



# DFARG Signal

## Belated Honors Arrive from 2017 SCQP!

**Don't forget our next meeting! March 21st at 7:00 PM at the shack in Little Mountain!**



Tom Francis, W1TEF, (pictured above) were Steve Brumag, among the members of W4DFG team that took Multi Op/Multi John Miller, K4IG, Transmitter, Low Pow-

er honors in the 2017 South Carolina QSO Party with 217,451 points. For reason not clear at the time of publication, the team just received their award recently. Other team members not pictured were Andrew Haworth, KK4DSD, Douglas White, n4NYK, Dallas Epper-son, KM4JGC, Tonya Holroyd, KM4WWE, and Robert Zeigler, Jr., KE4LHX.

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### Inside this issue:

- Upcoming Hamfests **2**
- Local Net Schedule **2**
- Operating Points Challenge **3**
- Upcoming Contests **3**
- Winter Field Day Report **3**
- SCQP Preliminary Results for DFARG **3**
- Last Month's Meeting Minutes **4**

## N4XL at the February DFARG Meeting

The highlight of the February meeting was Kevan Nason's presentation on selecting an HF transceiver, Nason, N4XL, from the Greenwood Amateur Radio Society really did a wonderful job of balancing technical and pragmatic considerations in making this very important purchase.



## Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

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

03/16/2019 | Fredfest '19

**Location:** Frederick, MD

03/16/2019 | Stuart Florida Hamfest

**Location:** Stuart, FL

03/23/2019 | Ides of March Hamfest

**Location:** Union City, TN

03/23/2019 | SERC Tag and Tailgate

**Location:** Sarasota, FL

03/23/2019 | West Virginia Section Convention (Charleston Hamfest & Computer Show)

**Location:** Charleston, WV

03/24/2019 | WINTERFEST

**Location:** Annandale, VA

03/30/2019 | DeKalb Amateur Radio Club Tailgate

**Location:** Fort Payne, AL

03/30/2019 | Tennessee Section Convention (Sevier County Hamfest)

**Location:** Sevierville, TN

04/06/2019 | Down East Hamfest

**Location:** Kinston, NC

04/06/2019 | LTARC 41st Annual Hamfest

**Location:** Elizabethtown, KY

04/06/2019 | Pasco County Spring HamFest

**Location:** Odessa, FL

04/13/2019 | Cy Harris Free Flee

**Location:** Oakland Park, FL

04/13/2019 | Daytona Beach ARA Tailgate Party

**Location:** Daytona Beach, FL

04/13/2019 | Letcher County ARC Hamfest

**Location:** Whitesburg, KY

04/13/2019 | Mobile Hamfest

**Location:** Mobile, AL

04/13/2019 | Tennessee State Convention, Memphis FreeFest

**Location:** Bartlett, TN

## Midlands Net Schedule

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

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

### Legend:

**CARC:** Columbia Amateur Radio Club

**SARA:** Sumter Amateur Radio Association

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

**KCARC:** Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club

**GARS:** Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

**DFARG:** Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group

## 2018 SCQP Preliminary DFARG Activity

Steve Dornburg, W4SJD, Steve Brumagin, KI4VGA, Jim Lamb, W4JUS, John Voshel, W3ZWN and Nate Smith, N2NAT operated from the DFARG shack, scoring 63 Qs and 22 multipliers.

Tom Francis, W1TEF, and John Miller, K4IG operated multi/mobile, garnering 423 Qs, and 54 multipliers.

## Upcoming Contests

**March 2019**  
**30-31 CQ WPX SSB**

**April 2019**  
**ARRL Rookie Round-uo SSB**

## Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group Operating Points Challenge

The object of the DFARG OPC (Operating Points Challenge) is to promote operating activity within the confines of our association, encourage our members to be active on the bands, promote the use of the DFARG facility and educate our members on operating techniques, practice and theory.

**Operating period – January 1, 2019 through January 1, 2020.**

### RULES

1 – Power – 100 watts. You may operate QRP for additional points bonus.

2 - All participants are required to maintain a log and worksheet (supplied).

3 – Q/multiplier count to [dfarg\\_opc@swsports.org](mailto:dfarg_opc@swsports.org) on a monthly basis.

4 - A summary sheet will be emailed to all DFARG members in the monthly newsletter and posted on the DFARG website (<http://w4dfg.org>).

5 - The OPC will consist of a points system in which QSOs count for cumulative points. Cumulative points mean that points accrue on a daily basis for the duration of the challenge.

A – Each CONUS (Continent) State will count for one point.

1 – 48 States (plus DC) = 49 points+49 Multipliers (includes DC).

**Alaska (AK), Hawaii (HI) Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands = 2 points each/1 Multiplier each.**

Total possible points value = 57 x 53 Multiplier equals 3,021 points

**NOTE: All Qs collected while at the W4DFG Radio Shack count for TRIPLE points.**

B – QSO points value will be by mode.  
**SSB** – 1 point per Q.

**CW/Digital** – 2 points per Q.

**QRP (less than 10 watts)**  
= 3 points per Q.

**NOTE:** Mixed mode and/or mixed power is allowed. Digital modes include PSK, RTTY or similar protocols. **FT8, JT4, JT9, JT65 Qs are not eligible for this Challenge.**

For detailed rules, points examples and prize awards system, please see <http://w4dfg.org>.

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## DFARG Monthly Meeting, February 21, 2019

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

2. We began with the reading of the Treasurer's Report. Balance on-hand was \$1889.69. Also, \$100.00 in dues were collected during the meeting as well. The balance on-hand does not include the gas bill for February, which runs less than \$ 15.00.

3. Next was the Secretary's reading of the minutes for the January Monthly Meeting. The minutes were accepted as read.

4. Kevin Nason, from Greenwood, presented the program. The title of his briefing was, "Choosing an HF Transceiver". He went through in detail, parameters to look for in your selection of a radio. Very well done and appreciated by the membership.

5. Our main need is to get our antenna system back up and running. We are not sure at this point what exactly needs to be done, therefore, it is difficult to cost out what moneys will be required to fix it. The use of a drone was discussed to get a close look at the antenna at the top of the tower. We are showing a SWR of six at the shack, so some-

thing is amiss. Our Facilities Committee is in charge of identifying the approach to be used, and pricing the job after determining what parts will be required to fix it. We have a Tower Climber identified who will do the repairs for \$250.00, for eight hours work. Ways to prevent future damage due to squirrels was discussed. Basically, it comes down to providing some sort of flexible shielding all the way to the antenna terminals, or extending the galvanized, corrugated climber-proof shield another two levels at the tower base, so the squirrels cannot leap from the roof of the building onto the tower. The solution is still to be determined. The idea of putting the six meter antenna on the tower above the exiting yagi, was discussed. It was agreed that the cost/benefit was not worth the effort. The antenna will be returned to the owner. A couple of wire antennas, 40 and 80 meters, will remain supported from the tower, but no effort will be expended to protect them from the squirrels. Also a couple of VHF/UHF antennas are mounted part way up the tower, and will be treated the same as the wire antennas. The membership will have to approve the expenditures of the necessary funds to fix our antenna problem, since the cost will be over the \$100.00 threshold that the

President can authorize. This issue is critical to getting resolved, as it is the primary reason for the Group's existence, to be able to broadcast in an emergency situation.

6. The loss of our generator was discussed, and what can be done to replace it. It was agreed that we don't need a unit nearly as large as the current one we had. David indicated that the County of Newberry may include our need within a grant they are working on. It's a wait and see situation. Another option would be to purchase a 11-12 KW unit for \$800.00-900.00. Not sure what our plan of attack is at this point.

7. 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, hopefully by next month's meeting. According to the Bylaws, the membership needs to be notified prior to voting on them. Not sure whether the discussion tonight satisfies that requirement.

8. The South Carolina QSO Party will be held Saturday, 23 February. Steve Dornburg and Steve Brumagin will head up that activity. Anyone else interested is invited to come as well.

9. ARRL Insurance cost \$1.40 per \$100.00 value of the equipment. \$210.00 was approved to pay ARRL for up to \$15000.00 of insurance coverage.