



# DFARG Signal

## Don't Miss the February Meeting!

**Kevan Nason, N4XL, from the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society will discuss selecting an HF rig for contesting at the February meeting**

In addition to a dynamic program, this month's meeting will provide DFARG membership the opportunity to decide important issues concerning the future of the club. Newly elected president, David Graham, WB4FDG, convened a meeting of the DFARG Board of Directors on January 15 to lay out his vision for the upcoming year. Graham introduced the idea of developing a system

of committees to address the various needs and interests of the club as a means of involving more members in deciding what and how the club does what it does. The committee system was introduced at the January meeting (see minutes elsewhere in this issue). The scope and organization of these committees will be up for a vote by the general membership at the February meet-

ing, February 21st at 7:00 PM at the club shack in Little Mountain. If you want to have a voice in the future of DFARG, this meeting is your chance!

## Battle of Cowpens Special Event Marks Second Anniversary

Charlie Brown, KD4CB, John Miller, N3EK, and Tom Francis, W1TEF marked the 238th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens by operating Special Event Station K4C from noon to midnight UTC on January 17. This is the second year for the Battle of Cowpens Special Event Station and the three record-

ed 290 QSOs, down from 332 last year. Charlie and John worked from the grounds of the battlefield, while Tom worked at the DFARG shack. Despite the slight drop in activity, all three remain committed to continuing the commemoration of this critical battle of the American Revolution's Southern Cam-

paign. Notable DX contacts were Oman and Ukraine on CW and the Philippines and Ecuador on SSB. Stay tuned next January 17 when K4C returns to Cowpens National Battlefield!



Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

02/16/2019 | [Brooksville Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Brooksville, FL

02/22/2019 | [5th Annual TECHCON Convention](#)

**Location:** Tampa, FL

02/16/2019 | [W4HCA Annual Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Sebring, FL

02/23/2019 | [Dalton Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Dalton, GA

03/01/2019 | [Alabama Section Convention. BirmingHamfest](#)

**Location:** Trussville, AL

03/02/2019 | [Cave City Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Cave City, KY

03/02/2019 | [Charlotte County Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Punta Gorda, FL

03/02/2019 | [Pinecastle Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Orlando, FL

03/02/2019 | [ZAARC Ham Fest](#)

**Location:** Zephyrhills, FL

03/08/2019 | [Charlotte Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Concord, NC

03/09/2019 | [MTARS - TULLAHO-MA HAMFEST](#)

**Location:** Tullahoma, TN

03/15/2019 | [Fort Walton Beach Hamfest 2019](#)

**Location:** Fort Walton Beach, FL

03/16/2019 | [Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest](#)

**Location:** New Port Richey, FL

## Midlands Net Schedule

Band	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2m repeater	<b>CARC</b> <b>2030</b> <b>146.360</b>  <b>RARC</b> <b>After simplex</b> <b>147.225</b>	<b>KCARC</b> <b>2000</b> <b>146.775</b>	<b>SARA</b> <b>1900</b> <b>147.015</b>	<b>CARC</b> <b>2030</b> <b>146.360</b>	<b>CC-ARES</b> <b>1930</b> <b>146.670</b>  <b>GARS</b> <b>2100</b> <b>146.165</b>		
2m simplex	<b>RARC</b> <b>2100</b> <b>146.550</b>			<b>CARC</b> <b>2000</b> <b>146.400</b>			
HF							<b>RARC</b> <b>First Saturday of month</b> <b>2100</b> <b>3.959</b>

**Legend:**

**CARC:** Columbia Amateur Radio Club

**KCARC:** Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club

**SARA:** Sumter Amateur Radio Association

**GARS:** Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

**RARC:** Ridge Amateur Radio Club (Batesburg-Leesville)

**DFARG:** Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group

There is a net on the air somewhere in the Midlands almost every day

## DFARG Operating 2019 Points Challenge

Based on the popularity of the DFARG 2018 Worked All States award put together by John Miller, N3EK. John

and Tom Francis, W1TEF, have cooked up a new challenge for 2019, Stay tuned for details!

## Winter Field Day Report

This WFD was a test of the current operating positions and antennas. We had to do some antenna work as there were issues with the tri-bander and 40 meter dipole. John, N8EK



had put up a full size G5RV on Friday which was meant to compliment the 40 meter and 80 meter dipole. Doug, K4FI did some digging and found that there was a cable issue at the patch panel which was corrected and all the dead squirrel attacked coax was removed from the tower and patch panel. During this time, we were down until the

antenna work was finished and we got started. As it turned out, 20 and 40 meters were good until W4DFG got on the air – that was when the gods of propagation decided to turn the switch to off, the bands collapsed and we were left with talking to ourselves. Steve Dornberg, W4SJD and Steve Brumagin, KI4VGA ran 40 meter SSB until the band totally collapsed. They really tried hard, but the 40 meter paths state-

side completely disappeared into Asia and the big gun broadcasters made it impossible to work anything. Sunday turned out to be a much better day. John, N8EK moved the G5RV as our next door neighbor, who has been very generous allowing us to use his big trees to hang an

## Upcoming Contests

### February 2019

**11-15** [School Club Roundup](#)  
**16-17** [International DX – CW](#)

### March 2019

**2-3** [International DX-Phone](#)

antenna or two and worked on the consoles a little. Tom, W1TEF started at 12:30 running 40 meter CW and SSB for a total of 125 Qs over an hour and a half until the end of WFD at 2 PM EST.

Overall, it was reasonably successful given the circumstances. We still need more participation and organization to get a really good score, but the operating stations are improving bit by bit, our antenna situation is still wires only until we can get a bucket truck to help us with the tri-bander, our SB-220 should be fixed soon (within the next couple of months), so things are looking up.

Thanks to everybody who showed up Saturday!



**Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group**

230 Depot Street  
Little Mountain, SC 29075

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.W4DFG.ORG

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## DFARG Monthly Meeting, January 17, 2019

1. David Graham, our new President of DFARG, called the meeting to order. Twenty members were in attendance.

2. We began with the Secretary's reading of the minutes for the November Monthly Meeting followed with the BOD minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15 January 2019. Both sets of minutes were accepted as read.

3. Dues for the new year are now due. Some twelve people have already paid to date. Hugh Sammons gave his Treasurer's Report for January 2019:

Opening Balance:  
\$1382.47

Income from Dues paid:  
\$484.00

Expenses/Gas:  
\$14.05

Total for January:  
\$1852.42

4. The purpose of the meeting was to share with the membership the planning session we had Tuesday night when the Board of Directors (BOD) convened. The BOD was laying the groundwork for our approach as a Group for the upcoming year. The basic concept is to use the BOD members to head up various committees to address those areas we feel would be worthwhile to pursue in 2019. The aim is to have a broad base of activities that will appeal to both our current membership as well as potential new members. Some committees already have individuals assigned to head them up,

and others will be added as we go forward. If someone gets assigned to head up a **particular committee**, and they are not a BOD member, they will be added to the BOD.

5. As it stands now, here are the committees that we have formed up as well as the person currently designated to head up each one:

Newsletter Committee:  
Charlie Brown

EME/Satellite Committee:  
TBD

Program Committee: Tom Blease

Volunteer Examiner Committee: Steve Dornburg

Contest Committee: Tom Francis

Facilities Committee: John Miller, Jack Jackson (no chair named)

Field Day Committee: TBD

6. David reiterated that it is his hope that the Committee approach will work better to get people actively involved in the day-to-day operation of the Group. He can not do it by himself. We already have a Chair for all but one committee, so things are looking up. He also discussed a broad range of ideas for consideration as activities/projects for the coming year.

7. We still need a Web Master if our Web Page is to become a reality.

8. Jim Walters, our Legal Officer, is working on necessary changes/amendments needed to our Bylaws/Articles of Association. They are in

the draft stage and will be presented to the membership for consideration at a later date.

9. Tom Francis talked about the Contest Calendar coming up in the near future:

a) North America QSO Party scheduled for this Saturday.

b) [ARRL VHF Contest](#) (CW, phone, digital) January 19 - 21

c) South Carolina QSO Party coming up next month

10. John Miller conducted a drawing as part of a culmination of the "Contact All 50 States" some of the Group participated in. Tom Blease won the Texas Road House gift card and Hugh Sammons won the EMP-Proof radio kit. The plan is to repeat the informal contest again this year,

Presented by Jim Lamb, Secretary.