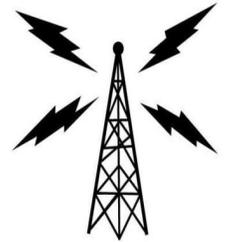




DFARG Signal



Incorporating Palmetto Amateur Radio Club

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 16, 2021

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Hamfests	3
Net Schedule	3
Upcoming Contests	4
Minutes	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Ham Humor	5
Upcoming DXpeditions	5

Field Radio

First in a Series



countries around the world. Last time I checked, WWFF had over 10 MILLION Qs in their database, from 18,274 distinct references in 134 countries.

In this opening article, I'd just like to introduce three of the most popular of these programs, the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS), Summits on the Air (SOTA), and Worldwide Flora and Fauna on Amateur Radio (WWFF), as well as the breakaway organization from the last, Parks on the Air (POTA).

As the weather gets warmer, and Summer Field Day approaches, it is not uncommon for our thoughts to turn to portable operation. Most of you have probably heard of at least one the many schemes involving operating outside that have proliferated in the last 20 years.

The general concept is that an activator travels to a park, summit, lighthouse, island, or beach and operates portable or mobile and chasers, or hunters, answer the CQ. The activator, having amassed as many Qs as

needed, desired, or possible, then submits a log to the parent organization. Depending on the vagaries of each system, the activator and chasers each gain sufficient credit for an award of some type.

That's it in a nutshell.

As far as I can tell, all of this emerged after the internet age matured. Frankly, attempting to manage a program like any of these without the web seems like an immense challenge. Each of these programs lists literally thousands of parks, summits, or lighthouses in hundreds of



Founded in 2000 by Jim Weidner, K2JXW, the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) is devoted to maritime communications, a amateur radio, lighthouses, and lightships. In 2021, ARLHS

Cont'd. on page 2

2020 Club Contest Winners

Joe Price and Charlie Brown took the honors for last year's club contest. Joe logged HF contacts on 172 days in 2020 to take second place, and Charlie logged contacts on 317 days to take first. Remember, the 2021 club contests is for ALL digital contacts in 2021, not days with a contact, and that includes CW.

Cont'd. from page 1

had over 2000 active members. ARLHS offers awards starting at Bronze with 25 lighthouses activated, which entails operating, at a minimum, within sight of the light (defined as the "reach" of the light). Two confirmed QSOs are required to activate a light.



Summits on the Air was the idea of John Linford, G3WGV and the program was launched in 2002. Today there are 138 Active Associations in nearly 100 countries around the world participating in SOTA. Certificates are issued on a points basis, determined by the altitude of each based peak, with a maximum of 10 points for the highest summits, and start at 100 points. 4 QSOs are required for a successful activation. Unlike ARLHS or WFF, SOTA has strict rules about operating. No automobile or house current can be used for power, and your entire kit must be carried into the activation zone on foot, bicycle, or other non-motorized transportation.



WWFF was started in 2008 by a few Russian operators. Initially they generated a limited list of national parks in various countries as the basis for the program. The concept soon became international, with national coordinators checking logs, maintaining the directory, setting up local awards and promoting the program.



This combination of local presence and a global program is I think one of the elements that helped grow the program and still is one of the interesting features of WWFF. A few years ago, Unfortunately, a disgruntled National Coordinator started a rival broke away from WWFF and started a rival organization called Parks on the Air (POTA).



This has caused some confusion as WWFF operators have traditionally, and still do use Parks on the Air when calling CQ. Rules vary slightly between the two organizations, and their respective databases of parks, national forests, national monuments, and historic sites, while the same for the first 4400 or so, diverge thereafter. Happily, although some friction exists at the leadership level, many activators operate in both systems and get along famously. 44 QSOs are required for a successful WWFF activation, but they can be amassed over multiple visits. 10 are required for POTA, but must be garnered in the same 24 hour period.

Next month, we'll start going into more detail about access, equipment, and activation considerations.

Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

03/19/2021 - 03/20/2021

PARC Hamfest

Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL

Website: <http://w4zbb.org>

03/20/2021 - Titusville ARC Free

Tailgate

Location: Titusville, FL

Website: <http://www.titusvillearc.org>

03/20/2021 - ZAARC Spring Tailgate Swap Meet

Location: Zephyrhills, FL

Website: <http://zaarc.org>

03/27/2021 - 8th Sevier County

2021 Hamfest

Location: Sevierville, TN

Website: <http://seviercountyars.com>

04/17/2021 - AJARC Hamfest 2021

Location: Greeneville, TN

Website: <https://greenevillehamfest.com/>

04/24/2021 - Savannah Area

Swap Meet Hamfest

Location: Savannah, GA

Website: http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=1001

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 147.165 + T 107.2		Ridge ARC First Saturday 3.959
	Ridge ARC 147.255 + T123.0 after simplex						

February 18, 2021 Minutes

The monthly DFARG meeting commenced at 1900 Members in attendance: John Miller K4IG Maria Ducharme KN4KHK Hardy Plemmons W4ABI Steve Brumagin KI4VGA Doug Welborn K4FI Hugh Sammons W4DRH ohn Miller started the meeting by welcoming all attending members. Doug Welborn suggested removing the Tri-bander antenna due to damage discovered while performing drone inspection (video). The existing antenna has greater than ten years of service. Presently looking for someone to climb the antenna tower to implement removal of antennas as needed and or repair existing equipment. The gentleman who conducted the drone inspection said he would climb the tower if needed Concerns were that the climber would have to have some sort of insurance in the event of an accident. It was discussed that if the climber were part of the membership, he or she would be cover under the club's insurance policy. Thus, offering the climber a free membership would resolve this issue.

The winter field day January 26 th , 2021 had a good turnout many contacts made during the event. John Miller requested that members submit days of

Treasurer's Report

15 March Balance: \$ 2,200.75.
Deposits \$70 dues
Debits: Gas Company \$28.75.

contacts in order to receive the contest certificate.

The GOTA contest was brought up as to when it was to be conducted. Concerning other club contests ideas for different events need to be discussed.

Membership dues are due. Presently the dues are thirty dollars which would count as a family membership.

January 2021 club meeting minutes were accepted by the attending members and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1930

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

Upcoming Contests

March

20-21 [Virginia QSO Party](#)
[Russian DX Contest](#)
27-28 [CQ WPX Contest SSB](#)

April

3-4 [Louisiana QSO Party](#)
[Mississippi QSO Party](#)
[Florida State Parks on the Air](#)

10-11 [Nebraska QSO Party](#)
[New Mexico QSO Party](#)
[Georgia QSO Party](#)
[North Dakota QSO Party](#)
[Yuri Gagarin Intl. DX](#)

11 [Hungarian Straight Key](#)

16-17 [Holy Land DX](#)

17-18 [Michigan QSO Party](#)
[Worked all Provinces of China DX](#)
[Texas State Parks on the Air](#)

Ridge Radio Club is having it's Tailgaiter on April 10, 2021. This is an outdoor event but please wear your mask. There is no charge to attend or to sell your items. As in the past we will be beside Shealy's Restaurant , Hwy1 in Leesville, SC. Starting at 9 AM and usually ends around 12 to 1 PM. We will have a couple of estate sales (Ham Stuff) and much, much more.

Upcoming DXpeditions:

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

Start	End	DXCC	Call	Info
Feb26	Apr02	Wake I	KH9/NL7RR	40 20m; SSB
Feb27	Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	80-10m; CW SSB FT8
Mar04	Mar23	Curacao	PJ2/DK5ON	80-6m; SSB CW FT4 FT8 RTTY
Mar05	Mar31	Samoa	5W7X	160-10m
Mar05	May1 5	Ecuador	HC1MD/2	40-6m
Mar10	Mar31	Minami Torishima	JG8NQJ/JD1	Marcus I 40 30m; CW
Mar15	Mar26	Botswana	A25RU	160-10m; CW SSB FT8
Mar16	Mar23	Cocos Keeling	VK9CE	80-6m; SSB CW FT8
Mar23	Mar23	Marshall Is	KH9/ WW6RG	20m; SSB 0400-0730z
Mar26	Mar26	Marshall Is	KH9/ WW6RG	20m; SSB 0400-0730z
Mar28	Apr10	Maldives	8Q7MS	40-15m; mainly CW
Apr01	Apr01	Marshall Is	KH9/ WW6RG	20m; SSB 0400-0730z
Apr26	May0 9	Svalbard	JW6VDA	IOTA EU-026 HF; SSB

Ham Humor

