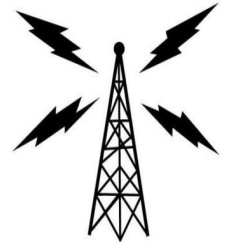




# DFARG Signal



Incorporating Palmetto Amateur Radio Club

## History of Ham Radio in Columbia (Third in a Series)

Bannie Lafon Stewart was born in Marion County in 1906 and first appears in the Amateur Radio Call Book in 1929 as W4CE, residing in Pinckney College Dormitory at USC. Bannie was by all evidence an active ham for his entire life. He was an early, perhaps a charter member of the Palmetto Amateur Radio Club and also held the office of President at one point. *The Index Journal* of Greenwood, in its September 7, 1930 issue, reported that Stewart had relocated the radio station he built and operated at USC to his parents' home in Dillon that year. There, operating on 20 and 40 meters, both CW and voice, he reported contacts with South America, Canada, Cuba, Haiti, the Bahamas, and most remarkably, Melbourne, Australia.

In addition to serving as president of Palmetto ARC, Stewart was a member of the Gamecock varsity football squad, managed the fencing team, was on the yearbook staff, and served as stage manager for the Town Theater.

Job prospects were not good for the graduates of the class of '30. Stewart remained in South Carolina as the depression deepened. He took, and passed, the examination for Army Air Cadets at Langley Field in 1932, but apparently never got the call he expected later that summer. Like many of America's young men at the time, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, and was

eventually assigned as the District Education Advisor for Camp Lawrence, near Effingham, SC. The company assigned there did extensive work building roads in the Mars Bluff forest. Even from the CCC camp, Stewart was active in amateur radio, serving as ARRL Assistant, then Acting, and finally primary Section Communications Manager for Georgia, South Carolina, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands from 1934 until at least 1936.

In the November 1935 issue of *QST*, there is a note about the first annual hamfest sponsored by the Charleston ARC. Stewart was one of the speakers at the banquet, along with his mentor and Palmetto ARC founder, Professor A. C. Carson, W4MN. In 1938, Stewart was commissioned in the United States Naval Reserve. By 1940, he had been assigned to a destroyer, USS Stansbury, and in 1941 he was assigned as the Assistant Radio Officer on USS Wasp, CV-7, a smaller version of the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier. In 1942, along with a number of Navy hams, Stewart was assigned to the Noroton Heights Naval Training Station in Connecticut where he was in charge of the Officer Training School, teaching aspiring radio officers their



craft.

Stewart served up and down the Eastern Seaboard in the Navy, eventually retiring as a Captain in Columbia, SC, and resuming his original callsign, W4CE. He was a charter member of the Palmetto Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and in fact, personally received the charter for that chapter at 1975 ARRL Annual Convention. In a 1980 QCWA newsletter, Stewart, was noted for presenting a glossy print of USS Wasp, CV-7, to Tom Dean, W4DAW. The two had both served on USS Wasp, Stewart in the Atlantic in 1941 and Dean in the Pacific in 1943, where he was a survivor of the USS Wasp's sinking.

Bannie Lafon Stewart passed away in 1981 and is interred at Greenlawn cemetery in Columbia.

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 7, 2020

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**March monthly meeting cancelled.**

## 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.

Ham Humor



Ham radio....social distancing since 1905.

## Regional Net Schedule

All Times in Eastern Time Zone

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

## Treasurer's Report

New Account Created 15 January with transfer.

Beg. balance:	\$1,000.00
Donation	+ \$300.00
Dues Collection	+\$425.00
Gas Bill	- \$22.95
Insurance	-\$206.91
End balance	\$1495.14

## Upcoming Contests

May		June	
9-10	<a href="#">CQ-M International DX</a> <a href="#">VOLTA Worldwide RTTY</a>	13-15	<a href="#">ARRL June VHF</a>
		20	<a href="#">ARRL Kids Day</a>
		27-28	<a href="#">ARRL Field Day</a>
16	<a href="#">UN DX</a>		
16-17	<a href="#">King of Spain CW</a>		
23-24	<a href="#">Baltic Contest</a>		

## April 23 Net Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Net Control, K4IG. At 1900 hours. 21 members and 4 guests were recorded at the beginning of the net. The net was started with a moment of silence in honor of W1TEF.

President, Charlie Brown made opening remarks and noted that all changes approved at the February meeting would go into effect at the next, in person club meeting.

No minutes were available for the previous meeting as there was no meeting in March.

Jim Walters noted that he had prepared and submitted the club's annual tax filing in order to maintain our 501 C. (3) status and also noted our need to maintain a generator in order to meet our requirements to the Town of Little Mountain. Jim pointed out that John Siebels and David Livingston had made generous offers to help fund the purchase of a new generator.

Many members made well wishes to everyone and specific thanks to K4IG for setting up the net and acting as net control.

KK4UX noted that long time ham and former club member Ray Rogers, N4WR recently became a silent key.

W1GTT noted that he had passed news of W1TEF's passing to his old club back up north.

In closing remarks, KD4CB proposed another Net meeting in May if social distancing was still in effect, and also suggested a Zoom meeting for those members with that capability.

The net was ended at approximately 1945.

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

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## Upcoming DXpeditions:

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

Date	End	DXCC	Call	Info
Apr14	May15	Ghana	9G5GS	Sanzule; 160-10m; mainly SSB FT8; 1kw
May04	May12	Maldives	8Q7KB	Meedhupparu; 80-6m; SSB CW + digital; inverted vee
May07	May10	Mt Athos	SV2RSG/A	20m; SSB CW; check 14025 CW and 14185.5
May07	May11	Guernsey	GU75LIB	St Peter Port; HF, perhaps 2m 70cm; all modes
May07	May21	Greenland	OX3LX	Aasiaat I (IOTA NA-134, GP38nq); HF
Jun10	Jun17	Cayman Is	ZF2FD	Grand Cayman I (NA-016); 80 40 20m; SSB
Jun11	Jul02	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	Calypso Bay; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals
Jun30	Jul14	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	Miquelon I (IOTA NA-032); 160-6m; mainly SSB RTTY FT8/4, some CW
Jul08	Jul15	Aruba	P4	QRV for IARU Contest