The GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

May 2026 https://www.gars.org/ Volume 53, Issue 5

Inside

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TechFest
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

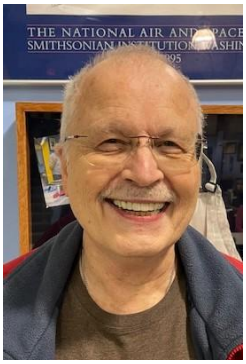
GARS January Exhibition of the Technical aspects of Amateur Radio
Held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds

The next TechFest is January 30, 2027

GARS Meeting: Multi-band Antennas for HF – Various Speakers
Tuesday May 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM

President's Message

From the President…



May brings May flowers – so the saying goes. For GARS, May is the beginning of 2 special GARS events – the Dacula Memorial Day Parade and GARS Field Day Event at Harbins Park.

The Memorial Day Parade is held in Dacula GA and GARS provides the parade participants setup and general communications before the parade starts.

I have had some good times helping at the parade setup. I spent several years with the antique cars and tractor row and while getting all of the "ducks" in the row, talking to the owners of the cars was a nice way to spend the time waiting for the parade to start. They also provide my many cups of coffee and there is also Chick-fil-A breakfast for us helpers.

I also was at one of the entrances to guide the larger tractor's trailers where to park. It was also a parking place for the ones who walked in the parade and helped them find where they needed to line up for the start of the parade. It was a nice way to spend the morning helping out with the Memorial Day Parade.

In June GARS does not have our normal meeting held at the EAA 690 Hangar. Instead, it is held at the location GARS uses for our Field Day activities – which is this year back to Harbins Park. Going there for the meeting gets everyone used to the Harbins Park location and if you have not been there, you get to see what a good location it is for Field Day.

As an incentive to come to Harbins Park for the meeting, it is our Ice Cream Social where the members can brown Bag their meal before the abbreviated meeting starts and there is an abundance of ice cream to finish off the time. Members and their families are welcome to come and enjoy the park and spend time socializing in a non-radio way (although radio will always be a topic).

This is the time to do the face to face meeting (it needs to be done after the Meet the Members Contest (this year's termed **May Madness**) to gain an extra point for each member you have talked to on the radio during the contest. The contest is being held for a week (5/17 thru 5/23) and is a great way to see how your equipment can access other GARS members and finally get it programmed to connect to the many GARS repeaters.

The rules are located in this month's GARzette (see GARS Meet the Members Contest – May 17-23) and enjoy trying out using one of the GARS repeaters you have not used yet. We ran this contest last November only for a weekend and this time it will run for a week so there is lots of time to make contacts. You can also use any social network to arrange for a time when you will be on the air and also which frequency / repeater you will be on – hope to hear many on the air during this contest.

73,

Bob – K4CQO
Club President / GARZette Editor

GARS Repeaters and Other Communications

2 Meter Repeaters	6 Meter Repeater	
147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2 1.25 Meter Repeater 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset 70 Cm Repeaters 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone **Other Resources:** APRS 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR	6M Operational in Buford 147.075 Operational in Snellville 147.255 Operational in Snellville 224.580 Operational in Grayson 442.100 Operational at Goshen Springs Rd, Norcross 442.325 Operational in Buford 444.525 Operational in Snellville Link remote receivers being added

Notable Web Links

Ham Radio Glossary: https://noji.com/hamradio/glossary.php a very comprehensive listing provided by Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI. On his site there is also a lot of information about getting started in ham radio.

Need Help – Let GARS Elmers answer your questions

Send an email to elmers@gars.org with the subject listing the area (like Antennas, Repeaters, Digital, DMR etc.) of your query to get to GARS Elmer volunteers.

About the GARzette

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Karen KI4HPP and Kyle W4KDA who print copies for distribution, etc., Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the newsletter electronically, and Mark Prichard KN2TOD who delivers the GARZette to our local HRO store.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.
For additional information view our Website at: http://www.gars.org [PS— Articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]
Newsletter Email: editor@gars.org Editor: Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO

GARS Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

GARS Meetings and Workshops are held in-person at the EAA 690 Hangar, 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Meetings and Workshops are OPEN to all, feel free to share your invite with others.

When GARS meetings are available, they can be found on YouTubeLive each month on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM Eastern (information also available on http://www.gars.org). Members are able to attend the GARS Executive Meeting (via Microsoft Teams) on the 1st Tuesday of the month – send an email to the GARS President (president@gars.org) for information to attend.

GARS Meetings Schedule (second Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the presentations)

- May 12th – Multiband Antennas for HF – Various Speakers led by Kevin Scott K4GTR
- June 9th – GARS Ice Cream Social at Harbins Park
- July 14th – CubeSat Presentation by Annie Mehta KQ4NJC

Workshop Schedule (third Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the Hands-on Workshops)

- May 19th – Multiband Antennas for HF
- June 16th – Field Day prep
- July 21st – CubeSat follow-up

GARS Meeting – May 12, 2026
Multi-ban Antennas for HF

There will be various demonstrations about building a multi-band antenna for HF. Various speakers will give their designs for an HF antenna and will answer questions about their HF antenna.

Portable All Band Vertical – Steve WB2OGY
Verticals – Tom KT4XN
Superstick all band – Harold KI4FPR

GARS Workshop – May 19, 2026

GARS workshops provide further information about the presentation given the week before on a one-on-one basis with the various presenters and there are also Elmers present on a variety of subjects to help with any questions you may have about ham radio – including help you're your equipment that you can bring in.

Elmers are always present at the GARS Workshops. Feel free to bring your questions to the Workshop. If your project is small enough to bring to the meeting, let us know in advance so we can bring tools, test gear, etc.

GARS would like to thank Kevin K4GTR and Dallas N4DDM for their presentation for the GARS Field Day preparation.

GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the GARS, ham radio, newsletter, Gwinnett 2006 May GARzette:


The GARZETTE

- Norm Schklar WA4ZXV provided the things needed for Field Day – GARS has made it simpler in the last 20 years
- There is an article on what QCWA is and what it represents – a good read
- There is a list of interesting websites and many are still operational – worth clicking on some of them

You can always browse the GARzette archive at http://www.gars.org/newsletters. 73, Bob, K4CQO, GARzette Editor

Health and Wellbeing – Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO

Look for this resource on Email (https://gars.org/contact/) and use it as a means to convey information about a GARS family member or Silent Key notification.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter "Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net"
Thursday Night 440 Buford Repeater Net

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS
TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club with the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is very busy and active, and we use the Monday night net to get timely information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people who make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only five operators who serve as the NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

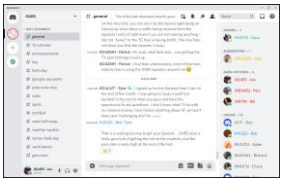
Ray – N4GYN David – KA4KKF Kevin – W4KIB Bill - WD4AMC Chuck – KK4TKJ Ed – W4BSR

To volunteer to help as a NCS for the 440 Net contact Jim O'Brien KQ4RNA.

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I would like to have more volunteers to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The "Want, Swap, Sell Information Net" begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 30 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact (Chuck) via Email (Click Here to Email our Net Manager) to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is. See you on the Nets!

Don't forget about our Discord utility for GARS announcements, news, activity spotting and more. See http://www.gars.org top of the home page. This is a sample of Discord. →



GARS Meet the Members Contest – May 17-23

Since this is being held in **May** – it is once again:

MAY MADNESS IN 2026

(A contest for GARS members only)

This is a GARS contest aimed at using the GARS repeaters and getting GARS members to make contacts with other members. Below are the specifics and rules for the contest (a contest for GARS members only).

1. Contest begins May 17 at 6:00 PM and ends May 24 at 11:59 PM
2. Only GARS members may participate
3. Bands
   - UHF VHF
     - 6 Meters
     - 2 Meters
     - 1.25 Meters
     - 70 cm
     - 33 cm
     - 23 cm
     - Any amateur GHz freq
   - HF
     - Any HF frequency where Tech class license is allowed to operate
4. Modes
   - SSB (voice)
   - FM
   - Digital (CW is a digital mode)
     - D-STAR & DMR (counted as a voice mode)
   - DMR (is a voice mode)
5. Contacts may be simplex or repeater / Any simplex frequency is allowed
6. Any station can be worked once per band per mode (Once on simplex or repeater. These are not two separate modes)
7. Exchange
   - ID yourself using Call Sign. Old GARS member or New member - add OM or NM (ie. AF4FG/OM or KI4QCI/NM)
8. Personal Greeting.
   - Since one purpose of this contest is for members to get to know each other, a face to face greeting after the contact is made should be attempted
9. Scoring
   - 1 point for each voice contact; 1 point for each digital contact; 1 bonus point for successful Personal Greeting added to each contact

   * New members are those who have joined GARS since 5/17/2025. Anyone who was a member in the past but has not been a dues paying member for at least 10 years prior to rejoining after 5/17/2025 is considered a new member for purposes of this contest. (Since a new member cannot contact himself, he automatically receives 1 bonus point)

   Your GARS join date is shown at the bottom of your newsletter email.

10. Awards

    Top Ten scores receive a GARS hat unique to this year's contest. All participants who turn in a log receive a GARS patch or decal

11. Logging

    Log Call Sign of station contacted, NM or OM, Frequency, Mode, date of contact and personal greeting (yes or no). Logs must be submitted electronically by midnight May 31, 2026 to af4fg@arrl.net

12. Suggested Frequencies

    Any repeater

Simplex Frequencies		
Voice	**CW**	**Other Digital**
146.505	144.03	145.07
446.00	432.075	430.45
52.525	50.050	50.530
28.345	25.050	28.150
	21050	
	7090	
	3530	

13. Arranged Contacts

    Times for contacts and frequencies to be used may be arranged

14. Visual Rule

    Individuals cannot be within sight of each other except in the case where one or both are in a moving vehicle. Both cannot be in the same vehicle

15. Net Rule

    The net control for the GARS net or the ARES net on Mat 18, 2026 or any other net between May 17 and May 24 may not count each check in as a contact nor may each check in count the net control as a contact

April Technician HamCram Results

On April 11 & 12, GARS held a Technician HamCram taught by Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC) and John Davis (WB4QDX). GARS wishes to thank them for providing the teaching and introduction to amateur radio and including the exam session as the class completed.

The GARS VE Team had provided the exam session following the Technician Ham Cram on April 12th and resulted in 13 New Technicians.

New Technicians

- Michelle Adams KR4LJE
- Monique Aycock KR4LLQ
- Abigail Baker KR4LKC
- Michael A Bascones KR4LNP
- Kia A Glenn KI4KIA
- Shane Harmon KR4LJY
- Bettina Harris KR4LKM
- Cynthia Johnson KR4LLZ
- Tevin Jones KR4LLV
- Keith Mayfield KR4LNO
- Todd B McCollum KR4LKK
- Jacob Nichols KR4LNQ
- Jessica Webb KR4LLW

Special thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made this exam session possible:

- W4DTR – Dave Bruse
- KQ4DWZ - Douglas Hooper
- KK4TKJ – Chuck Mc Cord
- K4CQO - Bob Hoffmann
- W4SHT - Lynn Hatker
- NG4H - Bill Beguhn
- WB4QDX – John Davis
- KJ4CNC – Ralph Pickwick
- KC4EG – Elmer Gappi

Thanks & 73, Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)

Dave's Computer Tips

By Dave Bruse, W4DTR (with a little help from ChatGPT)

ARRL Field Day, N3FJP Logging, and GARS

ARRL Field Day is amateur radio's premier on-the-air event, combining operating, emergency preparedness, and public outreach. In 2026, Field Day takes place June 27–28, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday.

GARS will once again participate at Harbins Park in Dacula (see GARS.org for full details), with setup Saturday morning, operating starting at 2:00 PM local time, and teardown Sunday afternoon. This year, we will have eight HF stations running, plus a 6 meter and a satellite station, along with Station Captains and Elmers available to help operators and visitors. It's a great opportunity for new and experienced hams alike to get on the air and learn.

A key part of a successful Field Day is accurate logging, and GARS will be using the N3FJP Field Day Contest Log. Designed specifically for ARRL Field Day, it includes features such as duplicate checking, section tracking, and networked operation so multiple stations can log contacts in real time, helping ensure smooth operation and accurate results.

N3FJP also offers a free trial version that allows a limited number of contacts, making it a great way to practice ahead of time. You can download the software here: https://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html. Getting familiar with it before Field Day will help you feel more confident and ready when it's your turn at the logging position.

Whether you want to operate, log, help with setup, or just stop by, GARS Field Day is a great way to experience amateur radio in action. Bring a friend and join us!

The Basics by Bob Schmid, WA9FBO

High-Side vs. Low-Side Switching

de: Bob Schmid, WA9FBO

When discussing circuits that drive LEDs, motors, solenoids, relay coils, etc., the terms **low-side switching** and **high-side switching** can come up. What do they mean?

Let's say we want to turn a load on and off using a transistor as a switch. We can connect the transistor between the (–) terminal of the load and ground; that's low-side switching. Or, we can connect the transistor between the (+) terminal of the power source and the load; that's high-side switching. Each has pros and cons.

Low-side switching is easy with an NPN (Fig. 1). Using approximate numbers, an NPN transistor is ON when there's more than +0.7 V on its base relative to its emitter, and OFF when there's less than +0.7 V. Due to these simple requirements, we can use 3.3 V or 5 V logic to drive the transistor, which in turn can switch a much higher voltage and current.

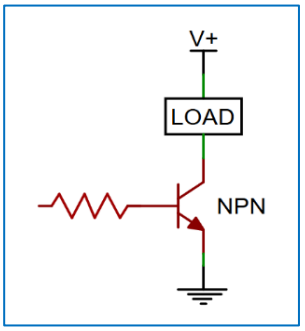


FIGURE 1 - LOW-SIDE

Can we use an N-channel power MOSFET? Yes, but a standard power MOSFET typically requires +10 V on its gate to turn ON. If that's a problem, there are *logic-level* N-channel power MOSFETs that can be driven with +5 V, and some with +3.3 V.

Some points to consider when using low-side switching:

- It's generally easier and cheaper than high-side switching.
- It's popular for low-power loads.
- The transistor emitter should be connected to the same ground as the rest of the logic.
- The positive terminal of the load stays powered, whether the transistor is ON or OFF.
- When the transistor is OFF, the load's negative terminal is left connected (floating).
- The load (motor, actuator, etc.) can activate if this load wire accidently shorts to ground.

High-side switching is done with PNPs and is a bit more complex (Fig. 2). Using approximate numbers, a PNP transistor is ON when the voltage on its base is 0.7 V lower than the voltage on its emitter. It's OFF when the base voltage is the same as the emitter voltage. That latter item is a problem if we want to use +5 V logic to switch +12 V. We must raise the base to +12 V to turn the transistor OFF. How do we do that?

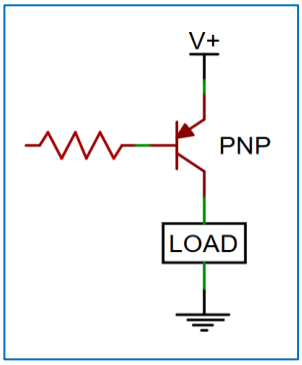


FIGURE 2 - HIGH-SIDE

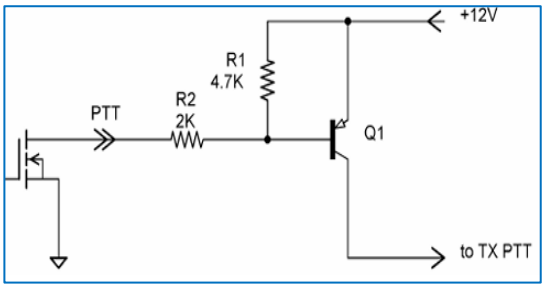


FIGURE 3 - HIGH-SIDE SWITCH WITH LOW VOLTAGE

We can add a transistor or MOSFET low-side switch to drive the high-side switch (Fig. 3). Turning the MOSFET ON lowers the voltage on Q1's base and turns it ON. Turning the MOSFET OFF raises Q1's base to +12 V and turns Q1 OFF. (This circuit allows a standard low-side push-to-talk output to key a transmitter or amplifier that requires +12 V on its PTT line to activate.)

A P-channel power MOSFET can be used in place of the PNP.

Some points to consider when using high-side switching:

- It requires more parts than low-side.
- It's popular for high-power loads due to easier protection and monitoring of loads.
- It avoids the issue of activating the load due to a short.
- The load stays grounded and doesn't float, so any devices or sensors connected to it have a stable ground reference.
- It's more convenient for multiple high-power loads that have a common ground, such as in vehicle and industrial systems.

HISS and TOOT

Telegraphy meets information theory

Long before the word *bit* was coined or Claude Shannon formalized information theory, telegraph operators were dealing with its physics firsthand. In the 1840s, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail turned simple pulses of current into a code that embodied the same principles, decades ahead of theory. Though they knew nothing of bits or information theory, they were already encountering the same limits—attenuation, distortion, and noise—that would later form the language of communication theory.

Signals across oceans

The telegraph's success on land was immediate and transformative—entire continents learned to communicate at a speed unimagined only a generation before. But when engineers tried to carry those signals beneath the sea, nature had other ideas. The first undersea cables of the 1850s revealed that a long cable was not just a wire—it behaved like a circuit all its own. Its capacitance and inductance turned it into a lowpass filter: each dot or dash spread out, merged with the next, and the baseline current crept upward with every pulse. In effect, the cable acted as an integrator—never allowing the current to fall fully back to zero before the next pulse. At higher signaling rates, the contrast between current and no-current disappeared, and the message faded into the noise (Fig. 1, left).

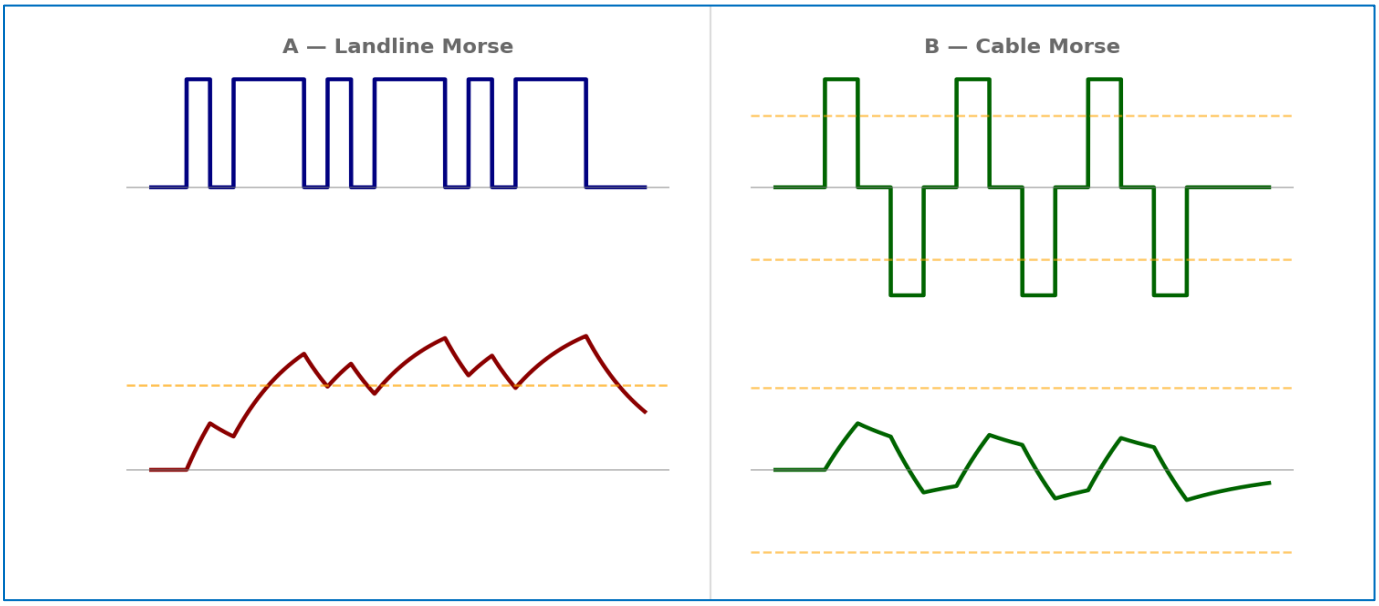


FIGURE 4 - IN THE LANDLINE SYSTEM (A), SAME-POLARITY PULSES GRADUALLY RAISE THE LINE'S DC LEVEL, WHILE IN THE CABLE SYSTEM (B), ALTERNATING POLARITIES KEEP THE SIGNAL CENTERED NEAR ZERO.

The solution was to restore electrical symmetry. A unipolar signal always left charge behind; a bipolar one would not. So engineers developed Cable Morse, or polar telegraphy, using positive pulses for dots and negative for dashes. The opposite currents discharged the line and held its average near zero, so the pulses—though still smeared by the cable—stood out clearly enough to be detected (Fig. 1, right).

HISS and TOOT

Even this improvement had a quirk. Operators noticed that a string of dots (as in the word *HISS*) would drive the baseline upward, while all dashes (as in *TOOT*) would push it the other way. To correct it, engineers followed each dot or dash with a momentary pulse of the opposite polarity—just long enough to bring the line's potential back toward zero. The telegraph line, in effect, balanced itself.

Advantages

Cable Morse offered additional benefits. Because all pulses and spaces were of equal duration—dots and dashes alike—it allowed operators to send messages at a faster rate. On long lines, earlier systems suffered from stretched and uneven pulse lengths, but Cable Morse's uniform timing effectively canceled those irregularities. The result was not only more reliable transmission but an early form of signal normalization—anticipating by decades the logic of modern digital line coding.

From dots and dashes to bits and baud

By the late 1850s, engineers such as William Thomson (later Lord Kelvin) and Charles Bright were adopting polar transmission for undersea service, borrowing its logic from American Morse—the landline variant used in North America. The cable version was, in a sense, the first *self-correcting code*, one that compensated for its own medium.

As vacuum tubes and repeaters later appeared, pulse-regenerating circuits restored signals to full amplitude at each end of the line. The speed of transmission rose dramatically. Long before Shannon described entropy (how much uncertainty there is in a message) and channel capacity, telegraph engineers had stumbled upon the same questions: How fast can information be sent without distortion? How much of a message can survive a noisy, lossy medium?

Their answers came not from equations, but from the hiss and toot of early telegraph pulses sent through the deep Atlantic.

Where the Signals Landed

The first successful transatlantic cable of 1866 stretched nearly 2,000 miles from Valentia Island, Ireland, to Heart's Content, Newfoundland (Fig. 2).

Each shore had its own cable station, where engineers tended batteries, induction coils, and the fragile line itself. No amplifiers or repeaters existed—the signal made the full crossing on its own. At the receiving end, operators used William Thomson's mirror galvanometer, a tiny moving coil and mirror that reflected a beam of light across a scale. Those faint flickers were the ocean-spanning dots and dashes of Cable Morse, proof that information could cross the Atlantic long before radio or fiber optics.

FIGURE 5 - SIMPLIFIED MAP SHOWING 1866 TRANSATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE CONNECTING VALENTIA ISLAND,

The Heathkit SB-300 Receiver

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ

In the long past, I covered the Heathkit SB Series Receivers, Transmitters, and Transceivers as a group of products. While quite popular in their time, the SB Series radios are forgotten today – except for collectors. They deserve better attention and as such, we revisit in this installment the SB-300 Receiver. The SB-300 was the first in a line of Ham Band and General Coverage Receivers that included the original SB-300 and then onward to the SB-310, SB-301, the SB-303, and the SB-313.

In 1963, Heathkit released the first of the series to the market, the SB-300 HF Receiver. Right along with it came the matching SB-400 HF Transmitter (in 1964) and the SB-200 Linear Amplifier (also 1964). These radios squared off in the marketplace with the Collins second generation S-Line, the 75S-3 Receiver and 32S-3 Transmitter. That said, the Heathkit SB series had more of a feature-set matching the original S-Line with the 75S-1 Receiver and the 32S-1 Transmitter (from about 1959). More on this, with respect to the SB-300 Receiver, follows in this article.

Here is an excellent example of the very capable SB-300 HF Receiver:

Heathkit SB-300 HF CW-SSB-AM Receiver[1]

Shown with Heathkit SB-600 Speaker Console

W9MXQ Photo

Before going further, we need to look at the field of receivers available to the amateur radio operator at the time the SB-300 was released to the marketplace. Collins let the market at the time, but it was only shortly after that the major players of the time offered directly competitive radios to meet Collins' market challenge. Here are the top four competitors, including our subject, the Heathkit SB-300.

Collins 75S-1 (1958) (Collins S-Line)

The first of a new generation of compact receivers using i-f mechanical or crystal filters. Plus, a new capability to Transceive with an equally new generation of Transmitters, like the model 32S-1.

Drake R-4 (1964)

Drake and its excellent 1A, 2A, and 2B Receivers even preceded the Collins S-Line with their introduction beginning in 1957. But this lacked a matching transmitter. The R-4 works with the Drake T-4X.

Hallicrafters SX-117 (1962)

The SX-117 was the first to come to the table with a direct competitor to the Collins 75S-1. It provided tuned circuit filters (no crystal filters) and had as matching transceive capable Transmitter, the HT-44.

Heathkit SB-300 (1963)

(Subject of this article.)

The SB-300 was the first of many matching components to effectively compete with the Collins S-Line products. For transceiving with the SB-300 Heathkit offered the SB-400 Transmitter

All Pictures – W9MXQ

Other well-known players in the market included National (with the NC-303 Receiver) and Hammarlund (with the HQ-170A Receiver). Only the small group, Collins, Drake, Heathkit, and Hallicrafters properly read the market. Others were in the market but stayed with their older design products. These are subjects for future articles.

Heathkit must have carefully studied the concept of the Collins S-Line Transmitters and Receivers and the associated KWM-2 series Transceivers to plan the SB-Line of Receivers, Transmitters, Transceivers, and accessories. They were effective, too, with products that equaled and even exceeded the Collins products they competed with.

Focusing on the SB-300 and it target product, it is to look at a selected group of feature comparisons:

Feature Comparisons – Collins 75S-1 and Heathkit SB-300[2]		
	Collins 75S-1	**Heathkit SB-300**
Frequency Coverage	3.5-30 MHz with fourteen selectable 200 kHz Segments (Any 200 kHz, 3.5–30 MHz)	80-10-meter ham bands only in eight selectable 500 kHz segments
Sensitivity (SSB)	1 microvolt for 15dB signal plus signal to noise ratio.	<1 microvolt for 15dB signal plus signal to noise ratio.
Selectivity (SSB)	2.1 kHz at 6 dB down with 4.2 kHz at 60 dB down. (2.0:1 Shape Factor) Mechanical Filter	2.1 kHz at 6 dB down with 5.0 kHz at 60 dB down. (2.4:1 Shape Factor) Crystal Filter
Selectivity Options	500 Hz CW	400 Hz CW
Calibration	100 kHz Calibrator	100 kHz Calibrator
Frequency Stability	After warmup, stable to 100 Hz	<100 Hz per hour after 20-minute warmup. Less than 100 Hz for 10%-line voltage variation.
Transceive Engagement	Front Panel Switch on Transmitter	Internal Swap of Injection Cables was Required[3]
Modes of Operation	LSB, USB, AM, CW	LSB, USB, AM, CW

Both the Heathkit SB-300 and the Collins 75S-1 share several traits – along with the mentioned Hallicrafters SX-117 and Drake R-4. That is, they have transceive capable transmitter partners, and use a conversion scheme like said transmitter[4].

A measure of the quality of any Heathkit product is the effort and quality of the workmanship of the original assembler of the kit. The fellow who had this receiver before me was not that assembler. His or her name is lost to history. What I can say is that the work was that of a true professional. I look for things like neat and proper solder joints. That is the primary issue with Heathkit builds – was the correct solder used and was it properly applied?

> *Note for Information: Those of us who remember assembling Heathkits recall that all the solder you needed, and more, was supplied with the kit. Was that feature generated out of kindness? No, it was a business decision. What better way to ensure the proper solder was used than to*

supply it with the kit? Heathkit will tell you that one of the primary failures in getting a Heathkit to work and thrive after assembly was to use the right solder chemistry.

I also look for any physical damage to the metal work. Was the product damaged because of being mishandled during assembly? Are there scratches and dents in the sheet metal? Are any of the satin or polished surfaces visibly damaged? Is stray solder present on the radio away from expected solder joints?

Look at this close photograph of the Carrier Oscillator portion of the receiver to get an idea of the workmanship of the builder in an area away from the printed circuit boards in the radio . . .

This is the BFO Oscillator area of the SB-300 Receiver.

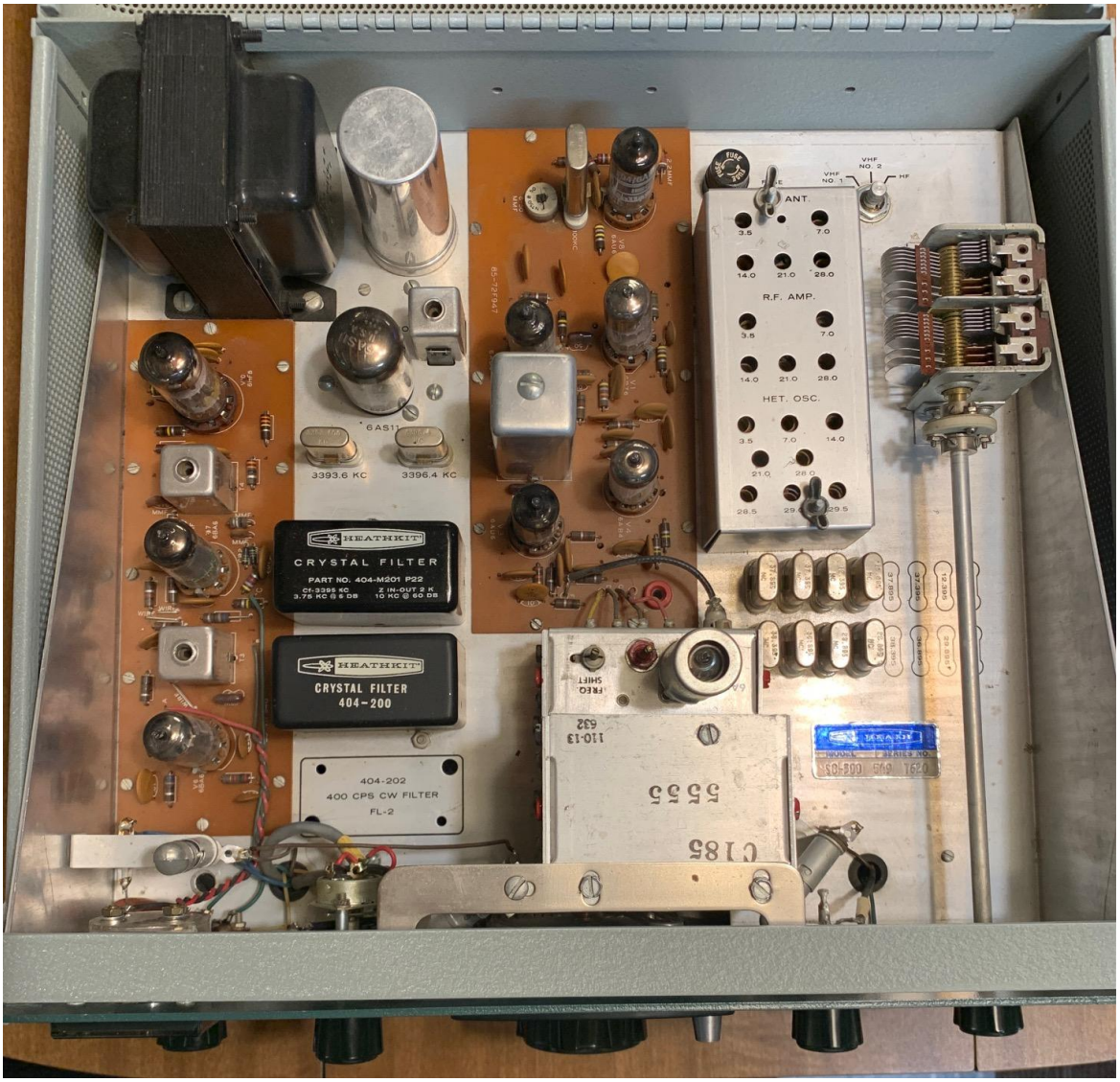
(The rear of the radio is toward the top of the picture. The left picture is under the chassis and the right picture shows the same area from the top of the chassis.)

Note clean solder joints, clean areas where soldering has been completed, and nice component layout of the resistors, capacitors, and diodes visible.

This circuitry is centered around V9, a 6AS11 Compactron Tube in the BFO Circuit.

W9MXQ

Now let us look at the top of the chassis of the SB-300 Receiver. I draw your attention to the simplicity of the design and the pleasing layout of components. No crowding.

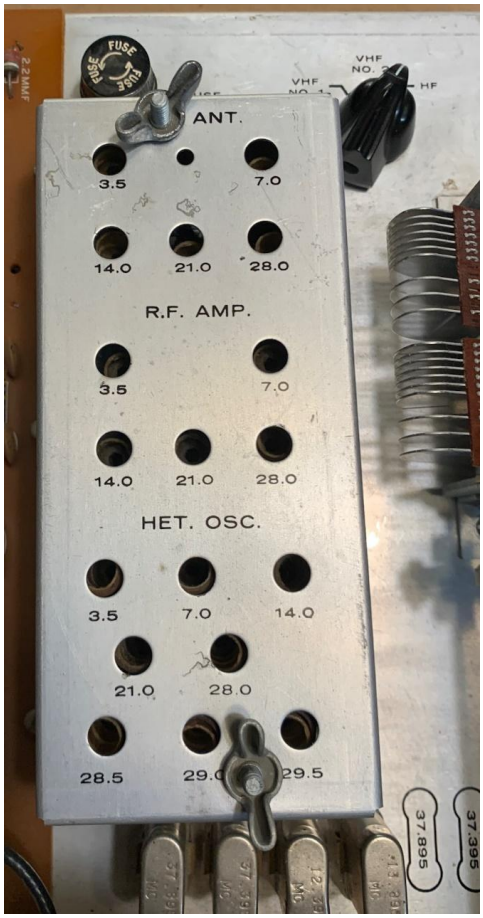


Top View of the Heathkit SB-300 Receiver.

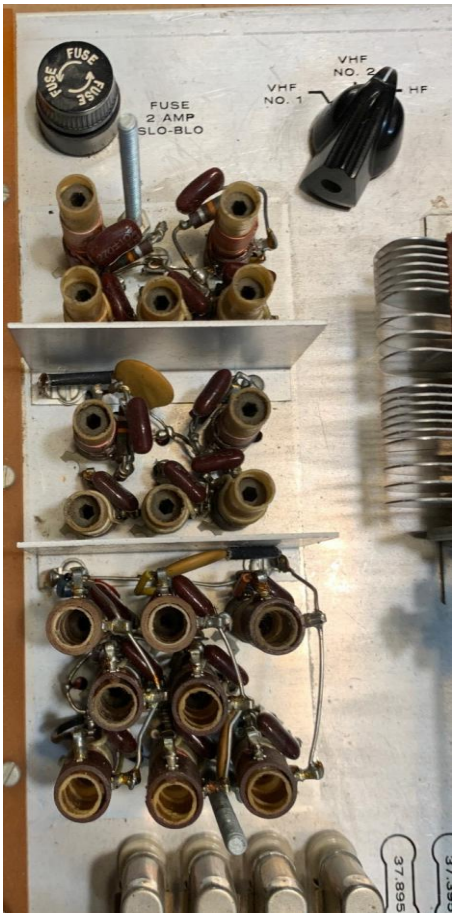
(The rear of the radio is toward the top of the picture.)

On the left, below the Power Transformer, is the I-F Amplifier Board. To the right is the chassis area containing the BFO Oscillator and the Crystal Bandwidth Filters, To the right of the BFO area is the RF Amplifier Board – showing the 100 kHz Crystal Calibrator at the rear edge (top of this picture). To the right of the RF Amplifier Board is a chassis area for the tuned circuit coils for the Antenna, RF Amplifier, and Heterodyne Oscillator circuitry. Those are pictured elsewhere in this article. Below those coils are the Heterodyne Crystals with a compete layout of their location silk screened on the chassis. There is one crystal for each 500 kHz tuning range in the receiver. In the front of the chassis (just to the right of center in the picture, is a top view of the pre-assembled PTO Oscillator (VFO).

W9MXQ



Alignment Coils – With Shield Cover



Alignment Coils – Without Shield Cover

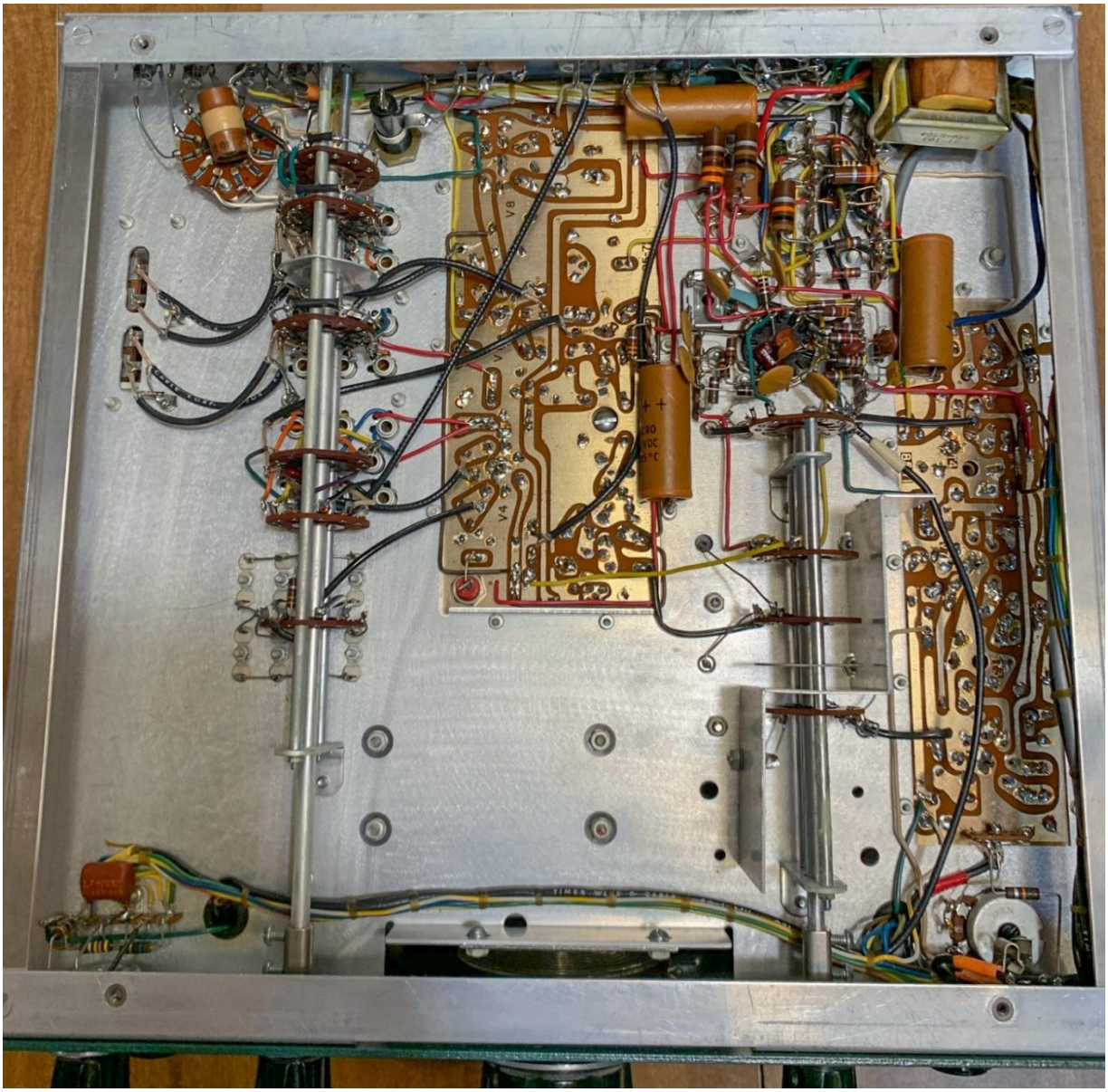
Alignment Coils Area of the Chassis – See Top View for Location

W9MXQ

This is a picture from the right front looking at the PTO chassis with its single tube. The red marks on two of the assembly screws indicate assembly at Heathkit for best stability. This was why sophisticated test equipment was not required to align this radio after assembly. Requirements were for a Vacuum Tube Voltmeter, the Calibrator in the SB-300, and another receiver used to align the calibrator.

W9MXQ

Now we should get an unobstructed view of the chassis bottom. We can see here the integration of printed circuit board technology and the simplicity it allowed in what would be a complex assembly in all point-to-point wiring. Heathkit was at the time of its game at this time.



Bottom View of the Heathkit SB-300 Receiver.

(The rear of the radio is toward the top of the picture.)

You can see the circuit boards as shown in the top view with the I-F Amplifier Board to the right side of the chassis and the RF Amplifier Board at upper (rear) center. Note that the area around the BFO Oscillator is chassis wired and was in a previous picture, but close. See very neat wiring layout and care in soldering.

W9MXQ

Like all designs, the SB-300 has a few shortcomings. Let us discuss a few:

1. Mated with its partner SB-400 Transmitter, the pair was less than stellar at being selectable at operating separately or in transceive off the SB-300's PTO. To be fair, that was not, as mentioned, a problem with the SB-300 but with the SB-400. Users of this receiver with the later model transmitter had no problems with the operation.
2. The SB-300 lacked a receiving segment to listen to WWV and to calibrate the internal 100 kHz Crystal Calibrator. This was a major addition to the later SB-301 version of the receiver that added a band position for 15.0 to 15.5 MHz to allow coverage of 15.0 MHz WWV Transmissions.

3. The SB-300 lacked the sensitivity of its later versions, the SB-301 and SB-303 (there was not a SB-302 model). This was accomplished by a change in the tube layout. This was paralleled in the upgrade of the SB-100 Transceiver and the SB-101 with similar sensitivity improvements paralleling the SB-300 to SB-301 model update.
4. Heathkit in this time was immensely popular and a high proportion of the stations worked on the bands would have a Heathkit hearing, transmitting, or amplifying the signal. Baring that, there would be a Heathkit device monitoring or measuring the output!! For that reason, many improvement articles, addressing the mentioned shortcomings, appeared in ham radio publications and newsletters.
5. Not an original design flaw but the filters in the SB-300 are not compatible with any other Heathkit Receivers or Transceivers. As such, it seems impossible to find a CW filter for the SB-300 that is reviewed here. The filters in the SB-301, the model following the SB-300, work in all other models of Heathkit SB series receivers and transceivers. The original SB-100 Transceiver did not accommodate a CW filter but its filter architecture is the same as the SB-300, too.

If you have any of the SB series radios, I urge you to locate and purchase an excellent book by Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, entitled “Heathkit Guide to the Amateur Radio Products,” Third Edition. The earlier editions are good (great, actually), but the Third Edition adds an incredible amount of detail about this fine equipment[5].

Just so you know the look of the “Green Machines” as we Heathkit collectors call them, here is the Heathkit Separates at W9MXQ . . .

Left to Right (All Heathkit)

SB-401 Transmitter, SB-600 Speaker, HDP-121 Microphone,
SB-303 Receiver, SB-200 Linear Amplifier, & HA-1410 Electronic Keyer

W9MXQ

The SB-300 regularly stands in for the SB-303 in this setup. Notice the microphone and its beige color? It is a later Heathkit HDP-121 where the green color had been replaced by Heathkit’s turn to beige radio colors in later years. (And, for the record, the HDP-121 was a private label and color Electro- Voice 621H.) Further to mention, in A-B tests, I have found that the fidelity and listening comfort of the SB-300 exceeds that of the SB-303. I do not want to get into a 6HF8 Audio PA (in the Heathkit SB-300) vs a Motorola Matched Pair Push-Pull MJE-371/MJE-512 (in the Heathkit SB-303) argument. On the other hand, I do know what sounds great, and what just sounds good. I guess you will have to judge for yourself.

I appreciate that you read my articles. A special thanks go to Bob, W9DYQ, for his proof reading. Remember that I am open to questions and comments at my email address, W9MXQ@TWC.com.

Notes:

[1] This is my third SB-300 Receiver and comes from fellow collector, W9DYQ. I have a bit of fascination for this series of radios – with an SB-300 and several SB-303's in my collection. I have never had the middle model, the SB-301.

[2] From the Specifications in the respective Operating Manuals of the noted models.

[3] This was a major flaw with the SB-300 operating with the matching SB-400 Transmitter. It was corrected with the SB-401 Transmitter. This was an SB-400 issue, not the fault of the SB-300 Receiver. (My Heathkit separate Receiver and Transmitter is a later SB-303 Receiver and SB-401 Transmitter. However, my SB-300 integrates flawlessly with that same SB-401.)

[4] Hallicrafters seemed to ignore this idea of a conversion scheme like the transmitter in the SX-117. While successful due to similar conversion frequencies, the SX-117 owes more in its design to traditional conversion systems than the players from Drake, Heathkit, and Collins. Note also that while the Heathkit SB-300 and Collins 75S-1 used Crystal and Mechanical i-f filters, respectively, the Drake R-4 and Hallicrafters SX-117 used tuned circuit i-f filters typical of other radios of the day. Drake, however, used a front-end crystal filter – what we would refer to today as a Roofing Filter.

[5] Chuck Penson's Heathkit related books are available from his website, https://wa7zze.com/. I also recommend his other Heathkit related books, "Heathkit Test Equipment Products," and Heathkit H-Fi and Stereo Products." I have all three, plus early editions of the "Heathkit, A Guide to the Amateur Radio Products" books.

W9MXQ ©2023

©Heathkit

GARS Open Positions – Help Wanted

These are some of the positions that are available. If you have a background in any of these positions or want to learn them, they are available for you to fill.

- Marketing Chair
- Activities Chair – includes the following types of activities that can be sponsored by GARS

  1. Fox Hunt
  2. GARS Operating Contests
  3. Winter Field Day
  4. GARS Hamfest Volunteers

- Non-Chair Activities needed:

  1. "X" discussion handler
  2. Raffle product coordinator (given a budget to get raffle items)
  3. Holiday Party activities
  4. Assistant Webmaster
  5. GARS QSL card handler

In order to offer your help with any of these, send an email to president@gars.org or contact the President (Bob K4CQO) at one of our meetings.

GARS Membership Pricing

New Adult/Senior Membership: **(Licensed Adults and Seniors who have never been a GARS member)**	**First Year Free**
Youth Membership: **(Licensed Youth, 21 and younger)** **(Proof of age required)**	**Free (until age 22)**
Adult Membership:	**$30 / 1-Year** **$50 / 2-Years ($10 savings)** **$60 / 3-Years ($30 savings)** **$350 / Lifetime (One-Time Fee)**
Senior Membership: **(Age 65+)** **(Proof of age required)**	**$15 / 1-Year** **$25 / 2-Years ($5 savings)** **$30 / 3-Years ($15 savings)** **$150 / Lifetime (One-Time Fee)**
Join Link: https://gars.org/join	**Renew Link: https://gars.org/renew**

GARS Membership

New Members in April
Michelle Adams (KR4LJE) Michael Bascones (KR4LNP) Jennifer Bascones Joshua Bascones Kia Glenn (KR4LLS) David Glenn Keith Griffin (KK7AQN) Shane Harmon (KR4LJY) Bettina Harris (KR4LKM) Joseph Iannazzone (KR4LQL) Keith Mayfield (KR4LNO) Todd McCollum (KR4LKK) Richard Miller (KR4LQV) John Overley (KQ4HGO) Joseph Somers (KR4GVO) Wanda Barfield
New Members: 16
Total Members as of March 31, 2026 362

Birthdays in May
Michael Bascones (KR4LNP) Vincent Bazain (KA4WAY) Bill Bentley (KJ4MXM) Caryn Brant Tom Crowley (KT4XN) Steve Garrison (N4TTY) Bob Gerzoff (WK2Y) David Griscavage (W3GZS) Bill Hawkins (WR1TR) Harry Heath (KO4FGK) Sachiko Londono Frederick Love (KK4VEP) Brandon Massengill (W4HDX) David Mattison (KD4PCK) Dallas Mellichamp (N4DDM) Anita Morris (KG4AJX) Douglas Papciak (KI4VDU) James (Jay) Pound (KK4U) Robert Prisant (KN4GZG) Laurie Rundqwist (KR4HQU) Ade Shamblin (KJ4CUY) Nathan Smith (NF4L) Larry Thill (W4LJT)

Join GARS members for our:

- weekly lunch bunch at 11:00 AM most Fridays
- weekly breakfast gathering at 8:00 AM most Saturdays

Friday gatherings are held at Chilli's: 947 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Saturday gatherings are held at Cracker Barrel: 75 Celebration Dr, Suwanee, GA 30024

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message. To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website – www.gars.org/gars/membership/. To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please contact the Membership Chair at Email (https://gars.org/contact/) with any changes to your Membership information.

Membership Chair: Dave Bruse, W4DTR
Committee Members: Pam Brown KJ4RYV, John Aguirre KQ4EJV, Tee Stewart KR4GKY

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

To update your ARRL membership information, please visit their website - http://www.arrl.org.

Local Ham Radio Meetings

In order to find a local Ham Radio Club meeting near you, please visit http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club. Contact the club for meeting information.

Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit

https://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club

GARS on Social Media

Discord Request:
https://gars.org/discord

Groups.io:
https://gars.org/groups.io

Visit GARS on Facebook:
https://gars.org/facebook

Follow GARS on X:
https://gars.org/x

Join GARS on YouTube:
https://gars.org/youtube

GARS Mail Address:

GARS
P.O. Box 492531
Lawrenceville, GA 30049
https://gars.org

Officers

 Bob Hoffmann, President K4CQO

 Glen Wendt, Vice President W3WWT

 Ralph Pickwick, Treasurer KJ4CNC

 Michael Stewart, Secretary KI4FPR

 Kevin Scott, Program Manager K4GTR

Managers and Committee Chairs

 Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader , Membership Chair W4DTR

 David Adcock, Webmaster KA4KKF

 Ralph Pickwick, Education Chair KJ4CNC

 Earl Whatley, Apparel Manager & Dacula Parade Co-Chair AF4FG

 Michael Stewart, Activities – Dacula Parade Co-ChairKR4CVF

 Mario Stewart, Public Information Officer KR4CUK

 Bob Hoffmann, GARzette Editor K4CQO

 Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair K4AIH

 Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker & Historian ND4V

 Chuck McCord, Net Manager KK4TKJ

 Steve Back, Technical / RFI Advisor WB2OGY

 Dallas Mellichamp, Workshop Leader, Field Day Chair N4DDM

 Sandy Jackson, Health and Wellbeing KJ4DRO

 Edwin Henderson, Multimedia Chair W4BSR

 Dallas Mellichamp, Georgia QSO Chair N4DDM

 Neil Derryberry, Elmer Manager & IT Chair WD4NET

 Edwin Henderson, TechFest Chair W4BSR

Open Winter Field Day Chair

Directors and Trustees

 Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

 Kyle Albritton, W4KDA

 John Davis, WB4QDX

 Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee

GARS Meeting Minutes

GARS General Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

Attendees

President - Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO
Vice President - Glen Wendt, W3WWT
Treasurer - Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC
Secretary - Michael Stewart, KR4CVF
Program Manager - Kevin Scott, K4GTR
Total Meeting Attendees: 49 (6 New Hams + 2 Non-Ham Member)

Agenda

Opening Time: 7:03pm
Closing Time: 8:57pm
Membership Report: 362 as of (4/07/26)

Programs: Field Day - Kevin Scott, K4GTR

The event will be at Harbins Park
GARS will be a "8A" group
Not just Ham Activity

Upcoming Events

- Meet the Members (5/17 - 5/23) - Earl
- Dacula Memorial Day Parade (5/25) -Michael
- Field Day (6/27 - 6/28) - Dallas

Workshop Minutes - April 22nd, 2026

Attendance: 22

Workshop: Field Day Preps and SWR Meter Calibration

Presenter: Various

Brief Summary: This Workshop followed the GARS presentation of the same title

22 were in attendance for the Workshop. Michael, KR4CVF, helped a few people program their Baofeng HTs with his Bluetooth adapter. He also got Shonna KR4KSI to sign up for the Dacula Memorial Day Parade. David KA4KKF helped a few get N3FJP Logging Software loaded and configured for Field Day. The DMR crowd, Walt KQ5KAO, Bob K4CQO, and Mark KN4TOD did their thing. Warren KM4FQH showed off his hanging 1/4 wave 2m antenna and demonstrated his Meshtastic gear. Alan K5AKG and I checked the calibration of his SWR meter. We also discussed with Shonna what kind of Non-Baofeng HT she could get for under $150. Will brought in some of his VHF/UHF radios to sell. Dave W4DTR brought in his Power Pole kit and demonstrated how and why we use Power Pole connectors. Plus, there were items on the free table, and we had cookies, sodas, and coffee.

Elmers are always present at the GARS Workshops. Feel free to bring your questions to the Workshop. If your project is small enough to bring to the meeting, please let us know in advance so we can gather the necessary tools, test equipment, etc.

73 Dallas N4DDM
Workshop Chair

GARS Calendar Events

GARS Events Calendar for 2026

TechFest	February 21 2026
Winter Field Day	January 24-25 2026
Dog Show Fundraiser	March 25-29, 2026
Spring Technician HamCram	April 11&12 2026
Georgia QSO Party	April 11-12 2026
North metro area Fox Hunt	April 2026
Memorial Day Parade	May 25 2026
ARC/KARC Hamfest	June 2027
Field Day	June 27-28 2026
Summer General HamCram	July 2026
Fall Technician HamCram	October 2026
JOTA	October 2026
Stone Mt. Hamfest	October 30-31 2026
Holiday Party	December 2026

GARS Recurring Calendar

- 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December)
  Monthly Club Meeting
  690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
- 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December)
  Monthly Workshop
  690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
- 3rd Sunday of the Month at 3 pm
  GARS Ham Exam Session
  690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
- Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- Every Thursday at 7:30 pm: GARS 440 Net on the GARS 442.325 MHz repeater
- Every Friday at 11:30 am, GARS Lunch at Chilli's
- Every Saturday at 8:00 am GARS Breakfast at Cracker Barrell

GARS Calendar for May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 **11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's**	2 **8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel**
3	4 **7:30 PM 2M Net 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5**	5 **7:00 PM Exec Meeting**	6	7 **7:30 PM 70cm Net 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100**	8 **11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's**	9 **8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel**
10	11 **7:30 PM 2M Net 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5**	12 **7:00 PM Meeting EAA 690 Hangar**	13	14 **7:30 PM 70cm Net 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100**	15 **11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's**	16 **8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel**
17 **3:00 PM Ham Radio Exams, EAA 690 Hangar** **Meet the Members Contest**	18 **7:30 PM 2M Net 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5** **Meet the Members Contest**	19 **7:00 PM Workshop Meeting EAA 690 Hangar** **Meet the Members Contest**	20 **Meet the Members Contest**	21 **7:30 PM 70cm Net 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100** **Meet the Members Contest**	22 **11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's** **Meet the Members Contest**	23 **8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel** **Meet the Members Contest**
24	25 **7:30 PM 2M Net 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5**	26	27	28 **7:30 PM 70cm Net 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100**	29 **11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's**	30 **8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel**
31						

Events – ARRL Contests / Hamfests

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar
> For more information click the links <

January 2026
1 Straight Key Night
3 Kids Day
3-4 RTTY Roundup
17-19 January VHF

February 2026
9-13 School Club Roundup
21-22 International DX – CW

March 2026
7-8 International DX– Phone

April 2026
19 Rookie Roundup – Phone

May 2026 (no ARRL Contests)

June 2026
6-7 International Digital Contest
13-15 June VHF
20 Kids Day
27-28 Field Day

July 2026
11-12 IARU HF World Championship

August 2026
1-2 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
15-17 10 GHz & Up – Round 1
8-9 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
16 Rookie Roundup – RTTY

September 2026
12-14 September VHF
5-6 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
19-21 10 GHz & Up - Round 2

October 2026
TBD Collegiate QSO Party
31-Nov 1 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
19-23 School Club Roundup

November 2026
7-9 Nov Sweepstakes–CW
28-29 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
21-23 Nov Sweepstakes–Phone

December 2026
4-6 160 Meter
12-13 10 Meter
20 Rookie Roundup–CW

For more information:
http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

HAMFEST CALENDAR

[Please confirm the status of a Hamfest before making plans

05/23/2026 - WormFest 2026
Location: Pinellas Park, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: The Glorious Society of The Wormhole
Website: https://w4orm.com/

07/10/2026 - 07/11/2026 Milton ARC Hamfest
Location: Milton, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Milton Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://miltonarc.org

07/11/2026 - Cullman Amateur Radio Hamfest
Location: South Vinemont, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Cullman Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://cullmanarc.com

07/11/2026 - Cullman Amateur Radio Hamfest
Location: South Vinemont, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Cullman Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://cullmanarc.com

08/22/2026 - 08/23/2026 Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Nation Convention
Location: Huntsville, AL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc.
Website: http://hamfest.org

08/22/2026 - TarcFest
Location: Tampa, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.hamclub.org

09/19/2026 - Gadsden Hamfest 2026
Location: Gadsden, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Gadsden Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://k4jmc.com

10/10/2026 - NOARC Annual Hamfest
Location: Crestview , FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club
Website: https://w4aaz.org/noarc/

10/25/2026 - Wiregrass ARC - Fall Tailgate
Location: Headland, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Wiregrass Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://w4dhn.org

11/07/2026 - EPARS Fall Hamfest
Location: Dade City, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: East Pasco Amateur Radio Society
Website: http://k4ex.org

For more information: www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar. **When searching by division, use Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC**

GARS Ham Radio Exams & Results

GARS Ham Radio Exams

GARS Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Sunday of the month

Preregistration is REQUIRED, Doors open at 2:45 pm, exams start promptly by 3:00pm. For more information and to preregister, please visit https://gars.org/exams/

GARS VE-Team
VEC: W5YI-VEC
EAA 690 Hangar
690 Airport Rd
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

GARS VE Team Leaders
E-mail: exams@gars.org.

April 2026 Results

The GARS VE Team exam session results from April 19th:

7 new Technicians:
- Sean Campbell KR4LSO
- Noelle E Conant KR4LQM
- THOMAS P GREY KR4LPA
- Joseph C Iannazzone KR4LQL
- Roberto R Morales KR4LQI
- Kerry Robinson KR4LPD
- Leslie Robinson KR4LOU

3 new Generals:
- Al W Aitken KR4LIO
- RICHARD G MILLER KR4LQV (passed Technician & General)
- Robert S Wyzykowski JR KR4LOV (passed Technician & General)

1 new Extra:
- Philip B Miller W4JMN

Special thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made this exam session possible:

W4DTR - Dave Bruse
W4VNA - Lynn Hatker
KC4EG - Elmer Gappi
NG4H - Bill Beguhn
WS3V - Bill Rudd
K4CQO - Bob Hoffmann

Thanks & 73, Dave Bruse W4DTR (Team Lead)

Local Ham Radio Exams

In order to find an exam session near you, please visit http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/. Contact the information in the listing for further information.

MAINTAIN YOUR LICENSE

You can update your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free - https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system. License renewal is subject to the $35 FCC fee.

GARS Supporters

In order to have your ad included, contact editor@gars.org. Current ad prices per year are:

Business Card	$50
1/4 page	$125
1/2 page	$150
Full page	$200

For swap items, post and see items on GARS groups.io (https://groups.io/g/GARS).

Ready to take your Ham Radio Exam?

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Send the article to editor@gars.org and be published in next month's GARzette.