

Stone Mountain Hamfest



TOP OF THE ROCK

The Newsletter of the Alford
Memorial Radio Club

December 2015

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



Alford Memorial Radio Club Christmas Party Dec, 10th

Happy Holidays



Message from the President

The year is coming rapidly to a close. The Hamfest, successful but very wet, is behind us. Our annual Christmas party is next week. And then we have a couple of weeks to get ready for Santa's visit. I hope all of you have been real nice for the entire year so your letters to Santa will be fulfilled with all those new radio toys you've had your eyes on for the entire year.

Wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, from my QTH to yours.

On just a few weeks we begin a brand new year. My hopes are that the New Year brings to each of you much happiness and joy. Don't make too many New Year's resolutions that you have no hope of honoring all of them, I know I won't.

Remember that dues for club membership are due starting Jan. 1st, as our membership year ends for everyone on Dec. 31st. Avoid the rush and get your renewals in early. Let's shoot for a record number of new members this year.

Everyone find someone to mentor as a new ham and get them to join the club. All of you can be an Elmer and I guarantee you that you will love the experience of getting someone started in this wonderful hobby that we enjoy so much.

2016 should be a banner year for the Alford Memorial Radio Club, and with your help I am sure it will be. Just be sure to support our activities and lend a hand when we ask for your help. If everyone helps a little it makes it easier on all of us.

So wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year, that'll do it until next year.

73

Steve, N4TTY



AMRC December Meeting Program

“Christmas Party”

Thursday December 10th, at 7:00 pm

**Meeting 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

replaced with brand new Kenwood commercial grade repeater equipment .



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.

Stone Mountain Hamfest Student Shack 2015





TechFest

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

Student Shack at the Stone Mountain Hamfest

Thanks to veteran hams like Steve, N4TTY, Norm, WA4ZXV, Mike, AD4MC, Pavel, AC4PA, Cathy KI4SBK, Jay, KC4JD, and Daryl, K4RGK, for their help with the very successful Student Shack at the Stone Mountain Hamfest. The Student Shack, a more inviting, educational, and productive series of activities for young hams and other students interested in aspects of Amateur Radio, replaced the Youth Lounge this year. At least 30 students participated in Student Shack activities. Schools represented by these students include McConnell MS, Russell ES, Mill Springs Academy, Loganville MS, North Gwinnett MS, Westminster Christian Academy, Floyd MS, Bay Creek ES and Tigerville ES. A handful of home-schooled students participated in the Student Shack as well.

The day's program began with a guided tour of the boneyard and Exhibit Hall. Students attending a hamfest often walk past a boneyard and wonder why anyone would be interested in the collections of what they perceive as dirty and broken junk. Jay took the students around and provided insight as to what they were

(Continued on page 7)

seeing and why hams were interested in such things. Some of the more experienced young hams recognized some of the bargains and unique offerings available in the boneyard and Exhibit Hall and made purchases.

Next up, a collection of Snap Circuit kits caught the attention, interest, and curiosity of the students as well as some of the more veteran hams who also got involved in building various circuits with the oversized components. At the same time, Steve and Mike captured the interest of the students by helping them to work with the Teletype equipment and the digital radio equipment. Following a few pointers, the student were quickly operating the equipment like seasoned pros – and having a blast!

At 11 AM, Pavel captured the students' rapt attention with his introductory lesson on Morse code. Soon he had the students confidently and gleefully tapping out various words and phrases that can be made using the letters ESTONIA. These lessons were a hit with everyone present – both the students participating and the adults watching.

At noon, everyone from the Student Shack went over to the VE room for a presentation on "The Fun and Magic of Digital Radio Communication" given by students Trey, KK4QJB, and Eli, KM4HFZ. At the conclusion of their presentation, students enjoyed a pizza lunch which they ate while chatting with veteran hams like Steve, Jay, Mike, Pavel, Bob, AK4O, and teachers like Jean, KM4FVO, Chris, KM4KPJ, and Martha, W4MSA.

Following lunch, students returned to the Student Shack area and got involved with the Snap Circuit kits again. Cathy was on hand to help students with their ever more complex creations. Did you get hit by any of the flying helicopter blades? Some of the students hooked a series of batteries up so that the blades hit the ceiling in the open air space of the Exhibit Hall. Some students took off to investigate the Exhibit Hall and boneyard on their own or with their teachers. Some took advantage of the smaller crowd to spend some time work with the digital station equipment and the Teletype behemoths.

The final activity of the day in the Student Shack was a meet and greet with Section Manager and presidents of some of the local radio clubs. They were asked to present 'a two minute elevator speech' about what their club has to offer young people interested in Amateur Radio. None of the speakers kept to the 2 minute limit. Gene Clark, W4AYK, spoke about how ARRL coordinates many of the activities of hams in the country, including Field Days and programs for teachers.

Rick, N4XYY, representing GARS, spoke about their work with the McConnell Middle School, the Boy Scouts, and TechFest. John, K4SQC, representing NFARL, spoke about their work with Mill Springs Academy, including their ARISS Radio Contact in 2013, his work with some students on the MAREA project, how students from Mill Springs got involved in NFARL's Field Days. Jim, K4BSE, representing Sawnee Amateur Radio Association, spoke about his club's activities and support for young people interested in Amateur Radio. He encouraged the students present to continue their work with Amateur Radio saying his early interest with it led to a very satisfying career for him. Finally, Steve, N4TTY, spoke with the students about how he and his club has worked with and encouraged teachers such as Martha, W4MSA, Gillian, KM4DEY, and a pair of professors at Agnes Scott College, who have established a very dynamic Amateur Radio program there.

Thanks to Steve and Norm for helping to organize and set up the Student Shack and for providing lunch for its participants. The Student Shack seemed to be a very successful addition to the Stone Mountain Hamfest that provided a welcoming, educational, and fun Hamfest experience for young people with an interest in Amateur Radio in this area. It is hoped that other Hamfest will establish similar programs in the future.



Steve N4TTY



Rick N4XYY

AMRC Membership Page

New AMRC Members as of November Meeting

Nick Nikley/N0NCQ

New Members:

**Total Members as of Dec. 1, 2015:
161**

**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 December:**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

From All of Us at AMRC

Associate Member - Nancy
Martin

KI4ZLF Lisa Hartlage

KK4KIJ Jennifer Sheppard

KD4HLI David Phelps

AF4FO Susan Swiderski

K4FUM Jere Sandidge

K9YRO Madeline Sheppard

KK4ZIK Nicole Ackerman

KV4SP Frank Haynes

KK4NFV Noelle Silva

WB4UVW Charles Griffin

KI4UDT Nick Olive

WB4WFB Shirley Pearson

73 - K4GZZ

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
<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

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)

BOLETIN 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

01/02/2016 | Freezefest

Location: Locust Fork, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Blount County ARC

Website: <http://www.freezefest.com>

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: <http://hamcation.com>

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.

December - Christmas Party

January Digital PSK-31 Demo

**February Hands on class. Building a roll
up J-Pole for 2m or 440**

March TBA



Contact Santa <http://14300.net/santainfo.htm>

Have your little one's talk to Santa on the radio

<http://ke5ggy.blogspot.com/>

Santa Net Announced for 2015

(DALLAS-FT. WORTH, TX) For the 10th consecutive year, [The 3916 Nets](#) will be staging The Santa Net on 3.916 MHz. Good girls and boys will be able to talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly at 7:30 PM (Central) starting November 26, 2015. The Santa Net will run nightly through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015.

AMRC Officers and Committee Chairs

Steve Garrison,
President

N4TTY



Mike Smith
Vice President

KK4KHS



Dave McWhirter
Secretary

KB4UVV



Barry Kanne, W4TGA
Treasurer



Chris Balch KS4MM
Hamfest Chairman



Gene Blackburn N4UJ
W4BOC Trustee



George Olive .. AI4UR
DeKalb ARES EC



Steve Vogel W4PSV
Public Information Officer



Richard Dickson W4WRD
Apparel Mgr



Chris Balch KS4MM
Counsel

Steve Garrison, N4TTY
Membership Chair

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

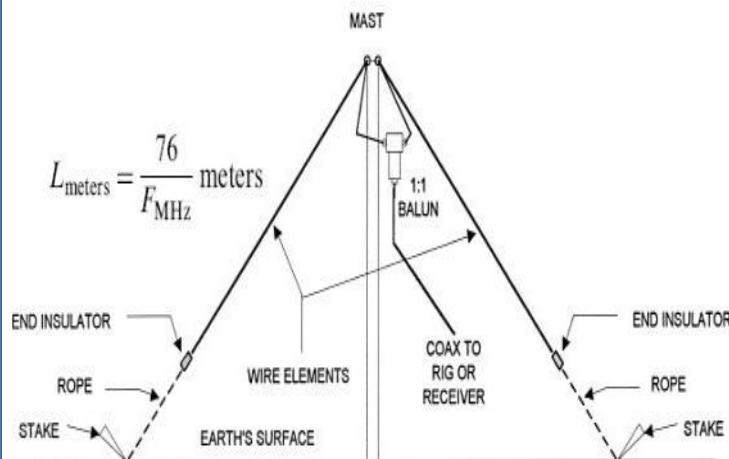
ARMS Recurring Calendar

- ♦ Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm
- ♦ 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

Getting On The Air

I recommend installing your new dipole as an inverted vee. The center support could be a tree branch, a flagpole, or a wooden or fiberglass pole. The $\frac{1}{4}$ wave legs of your inverted vee should each have an end insulator on them, and then some nylon, dacron or other guy rope leading out to a handy attachment point. That attachment point could be your fence post, a tree, or a tent stake shoved into your lawn. In this way, you only need one tall support, which is the center of your inverted vee. The center of your inverted vee won't sag when you attach your feedline, as would a horizontal dipole supported only at the ends. And, if you're using fiberglass tubing as the center support, the $\frac{1}{4}$ wave legs of your antenna do an admirable job of guying the center support. Just make sure that the enclosed angle of your inverted vee is at least 90 degrees. And, although plenty of purists might disagree with me, when you adjust the length of your new inverted vee for minimum SWR, anything less than 2.0:1 is fine at HF. Don't sweat the small stuff.

This is not a "how to" article. This is, instead, a "just build it" article. Take my word for it: Building your own antenna is loads of fun. In fact, you might just get so much satisfaction



Club Member News Page

Who was Alford?
And Why, is your club named for him?

Being a fairly new ham myself, I was also curious about the history of the name-sake to the Alford Memorial Radio Club. After many questions to many members, Al Hughes, Past Club Trustee, has discovered archived articles with information about Dick Alford, W4BOC.

The Alford Memorial Radio Club is dedicated to the memory of Dick Alford, a well-known and respected Atlanta Ham whom pass away several years ago. Dick Alford was versatile and operated CW, Phone, and Teletype, and was a pioneer on Two Meter FM in the Atlanta area.

Dick was an operator of the old Atlanta Police Radio Station WDPY, begging in 1936. He entered World War II as a lieutenant in then Signal Corps. While working on a transmitter located on Green Island in the Pacific, Dick was injured in a high voltage accident. He was discharged with the rank of Captain and again affiliated himself with the Atlanta Police department. His injury later forced his retirement and he devoted a great amount of time to his hobby, Ham radio.

One of his avid interest was helping the new Ham get started. Many areas amateurs will also remember Dick was once a Vice Director of the ARRL. It is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity to honor Dick Alford, a Ham whose friendship and helpfulness will occupy a warm place within the memory of all Atlanta areas hams.

The Alford Memorial Radio Club was founded with then primary purpose of building and installing an amateur repeater for Atlanta, Ga.

More information on Dick Alford in the November TOTR.

Generators For Sale, Carter Bennett

EX350 Honda 2-stroke engine and inverter. Super light weight. 150 and 300 watt selection. Nice and quiet for camping. Used to operate test equipment in the field. In good working condition. \$225



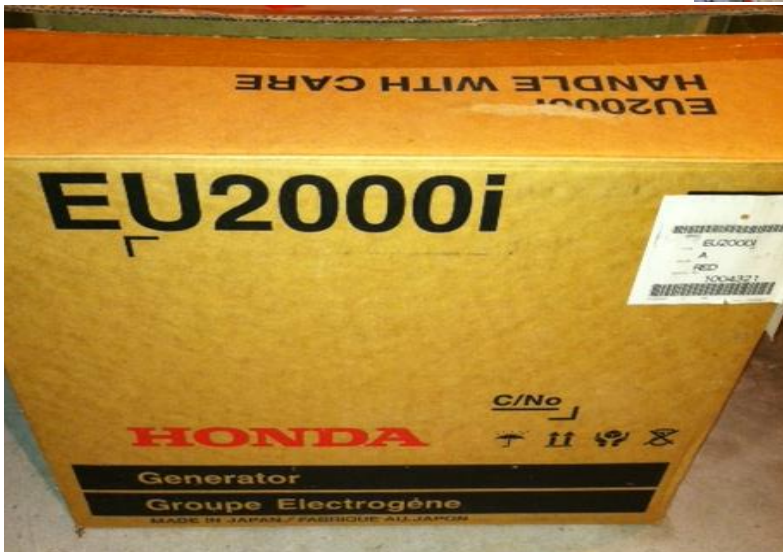
Honda EX800 Easily portable unit. Has 12V charging cable. Easy to start and runs well. Has easy-open lid for access to circuit breakers and spark plug wrench. \$400.





Honda EX1000 The generator with a full KW of power. Has an easy-open lid to expose spark plug wrench, circuit breakers, etc. Very nice unit. Includes 12V charging cable. \$475

EU1000i, Still in the original box and has never been run. Includes storage cover. \$650



EU200i Everyone seems to appreciate the 2KW inverter-powered generator. It has been started but only for testing. Then the fuel has been drained out. Very nice unit. \$790

Contact: Carter Bennett. carterebennett@bellsouth.net

"AMRC NOVEMBER NETS REPORT"

AMRC Net		DeKalb ARES Net			Turnip Truck Net	
Sunday Night Net			RF	Winlink		
Nov 1	31	Nov 1	12	13	Nov 7	No Net
Nov 8	24	Nov 8	11	5	Nov 14	7
Nov 15	22	Nov 15	23	13	Nov 21	?
Nov 22	24	Nov 22	14	10	Nov 28	8
Nov 29	21	Nov 29		10		

AMRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 7am 8am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner
6 Hamfest 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net 8pm DeKalb ARES NET	7	8	9	10 Christmas Party	11	12 7am 8am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner Turnip Truck 10:30pm
13 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net 8pm DeKalb ARES NET	14	15	16	17	18	19 7:00– 8:30 am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner Turnip Truck 10:30pm
20 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net 8pm DeKalb ARES NET	21	22	23	24	25	26 7:00– 8:30 am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner Turnip Truck 10:30pm
27 7pm AMRC Sunday Night Net 8pm DeKalb ARES NET	28	29	30	31	1	2 7:00– 8:30 am Breakfast at Metro Café Diner Turnip Truck Net

Metro Testing Sessions

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)

Ham Exam Results

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 w4tga@arrl.net 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

Metro Club Meetings

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

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.gars.org/w4gr/>

EOA Building at Briscoe Field

Lawrenceville, Ga. Just off Hi Hope Road

Dinner at Flying Machine Restaurant at 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





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Robert (Mike) Smith
 5191 La Paloma Dr.
 Lilburn, GA 30047
 Phone (404)-509-3104
Smithrm70@hotmail.com

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