



# February 2017



## The Newsletter of the Alford Memorial Radio Club

### **“Publix Georgia Marathon and Half Marathon, March 19th, 2017”**



#### February Issue Contents

- President's Notes
- Meeting Information
- Membership Page & Birthdays
- Buy, Sell or Swap Page
- ARRL NEWS UPDATE
- Becoming A Silent Key!!
- TRIVIA Question for the month
- Space Watch News
- Calendar for February
- Sponsors

The open houses at the Agnes Scott College Observatory will resume on the second Friday evening each month beginning in February.

Doors open at 7:30. The ham station will be on the air.

Contact Steve Vogel , W4PSV for more information.

# Presidents Message

First things first, If you plan to help out by working the Publix Marathon, sign up now before you read the next page.

**Publix Marathon and Half Marathon March 19th, Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta. [Click here for more info](#)**

Ok, now “that” that’s done, we’ve been slow to reconnect the receive antenna on the tower due to high winds and annual maintenance on the sky tram at the mountain. Hopefully by the February Club meeting we’ll have better news. We’ve also had to replace the 75amp battery backup. RIP! It died! Our new battery backup will go up soon and it will be 80amp.

**The Top of the Rock Contest**, Last year we had fun with earning points for club members contacting other club members and getting points. The top winners will receive a **special club patch** & gift certificates to HRO again this year. Many thanks to Allison, AB4YL, and Dale Lynch AE8DL, for putting together this contest.

I can tell you that we hope to have at least two classes with “hands on” demonstrations, a club DIY project with “Elmering”, will be **where members can bring their HT and/or mobile radios and our Elmers will assist you in programing them,** as well as at least one new activity

for the summer field day. Also, several have asked for a class on DMR radios. **We’re working on putting together a class for programing and explaining DMR..**

The Alford Memorial Radio Club has been a long time supporter of DeKalb ARES. I hope that members of the AMRC will continue to step up to the plate and reach out to DeKalb ARES. DeKalb ARES meets at the DeKalb Emergency Operations Center once a month. **Click here** for more information on DeKalb ARES.

If you’re not signed up to receive messages through the Alford Memorial Radio Club Yahoo Group, You should **click here** to stay informed and post your response. Our TOTR newsletter, Club meeting minutes, pictures, and club financial reports, as well as some presentations will be available under “Files and Attachments” after they are uploaded.

Chuck, KK4TKJ will present a program in March on how to be a good Net Control Station.

*Mike,*

**KK4KHS**



# AMRC February Meeting Program

*Thursday, February 9th, at 7:00 pm*

**“Publix Georgia Marathon and Half Marathon,  
March 19th, 2017”**

**&**

***Allison Lynch, AB4YL “Top of the Rock Explosion  
Club Contest”***

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,

Up and Running at Exchange Park.

**March Program: Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ  
“How to be an Effective Net Control Station”**

**[ARRL Net Procedures Click Here](#)**

I got my Technician ticket in Aug 2013, my General ticket in Sept 2013 and finally my Extra in Feb 2015. My wife, Donna, KM4FMW, is also an Extra license holder. As I have only a little over two years Ham experience, we are learning as we go. My first exposure to Ham Radio was while I was a student in Germany. My family was in Sarasota, FL. and our next-door neighbor was a Ham operator. He offered to allow us to communicate on his rig while I was in Germany; therefore, from Aug 1970 till Jun 1971, I communicated through a local German Ham, as a third party, with my family in Florida. I was fascinated by the QSL card collection of these two Hams, as well as a couple of other Hams I knew.

**Read more of Chuck’s Bio on QRZ**



# AMRC Membership Page

## New AMRC Members Since Last Month

## Welcome

**85 Total Members as of Jan. 30th, 2017**

**Membership runs from Jan. to Dec. each Calendar Year**

**2017 Dues are Due at club meeting  
New Members**

**Mike Westberry, KF4MZI**

**Kim Smith, K4MEM**

**Janice Smith, KI4VWG**

## 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**

**AMRC Club Membership 2017 Dues  
Are Due.**

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

The following members are celebrating birthdays in February.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**From All of Us at AMRC**

Birthdays by, K4GZZ

2/1	KI4YZM	Laura
2/4	W5NNH	John
2/5	K4HBI	Mike
2/6	KI6IWM	Raphael
2/7	KK4TGR	Hadassah
2/7	KK4MNU	Rick
2/8	AE8DL	Dale
2/8	K4IHP	Joe
2/8	KK4NJS	Matt
2/10	Andee Kimsey	
2/13	KG4JMT	Reathel
2/15	WA4YCX	Bobbie
2/17	KI4RD	Hal
2/18	KE4SDO	Vanessa
2/18	KM4FQW	Willie
2/23	KI4LYL	Jay
2/24	KK4NFW	Lori
2/25	Joe Paschal	

02/01/2017

Last year — 2016 — was another outstanding one for Amateur Radio licensing. So says ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

The overall trend continues to be up, up, up! The total number of US Amateur Radio licensees has continued to grow each year since the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam requirement in 2007. Over the past decade, the net number of Amateur Radio licensees has risen by nearly 87,000, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, who is ARRL Pacific Section Manager.

As of December 31, 2016, the total number of licensees in the FCC database was 742,787, topping the 2015 total of 735,405, but down just slightly from the all-time high of 743,003 reached last November.

Somma said license upgrades were down by 5% compared to 2015 — 10,617 versus 11,224. "A new Amateur Extra class pool took effect on July 1, 2016, which may have impacted upgrade totals in the second half of the year," she speculated.

As of December 31, according to figures compiled by Speroni, there were 143,337 Amateur Extra licensees, 45,071 Advanced licensees, 172,807 General licensees, 371,560 Technician licensees, and 10,012 Novice licensees. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice class licenses. The General and Technician licensee totals at the end of last year were all-time highs, and the Amateur Extra total was nearly so.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/another-outstanding-year-for-amateur-radio-licensing>

## Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to US House Passage, Heads to US Senate

Just 10 days after being introduced in the 115th Congress, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, [H.R. 555](#), passed the US House of Representatives on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 cosponsors, but failed to clear the US Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was launched on January 13 with initial cosponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!" The bill arrives in the US Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

"We're very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It's amazing that this happened," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. "With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done," Lisenco continued. "We came within a hair's breadth last time, with [thousands of] e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical."

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners associations seeking to enforce the restriction.

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney -- who has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member -- to succeed Chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20.

"I am deeply grateful to the President of the United States for designating me the 34th Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," Pai said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the new administration, my colleagues at the Commission, members of Congress, and the American public to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans." A Republican, Pai was nominated to the FCC by former President Barack Obama and was confirmed unanimously by the US Senate in 2012.



# **TOTR EXPLOSION A CONTEST FOR AMRC MEMBERS**

Contest begins Friday, March 3, 2017 at 6:00 PM and ends Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 11:59 PM

Points awarded for contacts with current AMRC members only

## Bands

UHF/VHF:

2 Meters

1.25 Meters

70 cm

33 cm

23 cm

Any amateur MHz freq

HF:

Any HF frequency on which Technician class license is allowed to operate

## Modes

SSB (voice)

FM

Digital (CW is a digital mode)

Contacts may be simplex or club repeaters

Any station may be worked once per band per mode (Once on simplex or repeater. These are not two separate modes)

## Suggested Simplex Frequencies

(these are only suggestions; any frequency available to technician class is allowed)

Voice, CW, Other Digital

146.505 144.03 145.07

446.00 432.075 430.45

52.525 50.050 50.530

28.345 28.050 28.150

3530

7090

21050

## Scoring

2 points for each voice contact with a New Member\*

1 point for each voice contact with an Old Member\*

2 points for each digital and CW contact

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

1 point for each time checked into the following AMRC Nets:

Want/Swap/Sell Sunday Night Net

Turnip Truck Net

Brown Bag Lunch Net

1 point to the Net Control Operator for calling one of the above nets

The NCS of any net cannot work stations checking in as an EXPLOSION contact.

EXPLOSION contacts may be made prior to and after the net.

\* New members are those who have joined AMRC since February, 2016. Old members are those who have joined AMRC prior to February, 2016. Anyone who was a member in the past but has not been a dues paying member for at least 1 year prior to rejoining after February, 2016 is considered a new member for purposes of this contest.

### Awards

Stations with the top five scores will receive an HRO gift certificate.

All participants who turn in a log receive a prize, which is to be determined.

### Logging

Exchange:

Call Sign of station contacted/Net Name, New/Old, Frequency, Mode, and Date of Contact

A CQ Example:

CQ CQ CQ Alford Memorial Radio Club Members for the TOTR Explosion contest, this is KK4KHS/O (the /O is for Old Member; If KK4KHS was a New Member, he would say KK4KHS/N)

Logs must be submitted electronically by midnight on March 26, 2017 to [AB4YL@arrl.net](mailto:AB4YL@arrl.net). An Excel spread sheet log will be uploaded to the club Facebook page & Yahoo site, as well as emailed out on the Club's Yahoo email reflector.

**Top five contest winners will receive a gift certificate from HRO.**



# UP-COMING PROGRAMS FOR ALFORD MEMORIAL RADIO CLUB

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

1905 Rockbridge Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## New 2017 Officers

Mike Smith, KK4KHS President  
Pat De Loe, N4MPC Vice President  
Allison Lynch, AB4YL, Secretary  
Greg Mann, KM4RKT, Treasurer

### Public Information for Alford Memorial Radio Club

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

From Agnes Scott College:

Please join us on Friday, February 10 at 8 PM (doors open at  
7:30) for the first Bradley Observatory Open House of 2017.  
Our guest will be Mary Hinkle (ASC '10) who will talk about:  
"Near Earth Asteroids: Friend or Foe?"

Mary's talk will be followed by a planetarium show, and obser-  
vations with observatory telescopes, and the ham station will  
be open.

This month's Open House is co-sponsored by the Decatur  
Alumnae Chapter of Agnes Scott College, who are providing a  
delicious assortment of refreshments.

Steve Vogel W4PSV

### 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 with  
questions about items, or size and cost.

## 2017 AMRC Officers, Committee Chairs and Coordinators

Mike Smith, KK4KHS  
President  
smithrm71@yahoo.com



Pat De Loe, N4MPC  
Vice President  
patdeloe@gmail.com



Allison Lynch, AB4YL  
Secretary  
allison48fan@yahoo.com



Greg Mann, KM4RKT  
Treasurer  
km4rkt.greg@gmail.com



Gene Blackburn, N4UJ  
W4BOC Trustee  
g.blackburn@iecc.org



George Olive, AI4UR  
DeKalb ARES EC  
george@universalcogs.com



Steve Vogel, W4PSV  
Public Information  
svdec@bellsouth.net



Richard Dickson, W4WRD  
Apparel Coordinator  
richie707@aol.com



Steve Garrison, N4TTY  
Membership Chairman  
Steve.n4tty@gmail.com

Cooper Morris, WA4PZD  
Counsel

Al Hughes, NZ4A  
Field Day Chair

Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
VE Team Chair

TOTR Editor Open



## HF Net Opportunities

School Club Roundup. **Objective:** To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate. Feb 13-17th

### 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>

**3/19/2017 Publix Marathon & Half Marathon.**  
**More Info coming. [Click Here](#) Then the below links are required also.**

<http://tinyurl.com/marathon2017step1>

<http://tinyurl.com/marathon2017step2>

### More info at DeKalb ARES site

A couple of years ago my wife Luann decided to run, I volunteered to work the race. She did all the work. I had all the fun. KK4KHS



- ♦ 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



# Do you have a plan to become Silent Key?

No one wants to think about death but it will happen to all of us and most want know it's coming until it's at the door. You should make it as easy on your family and loved ones as you can by being ready for it.

In the HAM community we call that going Silent Key. All that HAM gear you have, does your spouse or family know anything about it? How do they get rid of it? How much is it worth and who to sale it to? Who will disconnect all that gear and who will take down your antennas? Maybe you have a mobile set up in your vehicle(s), if so, who can safely remove it without damaging the vehicle? Help them answer those questions now. If your family is anything like my family, they don't even know how to turn the equipment on or off. I've attempted to get my family interested but they currently have no interest in learning or getting licensed.

You might be surprised at how much radio gear you have. From cables, to connectors to the big items like radios, amplifiers, turners, SWR meters, antennas, keys and on and on. My stuff is scattered in two closest and two chest.

What to do? If you are lucky and have a good friend that is a HAM then I would recommend you make a deal with that HAM. Whomever goes last will help the friend's family with the with the HAM gear. Now that doesn't mean to just let them handle it. Help you friend and write down all the equipment with model numbers, serial numbers, and what a fair value is. Update that list Annually and share it with your friend and your family. Your family should now that your friend has promised to take care of it and they should contact him/her when they are ready to move forward with the sale or disposal. On that list put the name and phone number of the person that will help with the HAM gear so your family knows whom to call when the time comes. Also give your friend the name and number of the person in the family to contact.

If you don't have that friend then maybe ask at a local club if someone handles Silent Key equipment for the club members. I have handled two and one was planned and the other was not. The one that planned wasn't easy but at least the wife knew who I was and was expecting me to handle it. We found stuff for 4 or 5 months from the time she called me after the funeral and she was ready to go through it all to when we finally got it all organized. He had an antenna in his attic attached to the beams, antennas on his roof and in the back yard. Stuff in boxes hidden behind other boxes. We ended up cleaning most of the garage to find those items. I would get a phone call thinking she had found more HAM gear but it was either camera gear or boating gear. She had no idea what was what. In this case I was able to bring the gear to my house and sale it out of my garage as people wanted it. The other spouse would not let me take it out of her home so if someone wanted to see it I would make the appointment and drive by to be there to show the items and if they purchased it she got the money on the spot. This was harder on me but it was how the spouse wanted to do it even after I explained all that was involved. I guess it was trust issue. I had not meet this Hams spouse before but I had meet the other Hams spouse.

If you are a member of a HAM Club, ARRL Member, QST Magazine, or other magazines, you should make sure either your family or that friend knows to cancel your memberships, magazine subscriptions and reporting you as a SK. You don't want your family getting that renewal notice in the mail or that monthly magazine. Every time they get those it will remind them of you. That may be good or bad.

What about Social media accounts. In my example above, I still get LinkedIn notices of his birthday. She has no idea how to deactivate and it doesn't bother her because she doesn't use a computer.

All of this can result in a significant amount of money to your family or loved ones at a time where they may need that extra income. Luckily in my example above the spouse was well taken care of and was not in need of that money but we made more than \$3000 dollars on his items.

Your family will be dealing with a lot during this time and you should make the process of disposing of your ham gear as easy as possible.

KH6OWL, Honolulu Hawaii

## Buy, Sell, or Swap Page

**Used Grundig Satellite 750 Receiver, Never has had batteries installed, always used indoors. AM/FM/SW/LW/SSB/AIR bands.\$175 Greg Mann, KM4RKT**

**Can you name the 3 hams with their back to you?  
Do you know their Call Signs?**



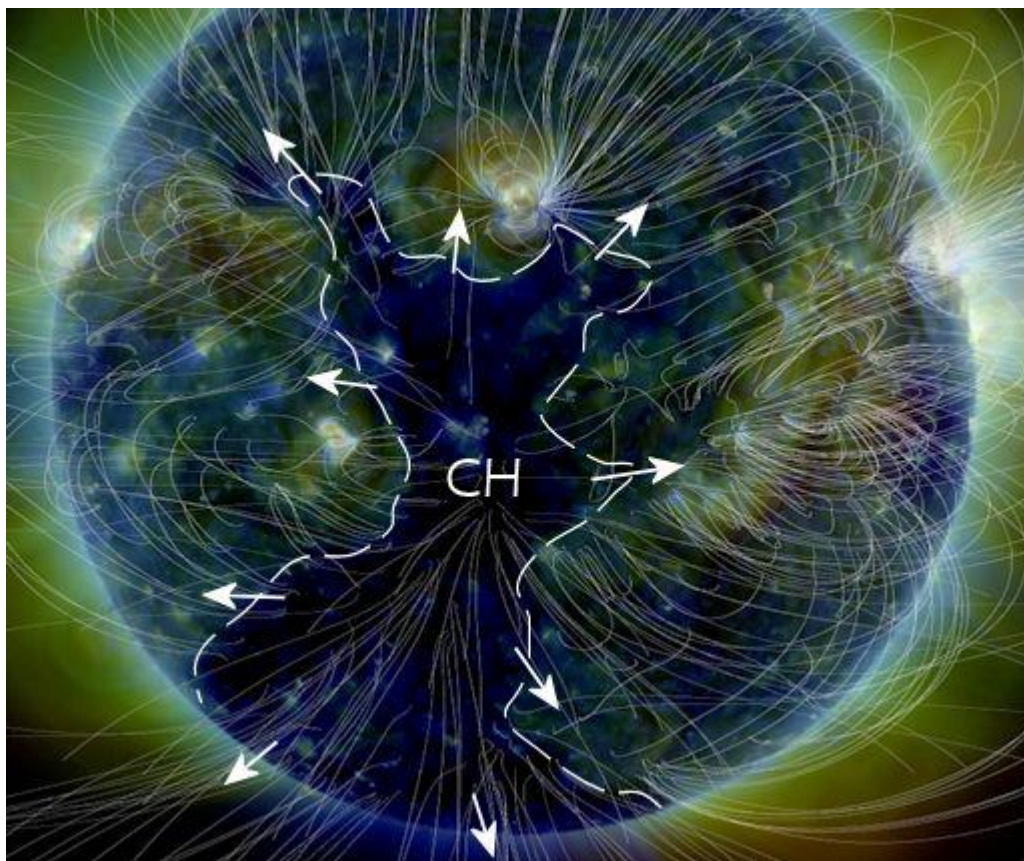


**SUNSET SKY SHOW:** When the sun goes down tonight, step outside and look southwest. The crescent Moon is approaching Venus and Mars for a beautiful sunset conjunction on Jan. 31st. Try to catch them before the sky fades to black. A conjunction of bright planets framed by twilight blue is extra beautiful. Sky maps: Jan. 30, 31.

**A HOLE IN THE SUN'S ATMOSPHERE:** A large, canyon-shaped hole has opened in the sun's atmosphere, and it is spewing a stream of solar wind directly toward Earth. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory photographed the structure, which stretches more than halfway across the face of the sun:

This is a "coronal hole" (CH)--a region where the sun's magnetic field opens up and allows solar wind to escape. NASA's STEREO spacecraft recently sampled the stream flowing from this hole and the velocity was unusually high: nearly 750 km/s. Such a fast-moving stream will likely spark Arctic auroras when it arrives on Feb. 1st.

The action could begin even before the stream arrives. NOAA forecasters say there is a 65% chance of G1-class geomagnetic storms on Jan. 31st when Earth crosses through a fold in the heliosphere current sheet--a vast undulating



system of electrical currents in space shaped like the skirt of a ballerina. Earth dips in and out of it all the time. These crossings are called "solar sector boundary crossings," and they can trigger their own form of geomagnetic activity. Free: Aurora alerts.

**Spaceweather TEXT** is for everyone: casual sky watchers, serious astronomers, moms, dads, students. Your account can be configured to match your interests and abilities. Spaceweather TEXT is a global service; we can phone every continent including Antarctica. [Click here.](#)

**Ham radio operators** use Spaceweather TEXT to learn about solar flares, radio blackouts, and space station flybys. (It's possible to listen to radio chatter from the ISS when it flies over your hometown.)



# JANUARY NETS REPORT

AMRC		DeKalb ARES			Turnip Truck	
Sunday Night Net			RF	Winlink/DRats	December 31	8
January 1	26	January 1	11	5/3	January 7	26
January 8	27	January 8	14	10/6	January 14	15
January 15	30	January 15	12	9/6	January 21	17
January 22	34	January 22	16	8/7	January 28	18
January 29	29	January 29	16	10/8		

## AMRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEB 2017

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



ATLANTA, GA:

Store Hours:

10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat

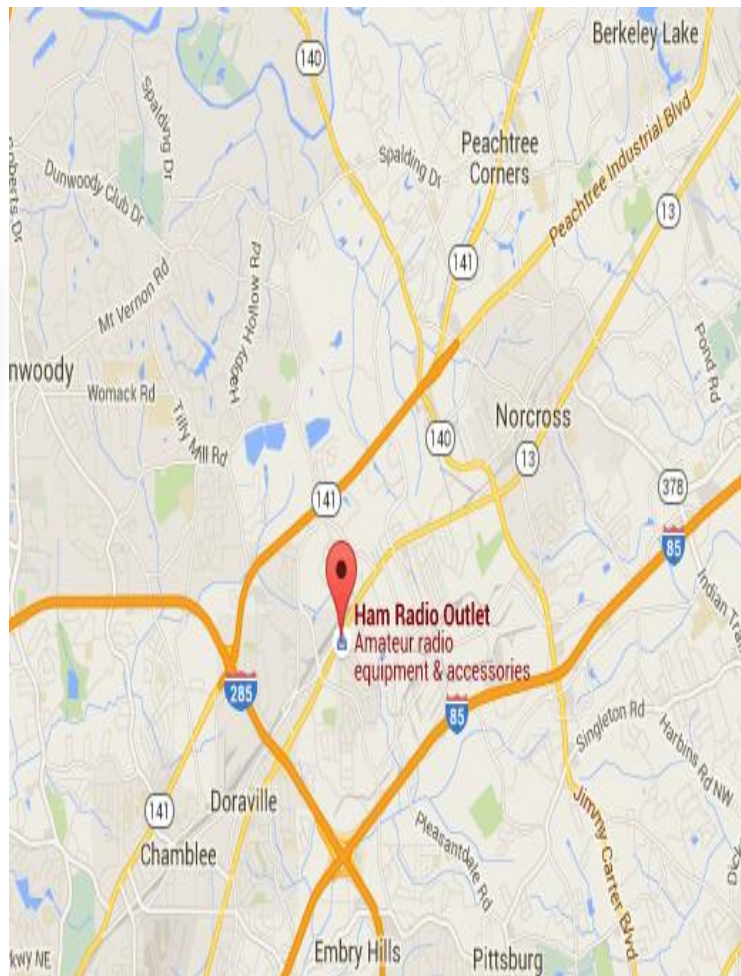
Telephone hours:

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

LOCAL: 770-263-0700

FAX: 770-263-9548

EMAIL: [atlanta@hamradio.com](mailto:atlanta@hamradio.com)



**From ARRL Contest Calendar**

**February 2017**

**TBD School Club Roundup**

**18-19 International DX - CW**

**March 2017 4-5 International DX - Phone**

**For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>**

# Hamtoons™

**CARTOON QSLs  
-- AND MORE!**

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

## L&M Mobility

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

**SERVICE & REPAIR**  
**Power Chairs • Lift Chairs • Scooters**