



DFARG Signal

Shack Antennas are Back!

Don't forget our next meeting! April 18th at 7:00 PM at the shack in Little Mountain. Roger Williamson (N4NRW) from the Ridge Amateur Radio Club will present **BEFORE** the business meeting



Thanks to some investigative and repair work by the Facilities Committee, headed up by John Miller, K4IG, the radios in the shack in Little Mountain are back on the air! The suspected damage to the beam ended up residing in the lead line instead, resulting in a quick and inexpensive return to full operation,

Do We Want a Club Contest?

The popularity of John Miller's 2018 Worked All States event sparked the creation of the Operating Points Challenge cited in last month's DFARG Signal. Some club members were a little uncomfortable with the complexity of the OPC scoring system

and thought it might have been a little more favorable to CW and QRP operators than to others using higher power on SSB. The aims of the OPC were to encourage operation generally, and operation in our club shack in particular, regardless of format. These seem to

be worthwhile aims. It is still early in the year and a good question seems to be 'is a year-long club contest something that interests you?' If so please forward your suggestions for the parameters of such a contest via e-mail to chc-brown@gmail.com

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Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

04/20/2019 Gainesville Hamfest Location: Waldo, FL	04/27/2019 Catawba Valley Hamfest Location: Morganton, NC	04/27/2019 Wiregrass Amateur Radio Club Spring Tailgate Location: Headland, AL
04/20/2019 North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest) Location: Raleigh, NC	04/27/2019 Coastal Amateur Radio Society Swap Meet Location: Savannah, GA	05/04/2019 The Great Hagerstown Hamfest Location: Boonsboro , MD
04/26/2019 VHF Super Conference Location: Sterling, VA	04/27/2019 RCARA Tailgate Hamfest Location: Ashland, KY	05/05/2019 JCARC Hamfest 2019 Location: Ripley, WV
04/27/2019 Bryon Hamfest Location: Byron, GA	04/27/2019 RV Radio Network Rally Location: Linwood, NC	05/11/2019 East Pasco Tailgate Location: Dade City, FL
04/27/2019 Calhoun Hamfest Location: Resaca, GA		05/11/2019 Rockingham County ARC Swapfest Location: Reidsville, NC

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	CARC 2030 146.360 RARC After simplex 147.225	KCARC 2000 146.775	SARA 1900 147.015	CARC 2030 146.360	CC-ARES 1930 146.670 GARS 2100 146.165		
2m simplex	RARC 2100 146.550			CARC 2000 146.400			
HF							RARC First Saturday of month 2100 3.959

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

Upcoming Contests

April 2019

20 QRP to the Field
20-21 Michigan QSO Party
Ontario QSO Party
27-28 Florida QSO Party

May

4-5 7th Area QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
New England QSO Party
Delaware QSO Party

11-12 Arkansas QSO Party

DFARG Monthly Meeting, March 21, 2019

1. David Graham, President of DFARG, called the well attended meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Mark Tarplee, N4UFP, a Rock Hill, SC, educator who is our newly elected ARRL South Carolina Section Manager presented the program. A slide show illustrated an organization structure consisting of the SC Section Manager supported by seven volunteer Assistant Section Managers. Assistant Section Managers serve as district emergency coordinators, official emergency station manager, official relay station manager, public information officer, and technical specialist. Mark Tarplee explained that his role as Section Manager was to: a) support the policies of the ARRL, b) promote public relations, and, c) Assist amateur radio licensees, and organizations. Principle activities that mirrored ASM titles were: a) emergency communication, b) government relations, c) information services, d) message traffic relay, e) public relation in the general community, and, f) solving technical problems. We learned that The ARRL Foundation awards grants of \$250 to \$2,500 primarily for promotion of amateur related youth activities. Colin grants are also available from the ARRL Foundation. N4UFP was uncertain as to the amounts and

purpose. Since Colin and his wife were world renowned DXers of the former century, I surmise that a DXpedition would be most likely to receive such a grant. Grant information may be found on <http://arri.org/file%20grant>. N4UFP ended his presentation by pledging undying support to DFARG and giving his email, phone number, and web addresses to President, Graham.

3. Acting Secretary, Jim Walters, read the minutes of the February meeting which were accepted by the membership as read.

4. Treasurer, Hugh Sammons, reported that during the previous accounting period He: a) received income of \$159.20, primarily from dues, b) paid a \$33.83, gas bill, c) reimbursed Legal Officer Jim Walters, \$214.50, for the property insurance premium Jim paid, and, d) ended the period with a \$1,812.30, account balance.

5. John Miller, Facilities Committee Chairman, was questioned as to the status of repairs to the Tower, antennas, and feed line. Hugh Sammons emphasized that it was important to restore service to the tower and work should proceed immediately. John agreed to move ahead with the project, obtained the tower climber's phone number from Jim Walters, then, was

given approval for a \$300, disbursement to pay the climber \$250, and purchase materials and supplies to complete the job. John stated only connectors, clamps, and protective cable sheathing (PVC or electrical conduit) need be purchased as a spool of donated coax was stored at the operations center. Jack Jackson mentioned that a ham he had contacted was planning to fly a camera equipped drone over the tower to inspect and determine if the Yagi's feed line had been damaged by squirrels. Jim Walters requested and received clarification that tower work included only repair or replacement of the yagi feed line which was indicating a 6 to 1 SWR, and did not involve installation of or repairs to other antennas on the tower.

6) President, David Graham, recognized and introduced three new visitors, possible new members, to the meeting. First, Bill Covey, W1GTT and his wife Jean, W1GTJ. Bill is a retired Connecticut state trooper now residing in Chapin. Second, Paul Travis, KOPT, who resides in Irmo. All three amateurs were warmly welcomed to the Group.

7) At closing, John Miller sought support for the contest he and Tom Francis designed and introduced at The January 2019, Board meeting. No action was taken.

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