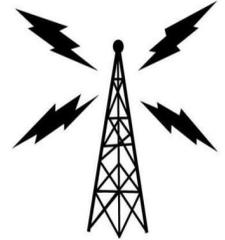




DFARG Signal



No man is an island (but you can work from one!)

Working portable from an island, or working someone ON an island is an interesting way to add diversity and a sense of adventure to operating. Islands on the Air (IOTA) was formed by the Radio Society of Great Britain in 1964 to encourage contacts with island stations world-wide. The oceans' islands have been grouped into around 1200 'IOTA groups' with varying numbers qualifying islands, in each. The objective for island "chasers" is to make contacts with at least one island in as many of these groups as possible and for the



DXpeditioner to provide such island contacts. IOTA offers various awards to recognize levels of achievement both. IOTA does not include islands which lie in rivers, inland lakes or seas, narrow gulfs or largely enclosed bays. To be included in the IOTA directory, islands must be in an ocean and a minimum distance from the mainland. Additionally, IOTA has a rather rigorous database system for confirming QSOs that count toward their award systems. This requires entry of the QSO into their data-

base and the subsequent submission of QSL cards, or use of the Club Log system. If you're not already familiar with Club Log, you can check it out here: <https://clublog.org/loginform.php> and for complete rules and a directory of IOTA island groups, visit their website at: <https://www.iota-world.org/>

There is another islands program which fills in the rather large gaps left by IOTA, the United States Islands Awards Program (USI) covers islands that are within the fifty states and U.S Ter-

ritories and Protectorates. These islands can be in lakes, rivers, and along the coastal shore line. Fresh water or salt water. The USI was formed in 1994 to further enhance "island chasing" that had become so popular on the amateur radio bands. The goal of the USI program is to promote a simple but effective system of island chasing and activating in a professional radio-manner and to operate totally on the "honor system". You can find rules and a directory at the USI website: <https://usislands.org/>



Volume 1, Issue 9

October 14, 2019

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Monthly meeting is October 17 at the shack in Little Mountain.

Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

10/19/2019 | [CARES Tailgate & Hamfest](#)

Location: Gaffney, SC

10/19/2019 | [Headland Tailgate](#)

Location: Headland, AL

10/26/2019 | [EPARS Free Tailgate](#)

Location: Dade City , FL

10/26/2019 | [Hazard Hamfest](#)

Location: Hazard, KY

10/26/2019 | [Jacksonville](#)

[Free Hamfest](#)

Location: Jacksonville, FL

10/26/2019 | [South Carolina Section Convention "Beachfest" 2019](#)

Location: Conway, SC

11/02/2019 | [Georgia State Convention, Stone Mountain Hamfest](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

11/09/2019 | [HamJam](#)

Location: Alpharetta, GA

11/09/2019 | [Montgomery ARC Hamfest 2019](#)

Location: Montgomery, AL

11/09/2019 | [SPARC Fest](#)

Location: Pinellas Park, FL

11/17/2019 | [JARSFEST](#)

Location: Benson, NC

11/23/2019 | [Flea at U. of Miami](#)

Location: Coral Gables, FL

Regional Net Schedule

All Times in Eastern Time Zone

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	South Carolina SSB Net 1900 3.915						
	Coastal Carolina Emergency Net 1900 3.907						
	South Coast Amateur Radio Service 0800-1100 7.251						
	Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net 0700-1100 14.300						
	Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network 1100 14.265						
	7240 Club 1000-1200 7.240						
		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1930		Little Mountain 147.210 + T156.7					
2000		Kershaw ARC 146.775 - T156.7	Sandlapper SSB 50.250		Calhoun ARES 146.670 - T 156.7		
2030	Columbia ARC 147.33 + T 156.7		Lexington ARES 147.000 + T123.0	Columbia ARC 147.33 + T 156.7			
2100	Ridge ARC 146.550 Simplex				Greenwood ARS 147.165 + T 107.2		Ridge ARC First Saturday 3.959
	Ridge ARC 147.255 + T123.0 after simplex						

DFARG Monthly Meeting, September 19, 2019

1. David Graham, President of DFARG, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. with nineteen members in attendance.

2. David Graham, called the Secretary, Jim Walters, to read the Minutes of the August 15, 2019, Meeting. The Secretary announced that at the request of John Seibels, K4AXV, Trustee of W4MN, henceforth the Minutes would be read as the minutes of the joint meeting of DFARG and PARC. It was explained that this is being done to validate and affirm the continued functioning of PARC as an active amateur radio organization in the eyes of the ARRL. Then, the Secretary in keeping with a procedure established last month, where members in attendance were polled to determine that a majority had read the Minutes online, moved to approve the Minutes as read including one correction to the section on Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Hugh Sammons gave the monthly Treasurer's report. (p.4)

4. President Graham recognized and congratulated Charlie Brown on doing a fine job in spreading the word about DFARG through his maintenance of w4dfg.org, publication of DFARG's News Letter, and presenting well prepared and interesting programs.

5. Section 8 of DFARG's By Laws provides: Two months prior to the election of officers the President shall appoint a Nomination Committee consisting of three Full Members to select a slate of qualified candidates for five officer positions for the coming year to be presented to the membership for election at the November meeting. Jim Lamb, Doug Welborn and Jack Jackson have been appointed by the President to serve on the Nomination Committee. While the Nomination Committee will put forth nominees for the five DFARG officer positions, candidates may also be nominated from the floor during the November meeting.

6. After extensive proofing the DFARG Roster containing member and visitor

name, email and call sign information is thought to be relatively error free. The updated Roster will be sent to all News Letter recipients as an attached Excel file. Open the file, click on **Enable Editing**, then, click on the email address of a member chosen from the roster to activate your "New Mail" message app. If you aren't using a Windows O/S with Excel or equivalent spreadsheet program or cannot open the file a hard copy of the Roster will be available at the November meeting.

7. It was asked where are the DFARG name tags that Tom Frances ordered. A member replied that Tom had them at home and would probably bring the name tags to the October meeting.

8. Hugh Sammons asked if a tower climber could be retained to repair DFARG's broken antenna rotor. David Graham offered to contact a fireman friend who owns a bucket truck to have a look at the rotor, but David did not know what the cost to DFARG would be to rent the truck.

9. It was Tom Blease's understanding from reading Tom Francis' email that Tom Francis contacted The Flight Deck and confirmed

scheduling of DFARG's Christmas Party the 2nd Saturday in December, December 14, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

10. Jack Jackson confirmed that a Spectrum Tech has installed a new Modem/Router at the shack that provides a data transfer rate up to 100 mega bits per second. However, any **wireless** device seeking to connect must be programmed with a new alpha numeric, multi character access code. **dfarg-gdfarg** will no longer access the router from your smartphone. It is unnecessary to program the access code in Cat 5/6 devices connected directly to the router, i.e. a computer. If the new router has built in Cat 5/6, RJ45 connectors we should be able to connect DFARG's camera system's Digital Video Recorder to the internet allowing us to bring up camera video from the shack on our smartphone after downloading the DVR vendor's camera app. Of course, you must first enter the access code for the new Spectrum router in your smartphone before the camera app will work..

Continued on P. 3

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	1,180.16
Gas expense	-14.98
Closing Balance	1,165.18

Minutes from p.3

11. Tim Smith, Smitty, has prepared a power point presentation for the Extra class license and will soon be conducting classes and testing applicants.

12. John Seibels, first showed the group a box shaped like a classic novel in which he had installed his kit, QRP transceiver, then, announced that the ETV engineer he contacted had reprogrammed the 147.21, repeater, CW ider to squak W4MN. However, after the fact it was learned that Paul Marsha, K4AVU, former repeater trustee, requested last year that ETV as owner of the 147.21 repeater transfer its coordination to SCHEART and register it with the South Eastern Repeater Association, SERA, with the call sign WR4SC. While ETV did register coordination with SERA the repeater wasn't certified as operational so SERA initially dropped it from their publication. Also, a ETV engineer never changed the CW id to WR4SC until recently after John Seibels asked

that it be changed from K4AVU to W4MN. So for too brief a time the Little Mountain repeater was W4MN. Thank you John for without your involvement the matter would have remained unresolved.

13. David Graham, Jack Jackson, Doug Welborn, Hugh Sammons, and Tim Smith made plans to pick up, transport to the Shack, then, inventory W2PAT, Marvin Bernstein's, radio equipment that Nancy, Marvin's Sister as administrator of Marvin's estate, was contributing to DFARG as Marvin had requested.

14. Kevin Nason, N4XL, from the Greenwood club presented a program on **Radiosport**, Amateur Radio contesting and logging. An active contester with many "wins" to his credit N4XL maintains a "Little Pistol" station consisting of a Kenwood TS 590s, feeding a Bencher Skyhawk beam at 50 ft. for 10, 15, and 20 mtrs. The main antenna for 40 and 80 is a top loaded 33 ft. vertical mounted seven feet above

Upcoming Contests

October

19-20 [New York QSO Party](#)

19-20 [Worked All Germany](#)

21-25 ARRL [School Club](#)

[Roundup](#)

26-27 [CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#)

November

2-4 [ARRL Sweepstakes - CW](#)

2-3 [Ukrainian DX Contest](#)

16-18 ARRL [Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

23-24 [CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW](#)

ground. A 520 ft. horizontal loop 25 ft. above ground is used on 160 through 15 mtrs. Kevin also uses a commercial K9AY loop as his primary receive antenna for 80 and 160 mtrs. For details of his program, see page 8.

15. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Jim Walters
Secretary

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

Upcoming DXpeditions:

For more information go to <https://www.ng3k.com/>

Start	End	DX Entity	Call	Info
Oct01	Oct19	Lesotho	7P8AO	80-10m mainly CW FT8
Oct01	Dec15	Gabon	TR8CR	HF; CW; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Oct02	Oct14	St Pierre & Miquelon	T08OSP	60-10m; CW SSB + digital; 3 stations;
Oct06	Oct20	Zambia	9J2MYT	40 10 15 10m; SSB;
Oct06	Oct23	Ghana	9G5GS	160-20m; mainly FT8 Fox/Hound, SSB; 100w;
Oct07	Oct23	West Kiribati	T30GC	Tarawa I (IOTA OC-017); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY;
Oct08	Nov04	Norfolk I	VK9N	IOTA OC-005; HF; CW SSB + digital
Oct10	2020 Oct22	Cape Verde Is	D44EA	IOTA AF-086; HF
Oct14	Oct29	Guadeloupe	FG4KH	St. Anne (FK98hf); HF, 2m ; mainly SSB, some FT8; 500w
Oct15	Oct30	San Andres & Providencia	5KOK	San Andres I (IOTA NA-033); 160-10m; CW SSB FT8
Oct15	Nov03	Mayotte	FH	focus on low bands; CW SSB; inverted L
Oct16	Oct22	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	Calypso Bay, St Kitts; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB FT8
Oct17	Oct31	Aruba	P4	IOTA SA-036; 40 20 10m; FT8 SSB CW
Oct11	Nov11	Ascension I	ZD8SC	80-10m; SSB FT8 FT4; 100w; spare time operation
Oct18	Oct22	Malta	9H3YY	HF; QRV for WAG Contest
Oct18	Oct26	Vietnam	3W9KW	Hanoi; HF; mainly CW, perhaps SSB; QRP; vertical
Oct18	Oct29	Seychelles	S79	160-10m; SSB CW RTTY FT8
Oct18	Nov01	Pitcairn I	VP6R	60m; all modes; 8 stations planned each 1kw;
Oct19	Oct26	Mauritania	5T	focus on 160 80 60 40m; SSB FT8 CW; verticals, delta loops
Oct19	Oct31	Lakshadweep Is	VU7RI	IOTA AS-011; 80-6m; SSB CW FT8
Oct21	Oct24	Palau	T88KZ	By HL5BHH fm Koror I (IOTA AS-009); HF
Oct21	Nov02	Comoros	D68CCC	focus on low bands + WARC; mostly digital; 5 stations QRV 24 hrs
Oct23	Nov01	Vietnam	3W9QR	Da Nang; HF
Nov04	Nov07	Vanuatu	YJ0RRC	IOTA OC-104; 160-17m; CW SSB RTTY FT8
Nov04	Nov16	Rwanda	9X2AW	Kigali; HF; CW SSB RTTY FT8; hexbeam, verticals
Nov05	Nov11	Malta	9H9DD	Marsalforn, Gozo I; 60-10m; CW SSB FT8; 100w; groundplane
Nov06	Nov13	St Kitts & Nevis	V47FWX	By G0FWX; @V47JA; HF
Nov06	Nov19	Marquesas	TX7I	Hiva Oa I; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; 3-4 stations
Nov08	Nov18	Aland Is	OH0UA	160-10m; CW RTTY FT8; 300w/CW, 100w/digital
Nov08	Nov13	Vanuatu	YJ0RRC	Tongoa I (IOTA OC-111); 160-17m; CW SSB RTTY FT8;
Nov10	Nov30	Bolivia	CP1XRM	40-10m; SSB + digital; spare time operation
Nov10	Nov30	Maldives	8Q7XR	IOTA AS-013; 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; to continue until 30 Dec

Upcoming DXpeditions, cont'd:

Start	End	DX Entity	Call	Info
Nov12	Nov18	American Samoa	KH8	ago Pago (IOTA OC-045); HF; CW SSB + digital
Nov12	Dec25	Madagascar	5R	SSB CW + digital (incl FT8 FT4); 500w; vertical, Hexbeam
Nov12	Nov29	Cocos Keeling	VK9CZ	IOTA OC-003; 160-10m, focus on low bands; CW SSB FT8
Nov12	Dec31	Thailand	HSOZME	Hua Hin (NK92xm); 40-10m; mainly CW; 100w;
Nov14	Nov20	Vanuatu	YJQFWA	Efate I (IOTA OC-035); 160-17m; CW SSB RTTY FT8:
Nov16	Nov28	Tanzania	5H3UA	Zanzibar I (IOTA AF-032); all HF bands; CW SSB + digital
Nov17	Nov30	Vietnam	XV9D	160-40m;direct

Ham Humor



Private Jones, I don't think that's what the CO had in mind when he made you the radio operator!

Cliff Kayhart Celebrates 108th Birthday!

Cliff Kayhart, W4KKP, reached another milestone in his legendary life and ham radio career, turning 108 years old and retaining his title as the oldest US amateur radio operator still on the air. Cliff was first licensed before WWII and as a member of the US Army Signal Corps and was responsible for establishing and maintaining radio communications between US forces on Iwo Jima and higher headquarters during and following the famous invasion.



Bernstein Leaves Shack to DFARG



DFARG club shack, Clearly, such an action will require the involvement of the club Board and approval of the membership. Stay tuned for details!



Nancy Upchurch, daughter of Marv Bernstein, W2PAT (SK), made an incredibly generous gift to the Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group in the form of the entire contents of his shack. Marv was much more than a casual ham and this donation yields not just a transceiver and associated hardware, but test equipment and computers, as well. A proposal has been put forth to use the gear to establish a W2PAT Memorial operating station at the



N4XL Contesting Tips

Scoring the Goal: The objective of intensely competitive Amateur radio contesting is to work as many stations for as many points as possible during the designated contest period. In other words “to win”.

Every contest has rules: a) Only certain bands may be used; b) The contest must be scheduled between certain times and on certain dates (some contest require “off times” when you are forced to leave the air); c) An exchange of information is required during each contact (you may have to send and receive a serial number, location, name or a person’s age); d) Only certain operating configurations may be used (a “class” type identifying the number of stations, number of operators and station power level must be selected).

Typically contest take place on the HF bands, excepting 60, 30, 17 and 12 mtrs. which contest sponsors have agreed to keep off limits. There are also contest for VHF, UHF and microwave bands. SSB and CW are the usual modes of operation, although, as with CW, digital contacts will earn you multiplier points in some contest.

Contest Logging: While the FCC no longer requires hams to keep station logs of every contact, contest sponsors do. Your log is your contest entry; without it your score will not be considered. Although a paper log may be submitted at the end of competition, serious

contesters use a computer for logging. Popular logging software include: **WriteLog, TRLog, and MacLoggerDX.**

A well designed computer logging program is fast, efficient, keeps track of time, calculates scores, flags dups. and generates a summary sheet. Entering a possible contact into your logging program should alert you to a duplicate, as well as verifying that the station is legal under the rules, so that you avoid wasting time making the contact. Also, rules of the contest may allow only one contact per station on a specified band which status would be identified by the contest software.

Contest software also makes it easy to submit your log at contest end. The contest sponsor will supply a email address to which you must send your log, along with a brief description of your station and entry classification (known as a Summary Sheet).

Running vs. Searching and Pouncing: Running means finding a clear frequency, calling “CQ contest” for extended periods of time, then, logging everyone who answers. Running is an effective contest strategy if you station has a powerful signal that many can clearly copy, a 5/9/9 signal.

If you have a weak signal you might consider searching and pouncing. S&P involves tuning through the frequencies, looking for the running stations and contacting all you find. Although your signal may be weak, the runner will make special efforts to pick you out of the noise as they need the points your contact represents.

CW and digital contacts follow the same pattern. Typically CW contesters tend to send and receive at high speed, but they will usually slow down for slower operators. Digital operators use software that allows most of the contest exchange to be sent and received automatically with a few keyboard strokes.

Winner’s Tips: Hams who consistently do well in contest have a number of things in common. They all follow certain habits that work to enhance their performance and score. The top tips are: a) Read the contest rules and make sure that you understand them; b) Check all you equipment including software a few days before the contest begins to make sure everything is operating properly; c) Understand the basics of propagation and plan your contest strategy accordingly, obtain a propagation forecast for the contest weekend; d) Plan for rest and nourishment. Have food and drink on hand. Take breaks every couple hours to stretch your legs and clear your mind.

Contesting isn’t all about “Winning”. Although contesting is an intense, combative, physical, win at all cost activity for some it needn’t be. You may never win the top slot in a contest. However, you may still enjoy the competitive challenge of the Radiosport and the camaraderie with fellow hams.