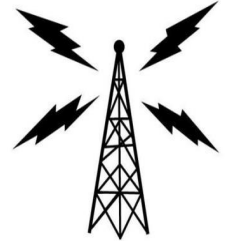




DFARG Signal



Incorporating Palmetto Amateur Radio Club

Past President, Tom Francis, W1TEF, Silent Key

Tom Francis, W1TEF, passed away on Friday, March 13, 202. Tom was the son of Edwin Augustus Francis and Dorothy Mantyh. Both his parents were radio operators during World War II, and he grew up learning code almost as early as he learned English. To say Tom was an avid ham would be an understatement. At the time of his passing he was active four amateur radio clubs, including our own Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group, as well as being a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the CW Operators Club, the Flying Pigs QRP Club International, and, of course, co-founder of the (un) Professional Contesters Association. Tom was a fierce contester, winning many state, national and international titles over the years. He was a noted figure in National Parks on the Air and

World Wide Flora and Fauna on Amateur Radio, a major participant in the South Carolina QSO Party, both as an organizer and participant, and South Carolina State Manager for the Thirteen Colonies Special Event. He was a former staff member at the Americal Radio Relay League, and served as an Associate Technical Editor for QEX magazine. All of this is evidence of Tom's passion for our hobby. Even more illustrative of that passion, however, was his willingness to give his time and share his knowledge on a personal level. Whether it was spending a day improving the club shack, teaching license class, or just answering a new ham's endless ques-



tions, you could always count on Tom. He will be sorely missed in our club, and in the national and international ham communities. In honor of Tom's specific contributions to the Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group, and to keep his memory alive in our shack, we are designating the station where he spent most of his time The Tom Francis Memorial Station.

Volume 2, Issue 3

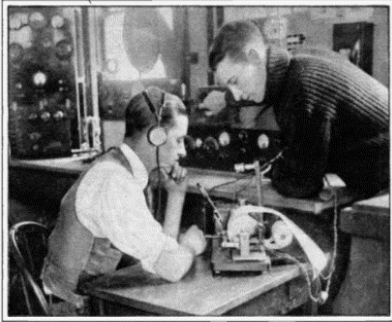
March 19, 2020

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March monthly meeting cancelled.

History of Ham Radio in Columbia (Second in a series)



In November 1924, Radio News reported a new operator in Columbia, Ulmer G. Turner, Jr., operating a 15 watt station, CW and "fone" from 923 Fourth Street as 4VB. Ulmer was born in 1901, and his father operated a music store at 1100 Gervais Street for 20 years until his untimely passing in 1928. Just two years after this notice in Radio News, Turner had left Columbia for Philadelphia where he began what was to be a long and distinguished career as a

journalist that was never far removed from his lifelong interest in amateur radio. He was an associate editor of and prolific contributor to The Radio Home magazine, in the lab of which he can be seen standing in this photo taken in that year (left). By 1930, he had moved to Chicago, where he was to spend nearly thirty years as a newspaper, radio, and television reporter. As W9UG, he used his hobby to enhance his profession, intercepting radio messages that gave him scoops on such historic stories as the capture of John Dillinger, the first Russian underground atomic bomb test, and the fall of Dien Bien Phu in the French Indochina War. By the time of his retirement to Florida in the late 1950s, where he became K4GS, Turner had

worked on the staffs of the *Chicago Herald & Examiner*, the *Herald American*, the *Chicago Sun*, and WBKB television, as well as writing for the International News Service and the Hearst Newspapers. Turner passed away in Central Florida in 1995.



Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

At the time we went to press, many regional hamfests had already been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Though the ARRL calendar still reports some regional gatherings NOT cancelled, the likelihood that they WILL be is sufficient that we are not publishing a calendar this month.

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						

Treasurer's Report

The club treasury has been moved to new account, with a transfer of \$1,000.00 on 15 January and a deposit of \$375 on 17 January for a balance of \$1375.00. Utility payment are still drawing from the remainder in the old account, which will be closed and the remainder deposited in the new account by the April meeting.

Upcoming Contests

March		April	
21-22	<u>Russian DX</u>	11-12	<u>NM QSO Party</u>
	<u>VA QSO Party</u>		<u>GA QSO Party</u>
28-29	<u>CQ WPX, SSB</u>		<u>ND QSO Party</u>
April			<u>Yuri Gagarin Int'l. DX</u>
4-5	<u>NE QSO Party</u>	17-18	<u>Holy Land DX</u>
	<u>MO QSO Party</u>	18	<u>QRPTF</u>
	<u>LA QSO Party</u>	18-19	<u>Ontario QSO Party</u>
	<u>FL Parks on the Air</u>		<u>MI QSO Party</u>
	<u>MS QSO Party</u>		<u>TX Parks on the Air</u>
		19	<u>ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB</u>
		25-26	<u>FL QSO Party</u>

February 19, 2020 Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President, Charlie Brown at 7:00 PM,

No minutes were available for the previous meeting, no treasurer's report was presented.

Dan Goldston, WD4NG, gave an excellent presentation concerning digital modes and equipment employed by MARS, as well as opportunities for hams to engage in MARS operations.

Charlie Brown presented proposals made by the Executive Committee at their January 23 meeting to the assembled members. The following proposals were passed by unanimous vote of the members present:

Capital funding drive for antenna repair: The club will ask for donations to a capital campaign to raise money to repair the existing beam and dipole antennas, to protect all cabling

from squirrel damage, and to install a digitally controllable rotator on the beam antenna. All members who donate, regardless of amount, will have their names and call signs placed on a plaque attached to the tower.

Dues increase. Dues will increase to \$35 per year, after the March meeting. \$35 will cover all of the member's immediate family.

Shack access. In future, door code will only be provided to members whose dues are current. Club will change each year after the March meeting.

Shack internet. The club will no longer not fund internet for the shack. If any member can obtain free internet service for the shack that excludes DFARG from liability, the club will accept it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

License Upgrades

Congratulations to Hardy Plemmons, W4ABI and Nat Smith N2NAT who both passed their Amateur Extra license examinations last month! Enjoy the extra bandwidth, guys!

Upcoming DXpeditions:

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

Start	End	Entity	Call	Info
Feb16	Mar27	Senegal	6W7	mainly 60 40 20 10m; FT8/FT4, some CW SSB; 100w; wire
Feb16	Mar27	Senegal	6W7	Ourang Mbour (IK14mi); 60 40 20 10m; mainly FT8 FT4, some SSB
Feb24	Mar21	Tanzania	5H3	Zinga; 40-10m; CW PSK31 FT8, perhaps SSB; 100w;
Feb28	Mar25	Somalia	60100	Mogadishu; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; 100w; vertical
Feb29	Mar28	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	80-10m; CW FT8 SSB
Mar04	Mar22	Rwanda	9X2AW	Kigali (KI48xe) HF, incl 160m; FT8 SSB CW; 100w; hex beam
Mar06	Apr01	Madeira	CT9	HF
Mar08	Apr09	Barbados	8P6DR	80-10m; CW
Mar09	Mar29	Seychelles	S79EM	20m; SSB FT8; holiday style operation
Mar10	Mar31	Vietnam	XV9DXB	Nha Trang (OK42og); 20m; CW SSB
Mar12	Mar21	Maldives	8Q7NC	Veligandu I (IOTA AS-013,); HF; SSB CW + digital; 100w; vertical
Mar14	Mar20	Antigua	V26FK	Mamora Bay, Antigua I (IOTA NA-100); 40-10m; SSB, some CW
Mar14	Mar28	Namibia	V5	40 20m; CW SSB; holiday style operation
Mar25	Mar30	Cayman Is	ZF2PG	Grand Cayman; @ZF1A; 160-10m; SSB
Mar25	Apr06	Bolivia	CP6	(FH82ig); 160-10m, focus on 160 80m; CW SSB FT8
Apr06	Apr14	St Vincent	J88PI	Palm I, Grenadines (IOTA NA-025); 40-6m; mainly SSB FT8
Apr10	Apr13	Svalbard	JW	IOTA EU-026; HF; SSB FT8
Apr17	Apr25	Philippines	DU2	Calayan I (IOTA OC-092); HF; SSB FT8 FT4
May01	May22	Botswana	A25VR	40 20m; 10w (perhaps 100w); inverted Vs
May04	May12	Maldives	8Q7KB	Meedhupparu; 80-6m; SSB CW + digital; inverted vee
May04	May15	St Barthelemy	FJ	ll bands; SSB CW; side trip to Tintamarre I (IOTA NA-199)
May09	May15	Haiti	4V5H	80-15m; CW SSB FT8; also fm Haiti's coastal islands (IOTA NA-149)
May20	May27	St Vincent	J8	40-6m; mainly FT8 FT4, some SSB CW; 100w
May25	Jun07	Martinique	FM	IOTA NA-107; 160-10m; CW