



The

GARzette



The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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[www.GARS.org](https://www.gars.org/)

**Don't forget to support our
advertisers at the back of the
GARzette.**



The next TechFest is early in 2027

**GARS Meeting: CubeSat by Annie Mehta
Tuesday September 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM**



President's Message

From the President...

I had an interesting August. There were 2 exam sessions in August. The normal exam session had 3 taking their exam session and 2 days later there was a special session after a HamCram session for a group of police officers. It was held at the EOC office less than a mile from the GARS meeting which was good so I could get to the Workshop after getting supper when the exam session ended. The HamCram had 9 students and John Davis (WB4QDX) and Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC) did a great job of getting the information to the students even though the session was more like a video class without much feedback during the HamCram. It was a pleasant surprise how many of the students got their Technician license.

Ralph also put together the GARS group going to the Stripers baseball game. The game had perfect weather for the game and there were fireworks set off after the game. It looked like the Stripers were going to lose by a lot until the end and were within a run of tying the game. They did lose 4 to 5, but the ending was worth staying and watching – of course along with the hotdog and ice cream while watching!



During the game was the first time I saw the use of the automated ball / strike equipment. It was displayed on the large display screen with the position of the ball to the rectangular area of the strike zone. It showed the ball inches inside or outside of the strike zone. To me, that was a real

statement of the precision of the equipment used and how precisely it can assess the batter's size and position to tell if it is a ball or strike. Most of the time it coincided with the umpire call and that is a good recognition of how good umpires are – even if the fans do not agree!

In June, we had our AC replaced which is in our attic. In the attic I also have an TV antenna that was there when we purchased the house. That antenna is what I have connected to my WSPR transmitter. After the AC was installed, I noticed my WSPR connections often did not list any over a 24 hour period. I finally went up there to check it out and noticed the antenna had shifted slightly and the driving element was touching a metal strap in the attic. I moved the antenna just enough so it was not touching the strap, and lo and behold the 24 hour WSPR results is back to showing connections like it did before the AC was installed. So, I learned that antennas can have very small changes that can change how they work. BTW, that antenna is not connected to any of my ham equipment other than the WSPR transmitter.

In September, GARS is having its first parks outing organized by Ed Henderson W4BSR. The details are later on in this GARzette. It is on the second Sunday (9/13) starting at 1:00 and hopefully the summer heat will be subsiding and it will be a good time to get out to the park and socialize with other GARS members and even get on the air or bring your Go-Box along and do a test setup while others are there – just in case.

Also coming up soon is JOTA – a scouting event Jamboree on The Air event to be held in October and GARS provides help with the event to show the scouts what ham radio is all about.

Bob – K4CQO

Club President / GARzette Editor

GARS Repeaters and Other Communications

2 Meter Repeaters

147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 – Snellville
 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2 – Snellville

1.25 Meter Repeater

224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset – Grayson

70 Cm Repeaters

444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 – Snellville
 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 – Norcross
 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100 – Buford

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone – Buford

Other Resources:

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR

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)

- September 8th – CubeSat Presentation by Annie Mehta KQ4NJC
- October 13th - Favorite Projects and Websites - Various GARS Members
- November 10th – POTA Every GA Park Visited Adventure

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

- September 15th – CubeSat Presentation by Annie Mehta KQ4NJC
- October 20th - Favorite Projects and Websites - Various GARS Members
- November 17th – POTA Every GA Park Visited Adventure

GARS Meeting – September 8, 2026 CubeSat by Annie Mehta KQ4NJC

The Small Satellite Research Lab (SSRL) at the University of Georgia is dedicated to “teaching, developing, and discovering” through hands-on student involvement in CubeSat technologies.

SSRL is developing and launching new and innovative technologies into space by utilizing the CubeSat platform, a small-scale satellite that is designed for rapid iteration and development. The lab is currently driving technological innovation at UGA through the building of 2 satellites, funded by the Air Force and NASA. The UGA SSRL was founded in 2016, primarily as an avenue for undergraduates to design, build, and test space-ready components. Over the past three years, the SSRL has steadily increased the reach of its research, student involvement, and community enrichment.

GARS Workshop – September 15, 2026 CubeSat

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 Mark Bell for his MeshCore presentation and additional Workshop help with setting up member’s MeshCore systems.



GARS Happenings

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

- There are some pictures of the GARS members helping at the Dog Show 20 years ago – I am sure you will recognize the members
- There is an article about the reliability of WW2 radios and wondering what happened to them

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



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 six operators who serve as the NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. GARS can always use more volunteers In no particular order, they are:

Ray – N4GYN David – KA4KKF Don – KM4BWT Joe – KR4LQL 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!

GARS Providing a Helping Hand

Hams Helping Hams

By Mark Bell N7GRB



Earlier this month (August) Richard came by to help drop my HF endfed antenna in prep for tree service in my backyard. We were careful to ensure suspension lines running over the tree branches remained in place. At that time, we noticed (dang pesky) squirrels had nibbled at the Dacron line adjacent to and the insulator itself at the bitter end of the wire antenna.

With tree service completed it was time to raise the antenna back into place. Richard stopped by for the raising event. The nibbled insulator was still serviceable. The damaged Dacron was cut out. As the haul-up line was tensioned the antenna wire gave way right at the insulator. Down fell the antenna but unfortunately the haul-up line with its insulator was well out of recovery reach. We observed the squirrels had also made a small nibble of the wire itself leading to a bit of center core rusting and an associated weak point. What was to be a simple operation turned into one a bit more complex.

It's now the end of the month. The antenna is repaired and time to attempt once more to raise it into position. Kevin, with the needed tools to launch a halyard over tree branches, answered the call for help. Kevin identified a better, higher branch location. (BTW Kevin is also very, very good at using his slingshot. He must practice a lot at knocking tin cans off a log.) Before this final raise the plastic insulator was swapped to squirrel proof porcelain. A down haul lanyard was also attached to the insulator providing a method of easy recovery in the event of another parted antenna.

A big thank you to Richard Kitz KM4SWL and Kevin Scott K4GTR for getting my HF antenna back up into the trees! I'm back on the HF airways.

Mark N7GRB

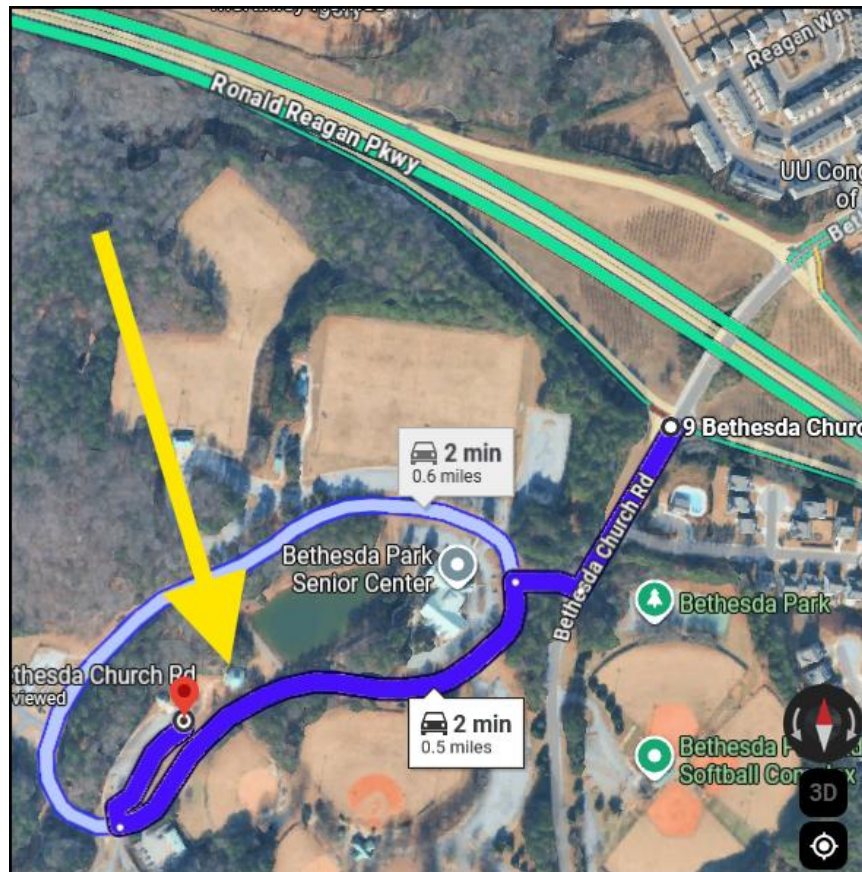


GARS Sundays in the Park

Second Sundays in the Park beginning in September

September is the first park outing. This is an opportunity to get out, set up your field portable radios, make some contacts together and have good fellowship with your friends in the club. Park outings may rotate between a few centrally located Gwinnett County Parks until we land on one which will best suit everyone who wishes to attend. Park outings will begin around 1:00 on the Second Sunday of every month at or near a central pavilion. Sometimes we may find that the pavilion has been rented, so bring your lawn chair, portable power, and a folding table just in case. If you have a pop-up canopy to share with others, let us know you're attending. This is an informal event, so drop in, bring a snack or cooler, stay as long as you like, and relax with your club friends.

The first **Second Sunday in the Park** event will be September 13th at 1:00 PM in Bethesda Park located at 225 Bethesda Church Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. Look for the pavilion next to the lake and between the Senior Center and the Aquatics Center.



I hope to see you there!

Edwin W4BSR



JOTA Jamboree on the Air

October 17th from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

VFW Post 5255, 368 Grayson Highway,
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

For directions, please go to <http://goo.gl/maps/8b4zx>

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. This is a free event that is open to all Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts & the general public. Come learn and have fun at JOTA 2026. JOTA is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around the nation, and in our own community. Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, Ventures and Girl Scouts. This is the official JOTA site of the Northeast Georgia Council Amateur Radio Club KK4BSA.

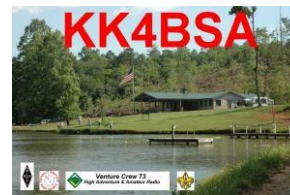
Amateur Radio provides a fun way to learn communication skills and technology as well as providing a service to our community through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.



Gwinnett
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NEGA Amateur
Radio Club

GARS Education Help Needed

Harold Brown is serving as the GARS Education Representative for the Lilburn Middle School. Harold needs radio contacts for the students to contact during the ham sessions for students at Lilburn Middle School. He needs people to stand by to talk to the students and ask them questions. Dates are:

OCT. 28, 2026	Jan. 6, 2027
Nov. 11, 2026	Feb. 3, 2027
Dec. 2, 2026	Mar.3, 2027
	Apr. 14, 2027
	May 12, 2027

All around 3 pm. Please help out. They really enjoyed the first day contacting our operators. Note that thanks go to Joseph for talking to the kids during the sessions – they were excited.

Dave's Computer Tips

Getting Started with EchoLink

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

EchoLink combines Amateur Radio with the Internet, allowing licensed hams to communicate with stations and repeaters far beyond normal local radio range.

Using EchoLink, you can connect to another amateur radio operator, repeater, or conference node through the Internet. You can use it from a Windows computer, Android device, iPhone, iPad, or web browser. The software and apps are free.

Because EchoLink is for licensed Amateur Radio operators, you must register your call sign and have it validated before using the network. Once registered, you can search for stations and repeaters by call sign, location, or EchoLink node number.

EchoLink and the GARS Repeater

The **GARS 147.075 MHz repeater, W4GR**, is connected to EchoLink as node **405614**.

For normal radio operation:

- **Frequency:** 147.075 MHz
- **Offset:** Positive (+)
- **Tone:** 82.5 Hz
- **Call Sign:** W4GR
- **EchoLink Node:** 405614

This allows EchoLink users anywhere with an Internet connection to connect to the GARS repeater and communicate with members using the repeater locally.

It also provides a convenient way for GARS members to stay in touch while traveling. With the EchoLink app on your phone, tablet, or computer, you can connect back to **W4GR, node 405614**, even when you are far outside the normal coverage area of the repeater.

You don't need a radio to use EchoLink from an app. Your computer or mobile device provides the microphone, speaker, and Internet connection.

If you have never used EchoLink, install the app, register your Amateur Radio call sign, and give it a try. Search for **W4GR** or **node 405614** and you can connect directly to the GARS repeater.

To learn more about EchoLink, please visit their website:

<https://echolink.org/>

The Basics by Bob Schmid, WA9FBO

Supercapacitors

de: Bob Schmid, WA9FBO



Capacitance—the ability of a material or a component to store energy in the form of an electric field—is found everywhere in electronics.

Capacitance is measured in farads (F), a unit fittingly named after Michael Faraday, whose research laid the foundation for understanding electric fields and charge storage. By definition, a 1 F capacitor with one volt across it stores $6.24 \cdot 10^{18}$ electrons (one coulomb).

To get a sense of scale, capacitors used in RF are often in the picofarad (pF) range; one picofarad is $1 \cdot 10^{-12}$ F, or a millionth of a millionth of a farad.

In audio applications, capacitors are likely to be in the nanofarads (nF); one nanofarad is $1 \cdot 10^{-9}$ F, or a billionth of a farad.

Power supply filter caps seem large by comparison—hundreds or thousands of microfarads (μ F). Still, a microfarad is only $1 \cdot 10^{-6}$ F, or a millionth of a farad.

So one farad—one million microfarads—used to be considered a *lot* of capacitance. But today we have compact **supercapacitors** with values in the hundreds or even thousands of farads. How's it done?

Recall that a standard capacitor consists of two conductive plates separated by an insulator called a dielectric. When the plates are charged oppositely, an electric field forms in the dielectric. This electric field causes molecules in the dielectric to become polarized, enabling the capacitor to store energy. We gain capacitance by making the plates bigger, putting them closer together, and by using high-permittivity dielectric materials such as glass, ceramic, or Teflon.

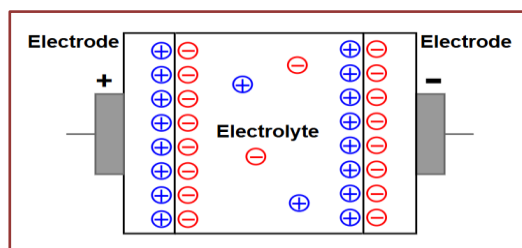


FIGURE 1 – SUPERCAPACITOR ELECTRIC DOUBLE

The supercapacitor, patented in 1957, works differently (Fig. 1). It stores energy by forming **electric double layers** at the interfaces between conductive solid **electrodes** and a conductive liquid or gel **electrolyte**.

The drawing shows a supercapacitor in its charged state.

When a voltage is applied, charges accumulate on the surface of each electrode, attracting oppositely charged ions from the electrolyte.

This forms two electric double layers, one at each electrode. At the negatively charged electrode (right), positive ions in the electrolyte form a layer opposite the electrons. At the positively charged electrode (left), negative ions in the electrolyte align with the positive charge on the electrode surface.

The electrodes are made of highly porous materials like activated carbon, which has a huge surface area due to its sponge-like structure. A teaspoon of activated carbon can have the surface area of a football field, allowing an enormous amount of charge to accumulate in the double layer.

The electrolyte allows ions to move freely and form the electric double layer. Unlike a standard capacitor's solid dielectric, a supercapacitor relies on this nanometers-thin charge separation at the electrolyte-electrode interface to store energy.

A thin insulating separator prevents electrical contact between the electrodes while allowing ion movement.

Since charge separation occurs at both electrodes, a supercap behaves as two capacitors in series. This reduces the total capacitance to half of what a single interface would provide. However, the extremely thin double layer and the massive surface area of the porous electrodes result in a capacitance thousands of times larger than that of a traditional capacitor.

While supercaps have extremely high capacitance, they also have low breakdown voltages, typically 2.5 V to 5.5 V. They can be placed in series to achieve higher voltages, but balancing circuits are needed to prevent overvoltage on individual cells.

So what can you do with all that storage? If a recharging method is available, a small supercap can maintain data in RAM or provide power to a sensor, smart meter, or other wireless device during power interruptions. Unlike a battery, a supercap doesn't have to be routinely replaced.

Large supercaps can be found in UPS units to maintain temporary power while systems are safely shut down. They're also used in regenerative braking, smoothing out fluctuations in renewable energy systems, and applications where large currents over short times are needed.

Decibels: From Telephone Lines to Ham Radio

The decibel shows up everywhere in radio. We talk about antenna gain in dB, feedline loss in dB, amplifier gain in dB, receiver sensitivity in dB above the noise floor, and signals measured in dB above S9 on an S-meter. Yet the decibel did not originate in radio—it came from a problem faced by early telephone engineers over a century ago.

The telephone company's measurement problem

In the early 1900s, engineers at Bell Telephone Laboratories, the research arm of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), were trying to build long-distance telephone networks. Signals traveling through many miles of copper wire were weakened by resistance and other losses, and engineers needed a way to describe how much signal was lost.

They could have used ordinary ratios. For example, a signal might emerge from a cable at one-tenth of its original power. But telephone systems contained many stages of loss and gain. A signal might pass through miles of cable, several repeaters, and switching equipment. Determining the total effect meant multiplying one ratio after another—a tedious process.

Since logarithms turn multiplication into addition, engineers could simply add logarithmic values instead of multiplying ratios (for a refresher, see "A Quick Word About Logarithms" at the end of this article). So around 1924 Bell Labs engineers introduced the Transmission Unit (TU), a logarithmic unit for comparing power levels. It was later renamed the bel in honor of Alexander Graham Bell.

The bel and the decibel

The bel measures the ratio between two power levels: $\text{bels} = \log_{10} (P_1/P_2)$. But engineers soon discovered that a bel was too large a unit for everyday use. A typical circuit might have only a fraction of a bel of gain or loss. So, they began using one-tenth of a bel, which they called the decibel: 1 bel = 10 decibels.

The decibel quickly became the standard unit and has survived long after the early telephone systems disappeared. That's because it proved useful in many other fields, including radio, audio, and radar. The bel itself is rarely used today.

Why we still use decibels

The decibel is still popular for several reasons. First, gains and losses can be added. If a feedline loses 3 dB and an amplifier adds 10 dB, the net gain is $(10 \text{ dB} - 3 \text{ dB}) = 7 \text{ dB}$. Without logarithms, we would be multiplying ratios instead.

Second, decibels compress very large ranges of numbers. In radio work we often deal with signals that vary over millions or even billions of times in power. Expressing huge ratios in ordinary numbers would be awkward, while decibels shrink them into manageable values. For example, 2x power = 3 dB, 10x power = 10 dB, 100x power = 20 dB, and 1000x power = 30 dB. So, instead of saying a signal is 1000 times stronger, we simply say it is 30 dB higher.

Third, the decibel loosely matches the way humans perceive sound. Our ears respond roughly logarithmically to changes in sound intensity, which is why decibels also became the standard unit in acoustics and audio engineering.

10 log vs. 20 log

The decibel was originally defined for power ratios: $\text{dB} = 10 \log_{10} (P_1/P_2)$. It makes sense because power was what telephone engineers cared about—the amount of signal energy that reached the listener.

But in many circuits we measure voltage or current, not power, and the formula changes to $\text{dB} = 20 \log_{10} (V_1/V_2)$ or $\text{dB} = 20 \log_{10} (I_1/I_2)$. Why 20 instead of 10? Because power is proportional to voltage squared ($P = V^2/R$) or current squared ($P = I^2R$). The logarithm introduces a factor of 2, so the formula becomes 20 log instead of 10 log.

The decibel in everyday radio work

Some quick dB rules every ham learns:

- +3 dB doubles the transmitter power.
- -3 dB of feedline loss cuts the power in half.
- +6 dB of antenna gain concentrates four times as much power in the favored direction.
- +6 dB also represents double the voltage.
- +10 dB means ten times the power.

S-meters

An S-unit represents a change of 6 dB. Why six? Because a change of about 6 dB corresponds to a doubling of voltage in a receiver circuit. Early receiver engineers found this to be a convenient step size for measuring signal strength.

A Quick Word About Logarithms

The decibel formula uses logarithms, so it helps to know what a logarithm is. You don't need much math to use one.

A logarithm simply tells you the exponent needed to produce a number using powers of ten. For example:

$$10^1 = 10, 10^2 = 100, \text{ and } 10^3 = 1000$$

The logarithm answers the question: "*What power of ten gives this number?*" So:

$$\log_{10}(10) = 1$$

$$\log_{10}(100) = 2$$

$$\log_{10}(1000) = 3$$

Most calculators have a **LOG** button that calculates base-10 logarithms automatically. For example:

$$\log_{10}(2) \approx 0.301$$

$$\log_{10}(0.5) \approx -0.301$$

That last example shows that logarithms can be **negative** when the number is less than one. In decibel calculations, this simply indicates a **loss** instead of a gain.

Now look at a simple decibel example. Suppose a signal becomes twice as strong. The power ratio is 2:1. Using the decibel formula:

$$\text{dB} = 10 \log_{10}(2)$$

A calculator gives:

$$\log_{10}(2) \approx 0.301$$

So:

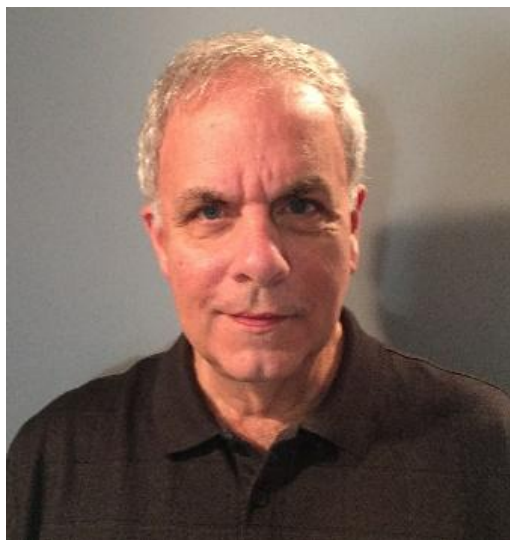
$$10 \times 0.301 \approx \mathbf{3 \text{ dB}}$$

That is why doubling the power produces an increase of about 3 decibels.

Classic Dual Receiver Radios and Stations

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ



In today's world, the top line transceivers available to ham radio operators include a second complete receiver. In the case of some of the SDR designs, there can actually be more than two operating receivers. Sometimes many more!!

So, what is that all about? Virtually all of today's digital based radios have a selectable Receiver A and Receiver B – with potentially a different frequency on A than on B. Most of those allow one to have those two frequencies anywhere on the same band. Some allow the two frequencies to be anywhere in the coverage spectrum of the radio. BUT what is different about the dual receiver radios is that they can listen to two different frequencies at the SAME TIME. From the perspective of the vintage radio operator, this would seem to be nirvana. However, did you know that dual receiver (effectively, if not actually) is not all that new? In the collection of vintage radios at W9MXQ, the

concept goes back to 1965? Would you further believe that, at least in the collection here, the feature exists in at least three boatanchor radios. Yet, until today's offerings, it was rarely discussed as a feature. If you are an avid DX'er operating stations running SPLIT, then you can see the advantages that are not offered by using the A-B Split offered on virtually all radios of today.

This is perhaps the very first “Dual Receiver” package offered by a commercial amateur radio equipment manufacturer. This is the Hallicrafters Cyclone HF Transceiver package. The HA-20 “DX Adapter” Remote VFO was an integral part of the dual receive operation of the radio.



Hallicrafters SR-400 Cyclone II HF Transceiver

with HA-20 “DX Adapter” (Remote VFO)

W9MXQ

The pictured radio is actually the Cyclone II version of the SR-400. It was introduced about a year after the original SR-400 Cyclone. It differed only in some critical circuit upgrades that experience had taught Hallicrafters. There were three versions of this radio that you can find today (if you are lucky – they are quite rare) in the form of the SR-400 Cyclone, the SR-400 Cyclone II, and the SR-400A Cyclone III. The Cyclone II is considered the most desirable. The first two used a pair of 6HF5 sweep tube finals

while the final Cyclone III used a pair of 6KD6 sweep tube finals. That said, any of the three that you can find are worthwhile owning!!

This was remarkable – but it had limits . . .

1. The level in the headphones was a 50-50 split between the two frequencies. Being monaural, there was no way to split the signal (one to the left ear and one to the other. Without a significant level of concentration, it could be difficult to separate the signals and understand which was which.
2. Hallicrafters engineers were not able to prevent (or perhaps could not do within cost parameters of the radio) the radio transmitting on both frequencies at once when in dual receive mode. So, to listen to both frequencies at once, the “Dual R” position had to be selected, on the OPERATION switch, then returned to “T” (for Transmit) position when making a transmission.

These were certainly inconveniences. But it was also a revolutionary concept, to be sure.

Perhaps obvious – but the dual receive capability of the SR-400 and SR-400A was not possible without the addition of the HA-20 DX Adapter to the station setup.

Hallicrafters had other models with the capability to use the HA-20 DX Adapter Remote VFO to effectively get Dual Receive capability. This included the SR-2000 Transceiver...



Hallicrafters SR-2000 HF Transceiver

KE9PQ

The Hallicrafters SR-2000 was a 2,000-watt PEP Input (SSB) Transceiver (1,000-watts input on CW) that allowed for full amateur radio power levels in a single cabinet. (There was a matching PS-2000 Power Supply / Speaker Console.) The radio used a pair of RCA 8122 Ceramic Tetrode tubes in the final amplifier. The SR-2000 was somewhat larger than the more popular SR-400. Hallicrafters also had two other similar transceivers with the same size cabinet as the SR-400 – the SR-540 (without the “Cyclone” name) and the SR-750 Cyclone that had more output and a larger power supply than the SR-400A. The SR-540 and SR-750 are very rare, virtually impossible to find.

A side note here is that this arrangement, like another one later in this article, is effectively a dual receiver setup – but you will note that there is only one actual receiver that is receiving on two frequencies at once (via a mixer scheme). The result is the similar but there are some limitations. For the Cyclone Transceivers, the two frequencies must be on the same band and the same mode and can only be separated by a limited number of kHz – that is, the peaking of the Preselector control for the transmit frequency will determine sensitivity of the receiver section when receiving. The critical issue

here is that most vacuum tube radios are not broadband and require re-peaking every few kHz for maximum performance.

The documentation included with the SR-400 and the HA-20 was lacking in describing the features of the Transceiver and the Remote VFO working together. Much is left to the imagination and user creativity. To some degree, this is typical of the times. Features were implied in advertising while details were left to the user's imagination. Right or wrong, it is a different world, technically, now than in 1964 when the Cyclones were roaming the amateur radio world.

Some twelve years after the introduction of the first SR-400 Cyclone, R. L. Drake, in 1977, produced the first true dual receiver setup in the form of the Drake TR7 HF Transceiver with its matching R7 HF Receiver. While not highly touted, this pair, together, produced what is still a very effective dual receive setup.



**Drake TR7 HF Transceiver (Left) with Drake R7 HF Receiver
Shown with SP7 Speaker Console (Right)**

W9MXQ

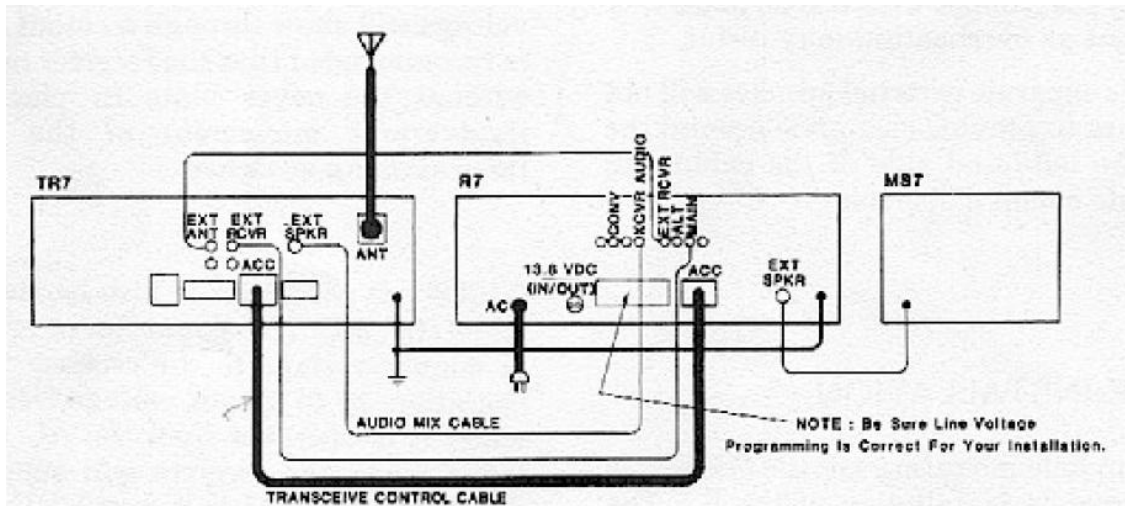
Unlike the setup with the Hallicrafters SR-400, the TR7 / R7 solution involves two independent receivers – the receiver portion of the TR7 Transceiver and the separate R7 Receiver. These two radios are connected via audio, RF, and control voltage lines that includes several phono connector cables plus a proprietary Molex 15-Pin connector Drake “TR7/R7 Cable Assembly, Transceive,” as Drake called it. The setup will not work without this cable¹.

A properly interconnected TR7 and R7 will allow for . . .

- Transceive on the TR7 dial frequency.
- Transceive on the R7 dial frequency.
- Transmit on the TR7 while receiving on the R7.
- Transmit on the R7 while receiving on the TR7.
- Transmit on the TR7 while receiving on both the TR7 and the R7.
- Transmit on the R7 while receiving on both the TR7 and the R7.

And, if that is not enough to cover your needs, you can also have the R7 chose between the same antenna being used by the TR7, a completely separate antenna, or a receiving converter. This is accomplished with the use of a front panel ANTENNA switch on the R7.

While the feature set of the Drake TR7 / R7 setup exceeded the Hallicrafters SR-400 and HA-20 DX Adapter, there was still a single monaural audio feed. Note here the Interconnection Diagram of the two units with the speaker. Audio from the TR7 is mixed, in the R7, for output through the MS7 Speaker (or the Headphone Jack on the R7). Levels to the Speaker or Headphones are a combination of both receivers with balanced set by the AF Gain control on the TR7 and R7. This can be 100% TR7 output, 100% R7 Output, or some mix in between.



Interconnection Diagram – Drake TR7 / Drake R7 Setup

Drake R7 Receiver Operating Manual

This arrangement added a new level of features to the dual frequency receive. By using a truly separate Receiver (the R7) with the TR7 Transceiver, modes can be different, bands can be different. That means in addition to operating split and listening to the monitored frequency of the DX caller, one can use this setup to be making contacts on SSB with the TR7 while listening for a CW station on a different band. That said, it must be remembered that the primary antenna is the one connected to the TR7. That line feeds the R7 Main antenna feed. If they two units are on different bands, the R7 will be seriously attenuated if it is receiving on a different bandpass filter in the TR7. A work around for that is to attach a separate antenna to the R7. Using the ANTENNA switch on the R7, one can then pick an alternate antenna not run through the TR7.

About ten years after the Hallicrafters Cyclone SR-400 series, Ten-Tec came to market with the Corsair and Corsair II HF Transceivers with their matching 263 and 263G Remote VFO units, respectively.



Ten-Tec Corsair II HF Transceiver

With 961 AC Power Supply/Speaker and 263G Remote VFO

W9MXQ

Those Ten-Tec transceivers came to market with a remote VFO setup that seemed to clone and improve on the concept of dual receive as Hallicrafters had introduced.

The Ten-Tec approach smooths out the procedural inconveniences of the system Hallicrafters used by introducing some additional switching that made sure you had complete control of the transmit frequency when transmitting. That included smooth operation of the station even when in the dual receive mode. Like the approach Hallicrafters took, the system was designed to work with a monaural audio path to the speaker or headphones. However, the system used a balance control to put audio emphasis on the frequency of the main transceiver or that of the frequency on the Remote VFO in a

ratio determined by the operator. So, the range of that control was to have all audio from or the other VFO (at extreme CCW or CW settings of the balance control) or something in between.

The Corsair and Corsair II, while they possess the usual Ten-Tec oddities² (most of which are not present on current day Ten-Tec products), was a radio that can be used on today's bands with good results. It possesses the mentioned dual receive capability, has a very quiet receiver by today's standards, produces excellent SSB audio on the air, has competition grade bandwidth filtering, and perhaps is the pinnacle of Ten-Tec's much complimented CW QSK system. The example shown here (the Transceiver and Remote VFO) came from a local ham that had moved up to an Elecraft K3S. Upon selling the package to me, he commented that the only advantage the K3S had over the Corsair II was its ability to interface with his computer. An avid contester and DX'er, he loved the Corsair II³.

The Corsair and Corsair II differed in that the later model had an internal electronic keyer for CW (with a 40-character user defined memory) and a higher degree of front-end selectivity filtering. They had a similar panel layout, but the color scheme was totally different . . .



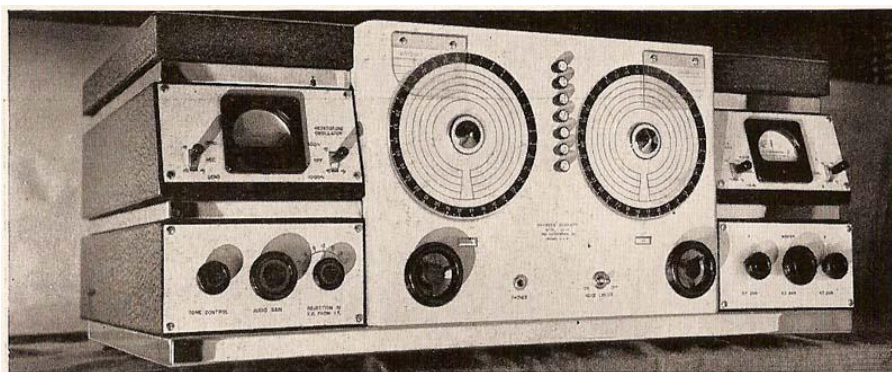
The original version Ten-Tec Corsair HF Transceiver

Note Logo above Phone Jack (left) replaced by a added control on the Corsair II.

KE9PQ

Accessory differences were minimal as well. While different colors, the Remote VFO for the Corsair was the Model 263 while the electrical and mechanical aspects of the Corsair II's Model 263G was the same, it added the "G" to the model number to denote its color difference. In use, they were interchangeable. Similar similarities existed with the matching 260 vs 260G AC Power Supply / Speaker⁴.

These three examples (more with the various versions of the Hallicrafters SR-400 and SR-2000 series) are dual receive examples familiar to me. If you know of others, please contact this author (W9MXQ@TWC.com) with details. There are other dual receivers not intended or setup for dual receive amateur use. Some quite old, such as the Hallicrafters DD-1 console from the late 1930's . . .



Hallicrafters DD-1 Dual Diversity Receiver from 1937

QST, December 1937, via https://radioblvd.com/hallicrafters_skyrider_dd1.htm

The intent of Diversity Reception was to receive via two different signal paths or polarizations in order to eliminate the effects of signal fading, noise more prevalent on one kind of polarization and not another, and other aides to improved signal recovery. The DD-1 was intended for the very high end of the amateur radio market – but was not intended to listen to two different signals, as in split operation⁵.

Collins Radio Company offered a Diversity reception product as well. It utilized an adapter unit connecting to two of their R-390 Receivers (1950's vintage) to provide Diversity reception. One form was the use of an FRR-33 Adapter (essentially an antenna coupler for two R-390's – primarily for use in RTTY setups to assist in keeping a clear signal in use. Diversity Reception as a concept did not catch on in the amateur world – perhaps due to the cost well over double the cost of a single receiver used in most installations.

Also to note, in the examples in this article, only the Drake TR7 / R7 (TR7A / R7A) product used two separate receiver units. The Hallicrafters and Ten-Tec approach was to mix the signals of both VFO's in the system (the Transceiver and the Remote VFO) to allow the listener to hear both frequencies at once. The Drake approach did not utilize the concept of using stereo headphones to hear one receiver in the left ear and the other one in the right ear, as can be done with today's truly dual receiver transceivers. (However, that "stereo receive" could be added by an enterprising operator.)

A special note of thanks to my proofreader, Bob Bailey, W9DYQ. Bob is a lot more than a proofreader as he nearly always adds commentary that makes it into the article. He even looked at this rather non-technical article!!

©W9MXQ

Notes and Credits:

¹ If the reader wants to make a clone of the Drake "TR7/R7 Cable Assembly, Transceiver," they can contact this author for details at W9MXQ@earthlink.net.

² One of these oddities that I think is humorous on the original Corsair but then just crazy when not corrected on the Corsair II. That would be the fact that 12-meters on SSB was lower sideband (LSB). In the real world, it was upper sideband (USB). To use the band in SSB Mode, one had to switch the MODE switch to SB-O (Sideband Opposite) rather than SB-N (Sideband Normal). My assumption is that the needed switch contacts were not available to correct the issue without an extensive redesign. I just refer to these things as the radio's charm.

³ Okay, I have not repeated the question of preference to him in the several years I have owned the Corsair II, and he has had the Elecraft K3S. For the most part, as much as Vintage Amateur Radio like saying their radios perform as well as current designs, it is rarely the case!

⁴ The Power Supply / Speaker pictured above with the Corsair II is the later Model 961. While it was made for later Ten-Tec radios, it is electrically quite similar to the correct Model 260G that was made at the time of the Corsair II. Ten-Tec made the 260G, the 961, and the 962 in the same color. They all matched the Corsair II, the Omni V, the Omni VI, and the Omni VI Plus Transceivers.

⁵ The reference to https://radioblvd.com/hallicrafters_skyrider_dd1.htm in the text contains more background on Diversity Reception.

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. 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.

Marketing Chair Information

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) is seeking a volunteer to serve as Marketing Committee Chairman. This position is responsible for helping promote the club, its activities, and the benefits of amateur radio to current and prospective members.

Responsibilities include developing and coordinating marketing efforts for club events, membership recruitment, and special activities; assisting with social media and website promotion; and working closely with the Public Information Officer (PIO) to ensure consistent messaging and outreach.

The ideal candidate should have good communication skills, enjoy working with others, and have an interest in helping GARS grow and thrive. No professional marketing experience is required – just enthusiasm, creativity, and a willingness to help.

GARS Membership Pricing

New Membership: (Licensed Adults and Seniors who have never been a GARS member)	First Year Free	Youth Membership: (Licensed Youth ≤ 21) (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 August

PJ Cybulski (K4DVX)
Kevin Estes (KD5PHZ)
Howard Estes (WB4GUD)
Tia Milton (KR4MIM)
Marcos Ortiz (K4MOR)
Yolanda Thornton (KR4MRW)

New Members: 6

**Total Members as of
July 31, 2026
369**

Join GARS members for our:

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

Friday weekly gatherings are held at the [Chilli's](#) at:
[947 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30043](#)

Saturday weekly gatherings are held at the [Cracker Barrel](#) at:
[75 Celebration Dr, Suwanee, GA 30024](#)

Birthdays in September

Karen Albritton (KI4HPP)
Mary Bachner (KE4MFZ)
Sherryl Bailey (N3MIU)
Lynn Crowley (KJ4RTE)
Ben Cullinan (KN4ZEX)
Michael Curd (KO4TN)
Russell Dickerson (KN4HAE)
James Drumm (N2FOF)
Freddy Ferrer (KQ4UDS)
Roger Gibson (WB4T)
Fred Hoefler (W3TLC)
Richard Kitz (KM4SWL)
Jeff Lanier (KZ4TJ)
Lawrence Mc Dermott (KE4ESV)
Charles Mcelhannon (KM4QVI)
Ryno Morris (KR4GWB)
Shawnee Palmeri (KR4HPC)
B Magnus Rundqwist
Donald Stewart (KW4AL)
Kevin Vazquez Cruz (KZ4ZD)
Richard Waigand (K4KME)
Carter Wood (AG4LK)

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.

In order to report a Silent Key or member issues, use www.gars.org/gars/membership-chairman or www.gars.org/gars/email-health-wellbeing.

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 visit <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. Contact the club information.



near you, please
for meeting



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 the Kroger Community Rewards program (a small portion of every purchase you make through Kroger is donated to GARS).

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 KR4CVF



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-Chair KR4CVF



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



Edwin Henderson, Multimedia Chair W4BSR



Dallas Mellichamp, Georgia QSO Chair N4DDM



Neil Derryberry, Elmer Manager & IT Chair WD4NET



Edwin Henderson, TechFest Chair W4BSR



Anita Morris, Health and Wellbeing KG4AJX

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 August 11, 2026

Attendees

President - Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO [GARzette Editor]
Vice President - Glen Wendt, W4WWT
Treasurer - Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC [Education Chair]
Secretary - Michael Stewart, KR4CVF [Dacula Parade Co-Chair]
Program Manager - Kevin Scott, K4GTR

Total Meeting Attendees: 50 (4 New Members + 1 Upgrade)

Agenda

Opening Time: 7:00pm
Closing Time: 9:16pm
Membership Report: 367 as of 7/31/2026

Programs: MeshCore by Mark - N7GRB

Notes

New event every 2nd Sunday of the month starting September
3rd Weekend in October

Workshop Minutes - August 18, 2026

Attendance: 24

Workshop: MeshCore Workshop

Presenter: Mark Bell N7GRB

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

We had a near-record 24 folks attend Mark's hands-on Meshtastic Workshop, which is amazing since we just had 29 attend the Meshtastic/MeshCore workshops the month before.

Other topics discussed at the workshop: The Gwinnett ARES MeshCore build in September. MeshCore repeater projects, DMR, GARS website, and email groups.

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 and test equipment.

73 Dallas N4DDM
Workshop Chair

GARS Calendar Events

GARS Events Calendar for 2026	GARS Recurring Calendar
TechFest Winter Field Day Dog Show Fundraiser Spring Technician HamCram Georgia QSO Party North metro area Fox Hunt Memorial Day Parade ARC/KARC Hamfest Field Day Summer General HamCram Fall Technician HamCram JOTA Stone Mt. Hamfest Holiday Party	• 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 or 442.100 repeater • Every Friday at 11:30 am, GARS Lunch at Chili's • Every Saturday at 8:00 am GARS Breakfast at Cracker Barrel

GARS Calendar for September 2026 for more information go to gars.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		7:00 PM Exec Meeting		7:30 PM 440 Net	11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's	8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	7:30 PM 2M Net	7:00 PM Meeting EAA 690 Hangar		7:30 PM 440 Net	11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's	8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
GARS Sundays in the Park Starts 1:00 PM	7:30 PM 2M Net	7:00 PM Workshop Meeting EAA 690 Hangar		7:30 PM 440 Net	11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's	8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
3:00 PM Ham Radio Exams, EAA 690 Hangar	7:30 PM 2M Net			7:30 PM 440 Net	11:30 AM Lunch at Chili's	8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
27	28	29	30			
	7:30 PM 2M Net					



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]

09/12/2026 - [Tri-Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Daleville, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Wiregrass ARC, Enterprise ARS, Daleville ARC
Website: <https://w4dhn.org>

09/19/2026 - [Gadsden Hamfest 2026](#)

Location: Gadsden, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Gadsden Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://k4jmc.com>

10/05/2026 - [RV Radio Network Fall Rally](#)

Location: Milton, FL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: RV Radio Network.

10/09/2026 - 10/10/2026 - [Melbourne Hamfest](#)

Location: Melbourne, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://hamfest@pcars.org>

10/10/2026 - [NOARC Annual Hamfest](#)

Location: Crestview, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://w4aaz.org/noarc/>

10/16/2026 - 10/17/2026 [Hamfest Chattanooga 2026](#)

Location: Ringgold, GA
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://hamfestchattanooga.net>

10/25/2026 - [Wiregrass ARC - Fall Tailgate](#)

Location: Headland, AL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Wiregrass Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://w4dhn.org>

10/30 - 10/31/2026 [Stone Mountain Hamfest, ARRL GA Convention](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Alford Memorial Radio Club
Website: <http://stonemountainhamfest.com>

11/07/2026 - [Amateur Radio Festival and Tailgate](#)

Location: Trenton, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Dixie Amateur Radio Klub
Website: <https://www.qsl.net/w4dak/>

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

Upcoming GARS Ham Radio Exams

GARS Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Sunday of the month – Exam fee: \$10.00 cash (Youth age 21 and younger are FREE, but you must ask for the discount and show proof)

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/>

NOTE: Our exam team only conducts electronic exams on a tablet using HamStudy and ExamTools at our exam sessions, and we supply everything.

GARS VE-Team

VEC: W5YI-VEC

EAA 690 Hangar

690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org.



August 2026 Results

The GARS VE Team exam session results from August 16th:

2 new Extras:

- Richard G Miller – KR4LQV
- Derek J Nelson – N4DJN

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

W4DTR - Dave Bruse
 KM4SWL – Richard Kitz
 WS3V - Bill Rudd
 NG4H – Bill Beguhn
 K4CQO – Bob Hoffmann
 KC4EG - Elmer Gappi
 W4VNA – Lynn Hatler

Thanks & 73, Bill Rudd (Co-Team Lead)

The GARS VE Team EOC Technician HamCram session results from August 18th:

6 new Technicians:

- Jeffery Charlton – call sign not assigned yet
- Eric A Cline – KR4OMX
- Joshua L Gebhard – KR4ONU
- Joshua M Samra – KR4OPQ
- Jason A Smigiel – KR4ONL
- Felix Urbina – KR4OQA

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

W4DTR – Dave Bruse
 KJ4CNC – Ralph Pickwick
 WB4QDX – John Davis
 KM4SWL – Richard Kitz
 WS3V – Bill Rudd
 K4CQO – Bob Hoffmann
 K4BYE – Jim Cheshire
 W4VNA – Lynn Hatler

Thanks & 73, Dave Bruse (Co-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.



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