

# Stone Mountain Georgia



## TOP OF THE ROCK

### The Newsletter of the Alford Memorial Radio Club

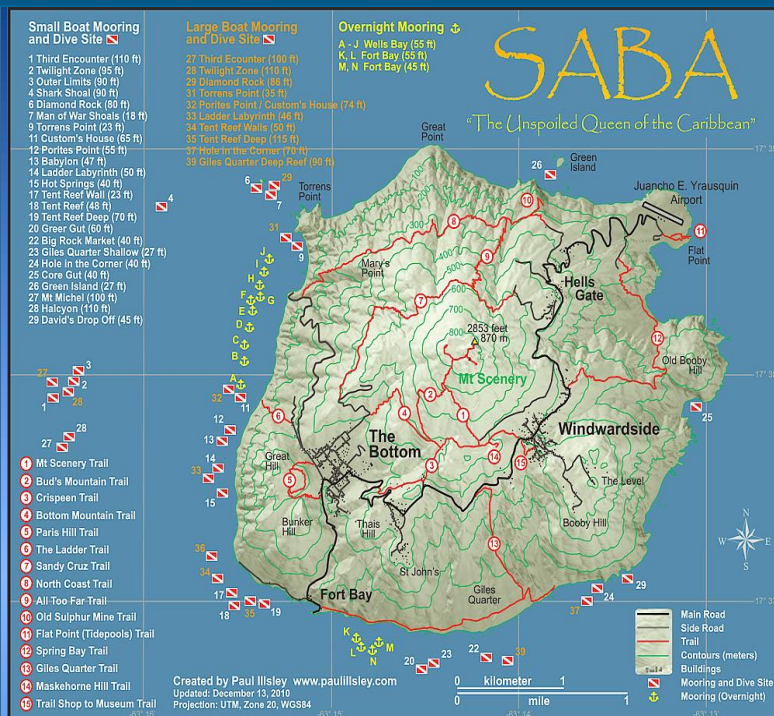
September 2016

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



### Next Meeting September 8th

### Youth DXepedition to Saba Island, by Ruth, KM4LAO!



### August Issue Contents

- President's Notes
- Meeting Information
- NPOTA Update
- Turnip TECH Talk
- Ask Your Elmer
- Fall VHF Contest
- Birthdays and Member Info
- Calendar for September
- Sponsors

September 2016



# Message from the President

Now it's just 60, 30! The days are just flying off the calendar and the year is disappearing in the mirror behind us. This month's meeting opens the doors for nominations for new officers to lead the club into the future. While the nominating committee will present a slate of officers for the upcoming year, this is the chance for each of you to throw your hat into the ring when the floor is opened for nominations. Don't miss your chance to help your club out. The actual elections will be held during the club meeting in October and the new officers take their seats at the January 2017 club meeting.

Also happening at this month's meeting is a very interesting program presented by Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, on her experiences on the 2016 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure to the Island of Saba. You won't want to miss it, so plan on attending. There is even a rumor of refreshments being served.

On the 1st & 2nd of October, that's a Saturday and a Sunday, I'll be taking my teletype display, "The Marriage of Old and New Technology – The Original Text Machines," to the Makers Faire in Decatur. I will need several folks to help me get the equipment there, get it set up, and help demonstrating it to the hundreds, or even thousands, who will stop by to marvel at these mechanical beasts. I will also need some help breaking down and getting the equipment back home and back in the house. If you can find a few hours that

weekend to help me out please get in contact. You're even welcome to spend the entire time there with me!

And at the end of that 60 day tunnel, November 5th & 6th, is the Stone Mountain Hamfest for 2016 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. This is an all hands on deck affair, so plan on putting in as much time as you can to help out. I'm not sure how much help I will be, but I plan on being there all day Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you've got some vacation due you that you haven't taken yet, take a day, or two, and come join in the fun. The more folks that help out the less difficult it will be on the ones that are there. This event is where we get the majority of the funds that it takes to run the Alford Memorial Radio Club from year to year. The membership fees are just a small piece of the funds required to keep the club running, so please do your part to help out.

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

73 *Steve*, **N4TTY**



# AMRC September Meeting Program

## September Program, Youth DXpedition to Saba Island, by Ruth, KM4LAO!

*Thursday, September 8th, 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!





**National Parks**  
**ON THE AIR**  
[www.arrl.org/NPOTA](http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA)

## Your Club Members NPOTA Standings.

		NPOTA Activations	Chaser Board	Standing In Georgia
KK4TKJ	Chuck	14	231	4th in activations, 12th in chasing
KM4FMW	Donna	5	285	11th in activations, 10th in chasing
AB4YL	Allison		21	24th in chasing
AB4NX	Larry		11	84th in chasing
KK4KHS	Mike	6	147	9th in activations, 19th in chasing
N4TTY	Steve		5	138th in chasing out of 301

If your activating or chasing and I don't have you listed send me your call and stats before Sept 30th and you'll be placed on this list. Mike

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## Fall VHF contest September 10th

**Objective:** For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit.

<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>      pmeridy@icloud.com

## New Extra News: !!Turnip Teck Talk!!

### 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>

### Hang It Up

Back during the disco era when I first got on the air, I got a pair of really cool antique pyrex antenna insulators from a flea market table in Derry, NH for 25 cents each. They looked like the kind Hiram Percy Maxim used in 1910, and seemed able to pull in exotic DX all by themselves. The other day I found out that Radio Shack wants \$5 apiece for insulators made from some kind of white plastic crap. So I improvised my own by sawing up pieces of an acrylic adjusting rod from a discarded miniblind. I think Hiram would've been proud of me.

Hang the center of the antenna from a tree limb, or use a support as pictured. The exact height of the antenna's feed point is not crucial. The higher, the better. 20 feet might be considered the minimum. 60 feet is ideal. However, in the real world, 30-50 feet is average.

For the antenna wire itself, virtually anything will work, but something close to #18 stranded/insulated is ideal. My favorite stealth antenna material is magnet wire. You can dig this out of an old transformer or even a busted loudspeaker's coil. This ultra-thin stuff is truly INVISIBLE to neighbors and wives alike, and it'll handle 100 watts, no sweat. If you need to keep a low profile, try it as a long long wire, end-fed from your tuner's "wire" terminal. (Be sure and ground everything in the shack like crazy) No trees in your yard? Use a sock filled with sand for a weight and hurl the far end of the wire onto a NEIGHBORS roof or tree. (I would advise doing this at night. If you are caught, claim you are "trying out an old FARMERS ALMANAC recipe to keep bats away". People universally hate bats, and love farmers) If you can't possibly scheme to get your wire more than a dozen feet off the ground, try flinging a few hundred feet of the magnet wire all around the yard in a big loop (find out measurements in the ARRL Handbook or Google "80 meter loop antenna"). Loops can perform satisfactorily at low heights. And remember, don't fuss too much about SWR. A little mismatch is good for you and builds character.

The ends of the antenna will be "hot" with RF, so it's a good idea to keep them out of reach of people and pets, say, at least 10 feet above ground. However the antenna will still function if you bring the ends down closer to the ground.

### Love Your Tuner

An antenna tuner with a balanced output (internal or external balun) is a must. Using one is a simple matter of adjusting capacitance and inductance for the lowest SWR on a given frequency. Always begin your adjustments at low power, increasing to full power only when you have a reasonable match. At first, you may think it's inconvenient and old-fashioned to manually tune your antenna every time you change frequency, but you soon discover the unique satisfaction of tweaking the variable caps and watching the reflected power dip lower as the received signals grow a bit louder in your receiver. It's "real radio".

My first tuner was a 1980's wood-grain cabinet style MFJ-941 I got at a swap meet for \$15 a long time ago and featured an internal balun and connections for balanced lines on the back. Make sure YOUR tuner is an outboard manual type antenna tuner such as this, and not an "automatic" or internal tuner that is a pushbutton feature on many modern rigs. Because they must use small, light-duty components, these built-in tuners are typically limited to handling mis-matches of 10:1. The mis-matches YOUR feedline will be seeing can be as high as 100:1. But don't worry. The he-man sized coils and air-variable caps in a typical outboard tuner will handle it just fine.

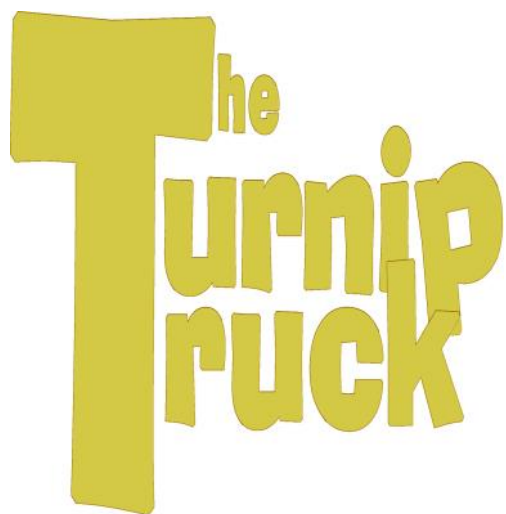
Don't believe the folklore about MFJ tuners being junk. It's true, they are cheaply made and their Quality Control is spotty, but the majority of them work perfectly OK if they aren't abused. So do old Dentron's, Drake, Vectronics, Nye Viking, etc. A link-coupled balanced tuner arrangement like the Johnson Matchbox would be even better, but use what you have. Or make one. Ham radio (unlike some other hobbies) isn't a competition to see who can own the best or most expensive gear. The idea is to get on the air with what you have or can afford, enjoy your self making contacts, and as time and money permits, try something else.

I had a 65ft. per leg version of this antenna working in Massachusetts, and it'd tune up on all bands 80-10. At my Burbank, California QTH, I used a 35 ft. per leg version, and it tuned up on 40-10. By the way, you'll notice it's an inverted vee --- a real advantage if you don't have room for a full-sized dipole in your yard. If you still don't have room, bend and angle the legs to fit the space you've got. Antennas gently bent into Z-shapes still work fine!

# 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>
Yaesu Radios	Kevin <a href="mailto:kq4le@bellsouth.net">kq4le@bellsouth.net</a> and Greg Mann <a href="mailto:km4rt.greg@gmail.com">km4rt.greg@gmail.com</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>
Mobile HF contacts	Chuck <a href="mailto:chuckm39@email.com">chuckm39@email.com</a>
Building your first vhf uhf 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>
Contacting Satellites	Greg Mann <a href="mailto:km4rt.greg@gmail.com">km4rt.greg@gmail.com</a>
NPOTA	Chuck, KK4TKJ <a href="mailto:chuckm39@email.com">chuckm39@email.com</a> Mike, KK4KHS <a href="mailto:smithrm71@yahoo.com">smithrm71@yahoo.com</a>
JT65	Greg Mann <a href="mailto:km4rt.greg@gmail.com">km4rt.greg@gmail.com</a>



Get on the Turnip Truck Net usually Late night Saturday on the 146.760 repeater on top of Stone Mountain. Usually between 10pm and 11pm.

Check in and listen to the Turnips, Kick back, have some turnip juice and join in the conversation.

Not your regular clubs Net. Tell us what's up in your shack, your playing radio outside your shack, what new rig your looking at or worried about. Problems, issues and troubles, Ham related please.

Hosted by KK4KHS, Mike and sometimes other Turnips. This is the weekly net you won't want to miss.

# AMRC Membership Page

## New AMRC Members Since Last Month

Mike Cahoon, KM4WIE  
Gretchen Mann, KM4WGA  
Gary Altman, K4NNK

Welcome

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

**168**

Membership runs from Jan. to Dec. each  
Calendar Year

If you haven't renewed do so now.

The following members are celebrating  
birthdays in September:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**From All of Us at AMRC**

Birthdays by, K4GZZ

**Rick KK4VRM 9-2**  
**John AJ4TT 9-3**  
**Rebecca Mele 9-6**  
**Keith KJ4DFP 9-7**  
**Jon KM4LVI 9-9**  
**Norm KJ4ZDW 9-10**  
**Ric WA6JQL 9-11**  
**Phil N4DRO 9-18**  
**Joe KM4VHF 9-18**  
**Tim KC4ELV 9-20**  
**Jamie KI4BSV 9-21**  
**Steve KW4WP 9-22**  
**Steve KK4JXV 9-23**  
**Michael KJ4GUY 9-27**  
**Jay KJ4ZDL 9-28**  
**Stephanie KM4FPN 9-28**  
**Carl WZ4CW 9-28**  
**Steve KM4PAX 9-30**

## 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

**Oct: Hamfest Prep Meet The Captains**

**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



### Public Information for Alford Memorial Radio Club

See Steve Vogel, W4PSV or email him at [svdec@bellsouth.com](mailto:svdec@bellsouth.com) with questions about club public events or for sharing public event information.

### Merchandise from Alford Memorial Radio Club

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.

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

New Georgia ARES Web Site, Check it out!!!

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

## 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

09/17/2016 | Augusta Hamfest

Location: Grovetown, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Amateur Radio Club of Augusta

Website: <http://w4dv.club/hamfest>

09/17/2016 | Gadsden Hamfest

Location: Attalla, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gadsden Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://GARC.org>

09/24/2016 | Covington Hamfest

Location: Covington, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Newton County Radio Club & Newton County ARES

Website: <http://ncrcga.org>

10/08/2016 | LaGrange Hamfest

Location: LaGrange, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: LaGrange Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.lagrangeradioclub.org>

10/15/2016 | Coastal ARS Savannah Swap meet

Location: Savannah, GA

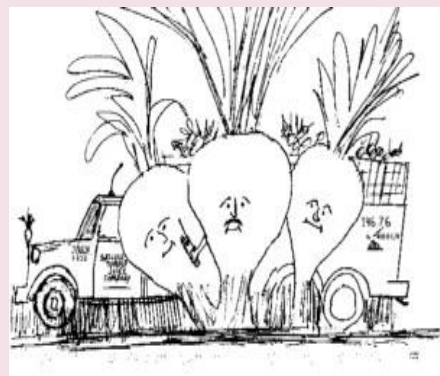
Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

## 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 AUGUST NETS REPORT"

AMRC Net		DeKalb ARES Net			Turnip Truck Net	
Sunday Night Nets			RF	Winlink/DRats		
Aug 7	20	Aug 7	9	6/5	Aug 6	26
Aug 14	29	Aug 14	17	8/5	Aug 13	17
Aug 21	32	Aug 21	12	9/3	Aug 20	20
Aug 28	26	Aug 28	20	9/7	Aug 27	20

## AMRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPT 2016

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



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](mailto:atlanta@hamradio.com)





**Robert (Mike) Smith**  
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 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)

Can  
you  
hear  
me  
now?

