camper	Zargon <a href="mailto:zargondesigns@mac.com">zargondesigns@mac.com</a>
Moble HF contacts	Chuck <a href="mailto:chuckm39@email.com">chuckm39@email.com</a>
Building your first vhf uhv antenna	Chuck <a href="mailto:chuckm39@email.com">chuckm39@email.com</a>
Repeaters	Gene <a href="mailto:g.blackburn@ieee.org">g.blackburn@ieee.org</a>
Testing equipment	Gene <a href="mailto:g.blackburn@ieee.org">g.blackburn@ieee.org</a>
Tube Radios	Gene <a href="mailto:g.blackburn@ieee.org">g.blackburn@ieee.org</a>
HF antennas	Tom <a href="mailto:tomrod3d@comcast.net">tomrod3d@comcast.net</a>

## *Another Great Fox Hunt*

Lets enjoy another Atlanta area radio direction fox hunt! This time, we'll start Saturday morning, August 27th at 8:30am. Starting point is the Publix parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 20 (Cumming Hwy) and Ball Ground road (Hwy 372).

This area is known as Free Home, and is exactly between Cumming and Canton: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.2377948,-84.2901321,203m/data=!3m1!1e3>

This hunt is sponsored by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL). We picked this location for a few reasons. It's easy to find. There is very little traffic in all directions, and you will be able to barely hear the fox from this parking lot. Already confirmed. We promise this will be a fun, yet challenging set of foxes for you to hunt! The fox frequency will be given out to those signing up in the parking lot that morning. The end point will have bathrooms, drinks and light snacks.

This will be very similar to the format used here in Atlanta a couple months ago. You will start chasing a 2M fox signal. Once you find the 2M fox, you'll see the frequency for a local UHF 440 fox to hunt on foot. The 2M radio will be cross-band repeating the UHF signal – your final fox.

We found the NFARL 440 UHF repeater works very well all over this area, so we will use it for logistics and coordination among our group. Please use 444.475 + (100.0 Hz).

We really would like to know who will plan to join the fun that morning. We will have drinks and snacks appropriate for that number. Perhaps the group will gather for lunch after?

Finally, Shane can be at the starting point with a modern Doppler system in a vehicle. That vehicle can easily carry three additional adults. If you are interested in radio direction finding, but have never experienced it, perhaps you can ride with Shane? Again, only room for three additional adults. Since he knows where the fox will be hiding, you will call all the shots. He'll simply drive where you tell him to go. Sound like fun? Let us know and we can help put you together.

We look forward to a ton of fun with many of you that Saturday!



# AMRC Membership Page

## New AMRC Members Since Last Month

Joe Stevens, KM4VHF  
Randy Koehl, K0EHL  
Raul Perez, KM4OXD

Welcome

**Total Members as of July. 31th,  
2016**

**170**

Membership runs from Jan. to Dec. each  
Calendar Year

If you haven't renewed do so now.

The following members are celebrating  
birthdays in August:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**From All of Us at AMRC**

Birthdays by, K4GZZ

Aug 1	KB4UVV	Dave
Aug 2	KA4IAO	Wes
Aug 6	Margaret	McWhirter
Aug 7	KM4HZP	Ron
Aug 8	KM4OXD	Raul
Aug 9	K4GZZ	Karl
Aug 10	KM4HJ	Peggy
Aug 11	KK4NZE	Mike
Aug 11	WB4HYY	Jim
Aug 15	KI4SBY	Katie
Aug 15	KJ4ZZB	Scott
Aug 17	KE4SND	Jose
Aug 19	Joe	Mele
Aug 21	KK4JXW	Robert
Aug 22	KC4TOW	Doris
Aug 22	KQ4LE	Kevin
Aug 22	Lois	Fussell
Aug 22	KK4WOD	Ray
Aug 23	Vanessa	Wood
Aug 23	AB4NX	Larry
Aug 24	KE4QCM	Tom
Aug 29	W4WRD	Richard
Aug 29	KK4ZIH	Allen
Aug 29	KE4PPF	Jenni

## 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 Committee - [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 [steve.n4tty@gmail.com](mailto:steve.n4tty@gmail.com)

It's 2016, AMRC Club Membership Dues Are Due in January! **Individual \$25 Family \$25 Student \$15**

Help Support Our Repeaters and Club Activities

## UP-COMING PROGRAMS FOR ALFORD MEMORIAL RADIO CLUB

**Aug: LX Expeditions Blending  
Vacation and Your Hobby.**

**Sept: Youth DXpetition to Saba Island,  
Ruth, KM4LAO**

**Oct: Hamfest Prep**

**Nov: Homebrew Show and Tell**

**Dec: Christmas Party**

**Join us for our weekly  
breakfast gathering at  
7AM most Saturdays at:  
Metro Café Diner**

1905 Rockbridge Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30087

### Alford Memorial Radio Club Merchandise

Stop by the Merchandise table at the next AMRC meeting and order your Ham vest, check out the new AMRC polo shirts with club logo and your call sign. Visit [www.arl.org/shop/](http://www.arl.org/shop/) for additional merchandise.



See Richard Dickson, W4WRD or email him at [richie707@aol.com](mailto:richie707@aol.com) with questions about items, or size and cost.

### AMRC Officers and Committee Chairs

Steve Garrison, N4TTY  
Pres.  
[steve.n4tty@gmail.com](mailto:steve.n4tty@gmail.com)



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



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



Barry Kanne, W4TGA  
Treasurer  
[radio.w4tga@gmail.com](mailto:radio.w4tga@gmail.com)



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



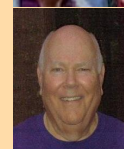
George Olive, AI4UR  
DeKalb ARES EC  
[george@universalcogs.com](mailto:george@universalcogs.com)



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



Richard Dickson, W4WRD  
Apparel Coordinator  
[richie707@aol.com](mailto:richie707@aol.com)



Chris Balch, KS4MM  
Counsel



Al Hughes, NZ4A  
Field Day Chair

Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
VE Team Chair



## HF Net Opportunities

### 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

## AMRC Recurring Calendar

- ♦ 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

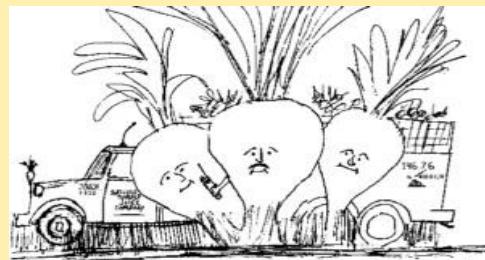
**\*Huntsville Hamfest Aug 20,  
Lets carpool and rideshare.**

**\*Bryon Tailgate Byron Ga. Aug  
27th.**

**Rookie Roundup, The  
third Sunday of April,  
August and December  
from 1800 UTC through  
2359 UTC.**

**2016: 17 April (SSB), 21  
August (RTTY), 18  
December (CW)**

Turnip Truck Net, Saturday  
Nights at 10:30 or 11pm until  
the turnips fall off the truck.  
Kick back and listen to turnips,  
rag chew, get answers to  
questions, and lie to each  
other.



## "AMRC JUNE NETS REPORT"

AMRC Net		DeKalb ARES Net			Turnip Truck Net	
Sunday Night Nets			RF	Winlink/DRats		
July 3	29	July 3	14	8/9	July 2	12
July 10	29	July 10	18	8/7	July 9	17
July 17	33	July 17	15	7/7	July 16	24
July 24	34	July 24	11	6/3	July 23	10
July 31	27	July 31	13	7/6	July 30	15

## AMRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUG 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 7am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner  11pm Turnip Truck Net
7 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net  8pm DeKalb ARES NET	8	9 GARS 7pm	10	11 Alford Memorial Radio Club Meeting 7pm	12	13 7am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner  11pm Turnip Truck Net
14 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net  8pm DeKalb ARES NET	15	16 Hamfest  Committee Meeting	17	18	19	20 7am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner  11pm Turnip Truck Net
21 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net  8pm DeKalb ARES NET	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Field Day  7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net  8pm DeKalb ARES NET	29	30	31	1	2	3 7am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner  11pm Turnip Truck Net





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

EMAIL: atlanta@hamradio.com



**L&M Mobility**

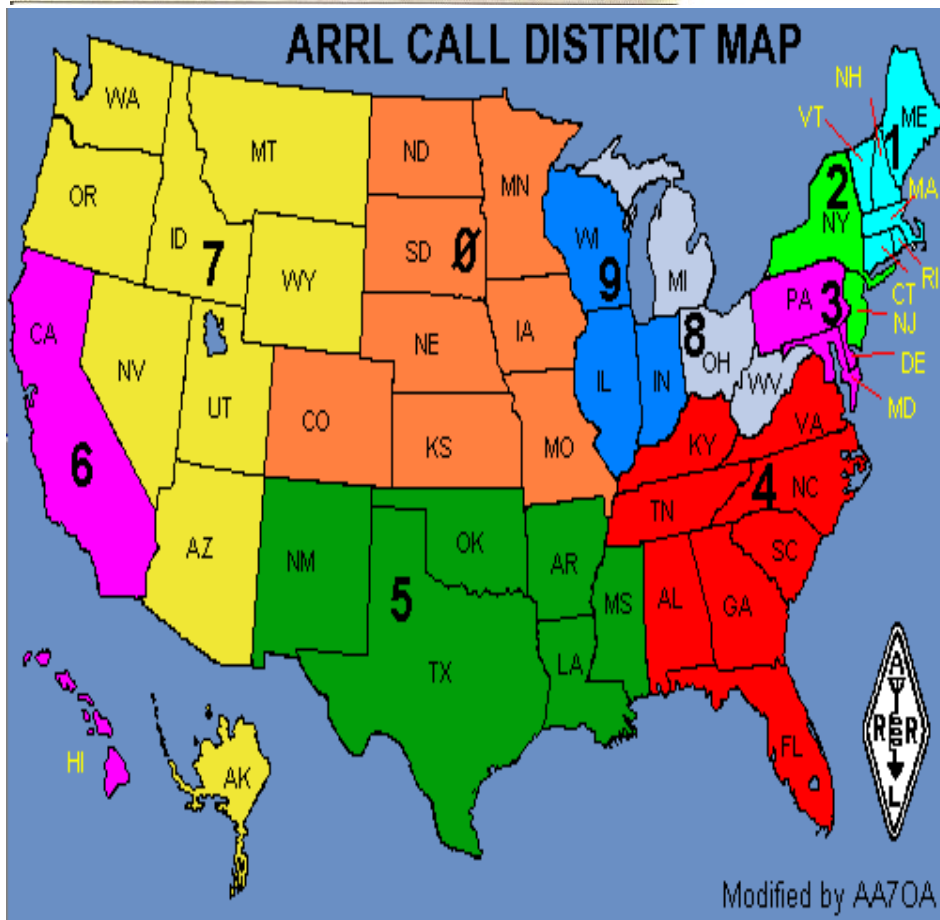
**Robert (Mike) Smith**  
 5191 La Paloma Dr.  
 Lilburn, GA 30047  
 Phone (404)-509-3104  
[Smithrm71@gmail.com](mailto:Smithrm71@gmail.com)

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**Jim Massara,  
 N2EST  
[n2est@hamtoons.net](mailto:n2est@hamtoons.net)**



**The  
 Turnip  
 ruck**