# Stone Mountain Georgia



# TOP OF THE ROCK

# The Newsletter of the Alford Memorial Radio Club

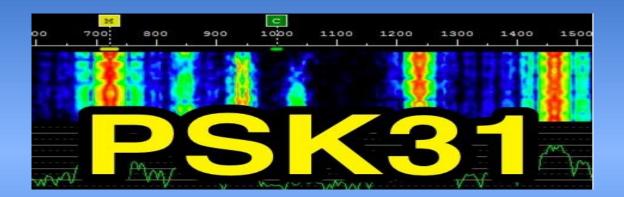
January 2016

http://totr-radio.org/









# January Issue Contents

- President's Notes
- Next Meeting Program, Repeater Info
- Pictures from Christmas Party
- Local Ham Events & Turnip Truck Net Info
- Articles "Journey to the G5RV Junior Antenna"
- Articles "100 Watts and a Wire"
- Birthdays and Member info
- Calendar for January
- VE Testing and Club Meetings
- Sponsors



# Message from the President

Welcome to 2016! The New Year has begun, hopefully with not too big of a bang, but with the outlook of a great year to come.

Let us all work together to make the year 2016 a banner year for the Alford Memorial Radio Club. Help our membership by encouraging hams and non hams that you know to become a new member, and don't forget to renew your own membership. Volunteer as many times as is possible for events the club participates in and join in on the nets sponsored by the club. Who knows, you might even hear the Brown Bag Lunch Bunch on the air from time to time. Check the 76 repeater out around 12 noon every once in awhile and you may just hear some familiar sounds.

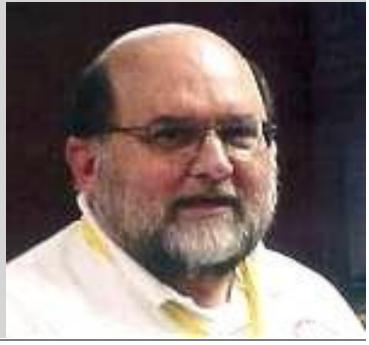
At stime to welcome our new officers that are leading our club into the future. Allison, AB4YL, is stepping in as Secretary to allow David, KB4UVV, to step down after serving for the past 9 years (2007 – 2015). And Gail, N2ART, is replacing Chris, KS4MM, as HamFest Chairman (or is that Chairwoman?). Chris was the HamFest Chairman for 4 years (2012 – 2015). Welcome Allison and Gail! I would like to extend to David and Chris more than just a "Thank You!" for your service to this club for all the time and effort given by you during your tenure in your respective positions.

Ue will need to find a new Repeater Manager for this year as our good friend Carter Bennett, K4CB, finally lost his battle with cancer just before Christmas. He will be missed by many as he was an amazing man and good friend to all hams. I considered him to be one of my best friends. So if you know of someone that might want to serve the club in the capacity as Repeater Manager please let me know.

Support the other clubs in our area, as we are all in this great hobby together. Join several clubs, they all have something to offer. And don't forget the GARS TechFest on Saturday, January 9, 2016. It is always a great event and we need Alford members to support this event the same way GARS supports our HamFest.

May the year 2016 be good to you and your entire family. May you also live long and prosper!

73 Steve, NATTY



# AMRC January Meeting Program

# "PSK31 Basics"

Thursday January 14th, at 7:00 pm

Join us at Shans 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 available on this repeater.



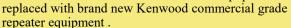




Located at Exchange Park, up and running beautifully,



In February of 2015 the old Micor 145 and 444 repeaters and the cabinets associated with that equipment were





Being relocated to Exchange Park, currently not operational.

Kenwood TS-590SG Raffle
The club will be raffling off a Kenwood TS-590SG
Radio.

Come to a club meeting or event to purchase your chance or chances to win.

Raffle tickets will be \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

The drawing will be held at our February meeting on February 11, 2016.

# Alford Memorial Christmas Party 2015





The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) will be hosting our annual TechFest in January. In recent years we have invited regional radio groups to participate by setting up a table with information about their activities and to demonstrate some type of amateur radio mode, method, technology or experience. This will be an opportunity for the community to become aware of the many modes of operation of Radio Amateurs and view some of the preparations taking place by public service volunteers in the Ham radio community. Unlike Field day, or the typical swap meet, this is not a contest or race. It is a chance to experience modes of our hobby that you might have never seen. Or to show your friends and family what Amateur Radio is about.

RAFFLE For TechFest 2016, we are raffling off a brand new Icom 7100.

Tickets are \$5.00 each, or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

Tickets will be available for sale at TechFest. GARS representatives will also try to visit area clubs with raffle tickets for sale.

We added an online ticket order option.

Orders may be made online. Order Raffle Tickets Here Multiples of 5 for \$20.00 only.

The drawing for the Icom 7100 will be held at 2:00pm at the GARS table.

You don't have to be present to win the raffle...

Numerous Door Prizes. MFJ-4230MV power supply

Tytera DMR HT, W s/w ARRL gift certificates

Many more..

Door prize drawings will be held throughout the day. You must be present to win.

COST General Admission: FREE

WHERE: Gwinnett Medical Resource Center 665 Duluth Highway (GA-120)
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

WHEN

Saturday, January 9th, 2016 9:00am - 2:00pm Exam Session begins at 9:15am

# "Journey to the G5RV Junior Antenna" by Dale Lynch, AE8DL

No matter how expensive your rig or how many pieces of equipment you add to your shack, it won't work very well if you don't have a good antenna. When space is limited or you face restrictions of any kind, it can be very frustrating trying to find an antenna that will suit your needs.

Our yard is small so at first we tried using ham sticks in the attic without success. They were whips specifically for 20 and 40 meters. We could barely hear anyone and no one could hear us. When that failed, I made a homebrew dipole and hung it the length of our 50 foot attic. By stripping the insulation off of the solid 14 gauge wire, the dipole was able to be shorter and it fit just fine (removing the insulation was a chore, however). Don, KK4NJM, came over with his antenna analyzer and we got the SWR to about 2.5:1. Thank you Don! Unfortunately, this option did little more than set off our smoke alarm (I fixed that by wrapping the top of the alarm and all surrounding wire in aluminum foil). The antenna search continued.

My XYL Allison, AB4YL, found the G5RV online but it was too long for our yard. Then she noticed the G5RV Junior. Perfect! It is built to tune 80 through 6 meters. We have a row of 40 foot tall cypress trees along our property line and so then began the challenge of hanging the antenna in the canopy of trees. Removing the excess limbs was not a problem until reaching 22 feet. I had been using limbs to climb up to that point but did not trust the thickness of the limbs any higher. Borrowing my father-in-law's tree climbing spikes and belt, I tried to clear more limbs. I had to leave so many limbs in place that I could not use the spikes. What to do? We bought deer stand ladders from Academy Sports. Problem solved! I combined two of the ladders per tree in order to reach high enough to remove the necessary limbs.

Finally, I reached 35 feet and attached an 18 inch angle bracket to support the pulley and antenna (and to bring it out from the tree). The pulley was added to make working on the antenna easier. I cleared a path to hang the antenna in an inverted V on both sides and used paracord from the insulators to the ground. Thanks to Don for coming over again with his antenna analyser to test our SWR.

The G5RV Junior directions recommend using a 2:1 balun at the bottom of the ladder line but you can greatly increase your signal strength by using a 4:1 balun. Thanks to Harold, KD8DVY, for recommending RogerTango.com for instructions on how to build one. With the 4:1 balun, 10 meters has come to life. Allison has been able to have a QSO with a station at 100 watts as far away as Croatia (5000 miles) on 20 meters. Not bad for a Junior inside a canopy of trees at 35 feet!

Dale Lynch AE8DL



# 100 WATTS & A WIRE

Created by Christian Cudnik, K0STH in May of 2015, 100 Watts and a Wire is a program celebrating amateur radio through the eyes of a new ham. The show features topical conversation and interviews, news and an entertaining look at the adventures of a ham trying to figure it all out. 100 Watts and a Wire is perfect for those who are new to ham radio, their Elmer's, the seasoned radio operator and the technically curious crowd. Whether you run 5 wattor 1500 watts, there's something for everyone.

Join Emmy winner Christian Cudnik, KØSTH and Katie Allen, WY7YL for an inside a look at the world of amateur radio.



# 100 WATTS AND A WIRE [ON THE AIR]

100 Watts and a Wire: Calling frequencies are 14287 and 7180. [+ or -] 100 Watts and a Wire NET is Thursday at 8p Central [02:00 UTC] on 7.180 [+ or -] We begin 15 minutes before the Net with early and short time check ins.

## CHRISTIAN'S BIOGRAPHY

Christian Cudnik is an American broadcaster and producer. In 2015, he launched a podcast devoted to amateur radio called, 100 Watts and a Wire.

He is the Executive Producer and Host of National Blues Museum Radio. It debuted in St. Louis on the Radio Arts Foundation on February 7, 2014. Today, the show is syndicated to stations around the world including affiliates in the United States, Canada, Romania, New Zealand, Russia and the UK.

His early radio influences were Orson Welles, Chuck Thompson, Paul Harvey, Casey Kasem and Jon Miller. Christian began his broadcasting career in Baltimore, Maryland. During the early 1990's, he worked for heritage rock station WIYY before moving to Philadelphia. In 1998, he joined WMMR. Pierre Robert, Earle Bailey, Kevin Gunn and Steve Lushbaugh are considered major influences.

Christian attained the number-one-ranked radio program in Philadelphia, and was nominated for two AIR Awards including, "Best Field Reporting" and "Best Evening Program-Host". In 2003, he moved to St. Louis where he became a host for St. Louis Public Radio.

He has received both Emmy and Telly Awards for his TV work. His documentaries have aired on PBS, and include "Enduring Tradition: Ballet in the Heartland", "Collective Improvisation: The Story of Jazz in Saint Louis", "Seeking Freedom", "Uncovering Ancient Saint Louis", "Wallace Herndon Smith: Artist Without Boundaries", and "Footsteps into the World Beneath".

In 2010, Christian co- founded the non profit art organization, 'Ballet Initiative'. Ballet Initiative works to train dancers to dance and to raise the profile ballet. In August of 2013, he created the first audio podcast devoted to the art of ballet. [balletinitiative.com/podcast] His interviews include David Robertson, Semyon Bychkov, Joshua Bell, REM, Hamiet Bluiett, Roger Waters, Graham Nash, Aaron Neville, Peter Boal, Ashley Bouder, Jacques d'Amboise, Tiler Peck, Jock Soto, Nancy Buirski, Jennie Somogyi, and Heather Watts.

# AMRC Membership Page

# New AMRC Members as of January Meeting

### **New Members:**

Total Members as of Dec. 1, 2015: 161
Members as of Jan 6th
79

Join us for our weekly breakfast gathering at 7AM most Saturdays at:

# Metro Café Diner

1905 Rockbridge Rd. Stone Mountain, GA 30087

# The following members are celebrating birthdays in January:



## From All of Us at AMRC

Birthday by, K4GZZ

JAN 01 Jack Newton

JAN 01 AI4UR George Olive

JAN 03 N4EWT Newton White

JAN 04 K4JLK Judi Kanne

JAN 05 N2MFS Mike Stevenson

JAN 10 KA4BNG Jean Sager

JAN 11 KM4DEA Few Gunn

JAN 12 KM4KNV Nicole Fallin

JAN 12 K4JJL Jared Lambert

JAN 13 KK4YDS Jimmy Penson

JAN 13 KJ4TZN George Batchelder

JAN 16 KC4ME Frank Huggins

JAN 19 W4GBK Gwyneth Butera

JAN 26 KJ4SUL Ruth Primm

JAN 27 AK4TL Clyde McClain

JAN 28 KI4BNH Doug Jackson

JAN 29 KM4OXG Theoan Le Doux

# **AMRC MEMBERSHIP**

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

http://totr-radio.org/membership files/membership.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

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <a href="http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home">http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home</a>

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

Membership Chair: Steve Garrison steve.n4tty@gmail.com

DX Contesting and Operations links.

# 425 DX NEWS

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society - World List of Lights

Announced DX Operations by NG3K

Asia (((DX))) Window (ASIA HF DX WebCluster)

BÓLETIN DE DX EN ESPAÑOL by CE1RKV (Spanish)

DX News Letter by DL1EK & DL7VOA (at NG3K Web Site)

DX SUMMIT (last 250 DX-spots)

hfradio.org - propagation by NW7US

Hot DX Tips From the NJDXA by NA2M

IOTA (Islands On The Air) Web Site

LES NOUVELLES DX (French)

LY4A "Daily Dx News"

Near-Real-Time MUF Map

Propagation by N6RT

Solar Activity Information - from DX-Listeners'

Club, Norway

The OPDX Bulletin - Internet Edition by

KB8NW

# 01/09/2016 | TechFest 2016

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Gwinnett Amateur

Radio Society
Website: http://
www.GARS.org

# 02/12/2016 | ARRL National Convention (Orlando HamCation®)

**Location:** Orlando, FL **Type:** ARRL Convention **Sponsor:** Orlando Amateur

Radio Club

Website: <a href="http://hamcation.com">http://hamcation.com</a>

# Stay In The Loop!!!!

Get email notification from you clubs events, updates, announcements. Sign up for these links:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/alfordmemorialradioclub/info

https://www.facebook.com/groups/AMRC.TOTR/

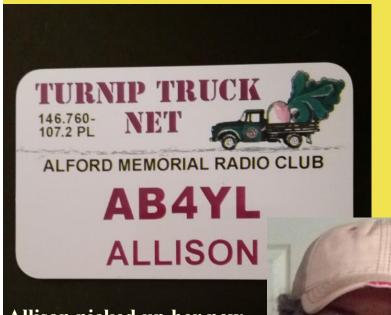
https://www.facebook.com/DekalbCountyEMA?
fref=ts

https://twitter.com/StoneMtnRadioCl

# **Upcoming Club Events**

# UP-COMING PROGRAMS FOR ALFORD MEMORIAL RADIO CLUB.

January Digital PSK-31 Demo
February How Christmas Lights
Interfered With The Repeater
March TBA



Allison picked up her new call-sign Turnip Truck Badge from the "Sign Man".

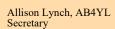
Congrats Allison, and welcome onboard the Turnip Truck.



Steve Garrison, President N4TTY



Mike Smith Vice President KK4KHS



Barry Kanne, W4TGA

Gail Massara, N2ART Hamfest Chairman



Gene Blackburn N4UJ W4BOC Trustee



George Olive .. AI4UR DeKalb ARES EC



Steve Vogel W4PSV Public Information Officer



Richard Dickson, W4WRD Apparel Coordinator



Chris Balch KS4MM Counsel



Al Hughes NZ4A Field Day Chair

Frank Haynes, KV4SP VE Team Chair

# **Opportunities**

NORTHWEST DIGITAL NET: The Northwest District holds a digital net every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm taking check-ins on 3.583 with PSK125 centered between 1000 and 1500 depending on nearby traffic. Look for NCS to be call sign W4NWG.

# 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.
- <u>Every Saturday</u> at 7:00 am: AMRC Weekly Breakfast, Metro Café Diner, Stone Mtn, Ga.
- ♦ Turnip Truck Net at 11pm Saturday Night

## Atlanta Track Club Needs You!!

Volunteer opportunities for any radio amateur contact David Ziskind ke4qlh@arrl.net

http://www.atlantatrackclub.org/

January 23, 2016 - Peachtree City 8K & 15K - Peachtree City

February 6, 2016 - Hearts and Soles 5K - Georgia Perimeter College

March 5, 2016 - Be Healthy Georgia Day One Mile & 50m Dash - State Capitol

March 20, 2016 - Publix Georgia Marathon & Half Marathon\* - Registration opens mid-January

March 26, 2016 - Atlanta Women's 5K - Chastain

GARS needs help with the Cherokee Rose Cluster Dog Show

Feb 4,5,6,7, 2016 See GARS homepage for info <a href="http://www.gars.org/w4gr/">http://www.gars.org/w4gr/</a>

# Club Member News Page



You got to much stuff?
Clean out your shack!
List your stuff to sell in the TOTR!

Its January 2016

Club

Membership

Dues Are Due!

Individual \$25

Family \$25

Student \$15

Join ARRL \$49 per yr. and get your QST magazine monthly included.

https://www.arrl.org/ membership-levels

"AMRC DECEMBER NETS REPORT"						
AMRC Net		DeKalb ARES Net			Turnip Truck Net	
Sunday Night Net			RF	Winlink		
Dec 6	27	Dec 6	19	9	Dec 5	7
Dec 13	19	Dec 13	18	?	Dec 12	6
Dec 20	20	Dec 20	16	9	Dec 19	10
Dec 27	18	Dec 27	14	8	Dec 26	11

#### AMRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY **SUNDAY SATURDAY** 7am 8am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner Turnip Truck 10:30pm 5 8 7pm AMRC Sun-7 am Breakfast at day Night Net Metro Café Diner 8pm DeKalb ARES Techfest NET Turnip Truck 13 16 7:00 Breakfast at Metro 10 11 12 15 7pm AMRC Sun-**GARS Meeting AMRC Meeting** Café Diner day Night Net 7pm 7pm Turnip Truck 10:30pm 8pm DeKalb ARES NET 18 19 20 21 22 23 7pm AMRC Sun-7:00 am Breakfast day Night Net at Metro Café Diner 8pm DeKalb Turnip Truck ARES NET 10:30pm 26 27 28 29 25 7:00 am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net Turnip Truck Net 8pm DeKalb 10:30pm ARES NET 31 Same as above

# **Metro Testing Sessions**

# **Ham Exam Results**

# **Metro Club Meetings**

AMRC publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at

http://www.arrl-ga.org.

## First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov) VEC: WCARS Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA Roger Gibson, WB4T (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560 w4rlg@bellsouth.net

#### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) VEC: WCARS Hall County EOC 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga. Perry Roper, KO4RD (770) 536-3056

## **Second Saturday**

10:00 AM Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center 13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004 Ian Kahn, KM4IK

E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com

#### Second Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL 8:30 a.m. GMC Community Ctr 5325 Leon St. Stone Mountain, GA Frank Haynes, KV4SP (678) 467-3712

#### **Second Sunday**

VEC: W5YI 2 pm Gwinnett County Fire Station #5 3001 Old Norcross Road Duluth, GA 30096 Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR Email: exams@gars.org

#### Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI 2 pm (Except December) Lifeway Church 1654 Atlanta Highway #109 Steve Donellan, N5SMD (404) 520-0368 Email: n5smd@comcast.net

(continued in next column)

# Thanks to the following VE's.

Frank, KV4SP Jeff, KC4CKN Ed, WA4VFH Jere, K4FUM Steve, N4TTY

We are always looking for operators for the various hospital stations. If you are interested in taking on a hospital assignment, please contact Barry Kanne (W4TGA) via email at <a href="w4tga@arrl.net">w4tga@arrl.net</a> for details. This will require your ability to operate the station for drills, exercises as well as real events. Barry Kanne, W4TGA, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator - Public Health Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

#### **Fourth Tuesday**

ARRL VEC 7 pm @ United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770) 942-6466

### **Fourth Sunday**

2:30 pm Georgia Tech Van Leer Elec. Building Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr. See www.w4aql.com Alexander G. Carver (404) 894-2936 acarver@ece.gatech.edu

#### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC Downtown Marietta Fire Station #1, Training Room 112 Haynes Street Marietta, Georgia 30060 Meeting begins at 7:00pm Talk In 146.880(-)

### **First Thursday**

Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30pm Talk In -146.820(-) N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30pm Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0

## **Second Monday**

Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00pm

### **Second Tuesday**

http://www.gars.org/w4gr/ EOA Building at Briscoe Field Lawrenceville, Ga. Just off Hi Hope Road Dinner at Flying Machine Restaurant at

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

5:30pm then meeting at 7pm.

### **Second Thursday**

Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Road & Spain Road, Snellville Dinner at 6:00pm Meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 146.760(-)

### **Second Saturday**

North GA QRP Club Board Room of The Shepherd Center at 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta at 10:00 AM

#### **Third Tuesday**

North Fulton Amateur Radio League Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept. Alpharetta Adult Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road Alpharetta, GA 30004 meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 145.47(-)



ATLANTA, GA:
Store Hours:
10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat
Telephone hours:
9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat

TOLL FREE: 800-444-7927 LOCAL: 770-263-0700 FAX: 770-263-9548

EMAIL: atlanta@hamradio.com

Store Mailing Address: 6071 Buford Hwy Atlanta, GA 30340-1364

MARCH







DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO

AMATEUP
RADIO

PUBLISHED SINCE 1915 BY THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE INC.

A Double-Detection Receiver

Band-Pass Hiter

Band-Pass Hiter

Control of the Screen Grid Tubes

in this issue

