



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

January 2018

Author: Frank KG4IGC

From your President:

Well, the holidays are officially behind us as is 2017. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! 2018 is off to a great start for the club. There will be some new and exciting things going on in the coming months. For starters, we are working on having a better library of resources for individual learning on the website. The new resources page is currently under construction but is up and running with a lot of new information on various subjects, link's, and PowerPoint presentations. If you have not been to the website recently, I encourage you to check it out. We are also looking at putting together a new intermediate contesting class. This will be a more advanced class, geared toward the seasoned contester who wants to learn new ways to improve your overall

contesting operation. Kevan N4XL has volunteered to spearhead the class, and is already working on putting the class together. At the moment, a date, time and place have yet to be determined but as soon as we have that information, you guys will be the first to know!

We did really great in the ARRL RTTY RU earlier this month. We had eight entries with a total aggregate score of 316,322 points. This is up from last year's score of 288,128 points with ten entries. All I can say is great job guys and keep up the good work! The NAQP CW contest is this upcoming weekend Jan 13, 1800z to Jan 14, 0559. Dave WN4AFP has started a list for team members so if you want to get in on the action, please be sure to let him know before Friday, January 12th. Keep in mind that the North America QSO Party, SSB is right around the corner on Jan. 20, 1800z to Jan. 21, 0559z and we will be looking for team members for this one as well.

On a final note, I would like to remind everyone of our annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018 3PM at the Lizards Thicket located on US-1 between I-26 and I-20, west of I-26 in Lexington, SC. We will be doing our annual elections for officers, so please be sure to email Dave WN4AFP before the meeting with your nominees and your votes. We are hoping to have a visit from Mark Tarplee, N4UFP so he can give the club an update on the happenings with the ARRL. Bill N4IQ will be doing a presentation at the end of the official club business on S02R which should prove to be both educational and quite interesting. The address for Lizard's Thicket is 4616 Augusta Road, Lexington, SC. Their phone number is 803-785-5560.

Hamfests:

GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA HAMFEST

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018

Piedmont Technical College, James Medford Family Event Center

620 North Emerald Road Greenwood, SC 29646

N 34° 12.3079' W 82° 7.3034'

<http://www.ptc.edu/about/map-directions>

Doors open at 9: 00 AM

ARRL FORUMS- FCC EXAMS – DEALERS – FLEA MARKET

PRIZES - EASY ACCESS - FOOD ON-SITE BY

SMOKE HOUSE of GREENWOOD

TALK-IN 147.165 + TONE 107.2 / ALT 443.900 + tone 107.2

TICKETS \$8.00— TABLES \$10.00—ELECTRICITY \$10.00

ADVANCE TICKETS \$8.00 DRAWING FOR TYTERA DMR MD-380
RADIO

NO OUTDOOR TAILGATING

DOORS OPEN FOR VENDORS AT 7:00 AM

TABLE SET UP ON FRIDAY 2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM AND SATURDAY AT
7:00 AM

VE EXAMS WILL BE “WALK IN”, STARTING AT 10:30 AM

BRING YOUR ORIGINAL LICENSE AND A COPY

EMAIL: ai4wn@arrl.net OR wj4x@arrl.net

For further information and pre-registration, contact:

G.A.R.S. PO Box 2404 Greenwood, SC 29646

<http://www.w4gwd.org/>

Chairman: Tedd Davasion AI4WN

To help insure we have tables for all vendors and flea market

Please reserve before December 8, 2017

**CHARLESTON HAMFEST, COMPUTER SHOW, & ARRL 2018
State Convention**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 at the Armory Park Community
Center, 5000 Lackawanna Blvd., N. Charleston, SC

(32.885° N, 79.993° W).

Exit 213 off I-26, East Montague Ave. . The Center is close to Tanger
Mall.

Talk in: The WA4USN linked Repeater System (146.790- No Tone
Charleston, 146.940- Tone 123.0 Summerville and 147.045+ Tone
103.5 St. George). Other area repeaters are 145.450-, 146.760-,
147.180+, 147.270+, 147.300+, 147.345+, 443.800+, and 444.825+
(all with Tone 123.0) and 147.150+ Tone 91.5

Time: Doors open at 8:00 AM and close at 3:00 PM. Dealers will be able to set up from 5 to 9 PM Friday and after 6:30 AM Saturday.

Tables: Pre-registered - \$10.00 per 8ft table. At the door - \$12.00 per table, if available. Chairs - \$2.00 each.

Tailgating: Tailgating fee is \$8.00 (must purchase admission ticket).

Camping: No camping facilities available. Self Contained Only parking available.

Prizes: Grand Prize: \$400.00, Second Prize: \$200.00, Third Prize: \$100.00. Prizes will be drawn at 2:00 PM. You need not be present to win. Door prizes will be given away during the day, must be present to win.

Tickets: Tickets will be sold Saturday morning at the door. Admission \$5.00 (includes 1 prize ticket). Additional prize tickets - \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Children under 12 admitted free.

Food: Light breakfast plus world famous C.A.R.S. Dogs and BBQ Sandwiches available for lunch.

Activities: FORUMS (ARRL, Natural Disasters, etc.).

QSL Card Checker: You can't just show up with a hand full of cards. Anyone that needs cards checked should go to nj4f.webs.com, and go to the Card Checking link. This will tell you what you need to do BEFORE the hamfest.

Forum and Activity Schedule:

10:00 AM SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION MANAGER REPORT

Mark Tarplee, N4UFP, SC Section Manager

ROANOKE DIVISION REPORT: Jim Boehner, N2ZZ Director

ARRL UPDATE: Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, ARRL Chief Executive Officer

1:00 PM VE Exams

Volunteer Exams: ARRL VE exams will be given on site. Please bring your Social Security Number, original and copy of your amateur license (if licensed) and any CSCE's you have, \$15 fee, and two ID's, one with a photo. Testing begins at 1:00pm on a WALK-IN basis. Call KT4YW, Sheila, at (843) 871-4368 or email aj4uq@arrl.net for more info.

Point of Contact: Steven Lamendola, KE4THX,

706 E. Saltash Aly., Goose Creek, SC 29445

(336) 740-4382 or email: steven.lamendola@gmail.com

Brag List:

N4IQ 2017 RTTY RU 1st place SC section SO2R

NJ4F 2017 RTTY RU 1st place SC section SOHP

KG4IGC 2017 RTTY RU 1st place SC section SOLP

Member Contributions:

Expect The Unexpected

By Kevan N4XL

That's such a silly phrase. How can you possibly do that? What brought that to mind is an article in the December 20, 2017 edition of the ARRL's ARES E-letter. They talked about the Ham response to the still ongoing fires in California. Those good people set up an Amateur Radio Digital Network (ARDN) and used MESH networks to transmit video of the mess they are coping with. As the fires raged it cut off power to their repeaters. Not to worry, this is sunny California and we have a backup solar power system charging batteries. Unfortunately, the heavy smoke blocked the sun and there wasn't enough juice to keep them charged.

The 'lesson learned' there for me is if something is critical you need at least one and preferably two or more backups ready. That got me to thinking about my own equipment status in regard to emergency preparedness. I'm thinking of my home station here. I can't expect the unexpected, but it doesn't feel like I'm in as bad a shape as I feared. There are some issues with a lack of DMR and no backup DSTAR, but for local FM and state wide HF I am in reasonably good shape.

Antennas: A 440 vertical and a six element beam. One 220 mag mount. Two 2 meter verticals and a 13 element beam. Several UHF/VHF mobile mag mounts. HF antennas are at least two per each band 10 through 80 and one for 160.

Radios: Two 440/144 and one 220/144 dual bander mobiles. One each 440 and 144 MHz single band rigs. Two dual band HT's one with DSTAR. Two functioning HF rigs.

Power: Commercial AC. A propane powered generator with enough propane to last several days of continuous operation. A portable 150 watt solar panel system with a backup solar charging unit. Two or three deep cycle and gel cell batteries.

There is also enough coax, wire, connectors, fuses, fiberglass mast, rope, deep cycle batteries and such to rig up a portable station on short notice.

For my main Ham passion of contesting I have begun to look at a backup for each critical component there too. Setting up a S02R station so I can continue if one rig dies. Two computers. Multiple monitors. Spare headset. Multiple antennas per band. And so on.

Are you set up to handle things in emergencies? Do you have enough junk lying around and backup plans to handle most of whatever unexpected things come up?

Other News:

Kevan N4XL talked about the idea of improving the SFCG website files and link pages. This is a work in progress, and there is now a new [resources page](#) on the club website. He also talked about doing a new Contesting 201 class and introducing intermediate level contesting tips. This is also in the works.

Kevan N4XL shared with the group how he uses the N1MM Mult & Q window

Dave WN4AFP thanked Tony K4AMA for his hard work in putting together the SFOTA leaderboard page and reminded us to make sure to post our scores. He also took a poll on how many of us are moving toward S02R operation.

Bill N4IQ shared how he has his S02R station set up on a budget.

Kevan shared with us information about the upcoming Greenwood Hamfest.

Frank KG4IGC told us that the [preliminary results](#) of the OK DX RTTY Contest 2017 have been posted.

Bob KG6MC was congratulated by Dave WN4AFP for a great run in the December Straight Key Century Club Week Day Sprint.

Gil KS4YX made the suggestion that our club members bring one or two of their prized certificates to the January meeting for show and tell. All members are hereby encouraged to show off your wallpaper!

Dave NJ4F asked for advice on utilizing both CW and SSB in a contest. Phil NI7R and Thomas AJ4UQ helped Dave understand how this works.

Kevan N4XL shared his letter to Jim Boehner N2ZZ about the controversy N6AA censorship and proposed BOD changes are having in the general Amateur and contesting communities. He also shared the [Florida Contest Groups formal letter](#) to Jim as well.

Bill N4IQ let us know about issues that he is having with uploads in the Yahoo reflector. There have been multiple complaints about errors, posts not showing up, missing files and pictures. A possible move to another group is being considered.

Gil KS4YS reminded us about a free web page called [Qscope](#) that offers log book analysis.

Dave WN4AFP reminded the group that we are finalizing our 2018 officer candidates. He asked if everyone would email him if you are interested in running for an office or have nominee recommendations by January 10th.

Kevan N4XL told us about a fun holiday called National Static Electricity Day.

Frank KG4IGC informed the group about the newest release of the [Super Check Partial List](#).

Dave WN4AFP asked if anyone has visited the [ARRL Grid Square Leader Board](#). At the time Robert was at the top of the SC Leader Board.

Contests:

OK DX RTTY:

K70M SOAB HP Total Score =47,152

NJ4F SOAB HP Total Score =27,023

KG4IGC SOAB LP Total Score =10,248

Croatian CW Contest:

WN4AFP SOSB/40 LP Total Score = 210

ARRL 10 Meter Contest:

W4SLT SO SSB HP Total Score =72

Stew Perry Topband Challenge:

NJ4F SOHP Total Score =409

N4IQ SOHP Total Score =339

KG4IGC SOQRP Total Score =399

ARRL RTTY Roundup:

K70M SOHP Total Score =53,064

NJ4F SOHP Total Score =36,260

KG4IGC SOLP Total Score =31,512

KS4YS SOLP Total Score =23,904

AJ4UQ SOLP Total Score = 4,600

N4IQ S02R SOU HP Total Score =128,576

NI7R SOU HP Total Score =15,776

WU0B SOU LP Total Score =19,630

SFOTA:

The 2017 SFOTA program has officially ended January 15th, 2018. Last year's winners of each category will be announced at the January 28th annual club meeting. Dave WN4AFP is currently in the process of determining the winners and setting up the SFOTA 2018 program. Please remember to retain your 2018 scores for entry beginning January 16, 2018. We would like to thank those who participated in this fun filled inner club rivalry and made it a huge success.

Upcoming Contests

YB DX Contest, Jan 13, 0000z to Jan 13, 2359z; SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS + Serial No.; Logs due: January 20.

Old New Year Contest, Jan 13, 0500z to Jan 13, 0900z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + sum of operator age and years on the air; Logs due: January 28.

UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, Jan 13, 1200z to Jan 14, 1200z; BPSK63; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; ON: RSQ + UBA Section, non-ON: RSQ + Serial No. (starting with 001); Logs due: January 21.

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Jan 13, 1200z to Jan 15, 0000z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./"NONE"); Logs due: January 21.

North American QSO Party, CW, Jan 13, 1800z to Jan 14, 0559z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: January 19.

NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB, Jan 14, 0530z to Jan 14, 0730z; SSB; Bands: 80, 40m; RST + Serial No. + 2-letter Fylke/Lan/Province/Region; Logs due: January 21.

NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW, Jan 14, 0800z to Jan 14, 1000z; CW; Bands: 80, 40m; RST + Serial No. + 2-letter Fylke/Lan/Province/Region; Logs due: January 21.

DARC 10-Meter Contest, Jan 14, 0900z to Jan 14, 1059z; CW, SSB; Bands: 10m Only; DL: RS(T) + QSO No. + DOK, non-DL: RS(T) + QSO No.; Logs due: January 29.

Midwinter Contest, Jan 14, 1000z to Jan 14, 1400z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80, 40,

20, 15, 10m; YLs: RST + Serial No. (beginning with 2001), OMs: RST + Serial No. (beginning with 001); Logs due: see rules.

Phone Fray, Jan 17, 0230z to Jan 17, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: January 19.

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jan 17, 1300z to Jan 17, 1400z, Jan 17, 1900z to Jan 17, 2000z, Jan 18, 0300z to Jan 18, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: January 20.

NAQCC CW Sprint, Jan 18, 0130z to Jan 18, 0330z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + (state/province/country) + (NAQCC No./power); Logs due: January 21.

NCCC RTTY Sprint, Jan 19, 0145z to Jan 19, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: January 21.

NCCC Sprint, Jan 19, 0230z to Jan 19, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: January 21.

LZ Open Contest, Jan 19, 1800z to Jan 19, 2200z; CW; Bands: 80, 40m; 3-Digit Serial No. + 3-Digit Serial No. received from last QSO; Logs due: January 29.

Hungarian DX Contest, Jan 20, 1200z to Jan 21, 1159z; CW, SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; HA: RS(T) + 2-letter county/HA-DXC member no., non-HA: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: February 4.

North American QSO Party, SSB, Jan 20, 1800z to Jan 21, 0559z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: January 26.

WAB 1.8 MHz Phone, Jan 20, 1900z to Jan 20, 2300z; SSB; Bands: 160m Only; British Isles: RS + serial no. + WAB square, Other: RS + serial no. + country; Logs due: February 10.

Feld Hell Sprint, Jan 20, 2000z to Jan 20, 2359z (EU-AF), Jan 20, 2300z to Jan 21, 0259z (ENA-ESA), Jan 21, 0200z to Jan 21, 0559z (ENA-OC-AS); Feld Hell; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; (see rules); Logs due: January 25.

[Classic Exchange, CW](#), Jan 21, 1300z to Jan 22, 0800z, Jan 23, 1300z to Jan 24, 0800z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m; Name + RST + (state/province/country) + rcvr/xmtr manuf/model; Logs due: April 30.

[Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#), Jan 22, 0200z to Jan 22, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + (Member No./power); Logs due: January 28.

[SKCC Sprint](#), Jan 24, 0000z to Jan 24, 0200z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./power); Logs due: January 26.

[NAQCC CW Sprint](#), Jan 24, 0130z to Jan 24, 0330z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + (state/province/country) + (NAQCC No./power); Logs due: January 28.

[Phone Fray](#), Jan 24, 0230z to Jan 24, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: January 26.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Jan 24, 1300z to Jan 24, 1400z, Jan 24, 1900z to Jan 24, 2000z, Jan 25, 0300z to Jan 25, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: January 27.

VHF+ CONTESTS

[ARRL January VHF Contest](#), Jan 20, 1900z to Jan 22, 0359z; Any; Bands: 50 MHz and up; 4-character grid square; Logs due: February 1.
Also see [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#), [Classic Exchange, CW](#), above.