



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section

March/April 2025



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Upcoming Events

- 3/22** - Dekalb County, AL Swap Meet
- 3/29** - Duval & Clay Counties SwapFest
- 3/29-30** - Georgia Death Race
- 4/5** - Sorba Bike Race (postponed from 3/15)
- 4/5-6** - Georgia State POTA Event
- 4/13** - Rookie Roundup
- 5/10** - Forsyth Tail Gate & Swap Meet
- 5/10** - Jasper Radio Club Swap Fest
- 6/28-29** - ARRL Field Day

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, before the 5th of each month, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rbZFGq9k5JO45dYC4lvQNgB-_6TqyO-S?usp=sharing



The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) has announced the Memorial Scholarship program for 2025. The scholarship program is aimed at women Amateur Radio Operators studying radio, communications, electronics or Amateur Radio related arts and sciences.

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is an international non-profit organization of women Amateur Radio enthusiasts. It was founded in 1939 and is the longest running YL club in the world.

The YLRL is sponsoring three memorial scholarships for 2025:

- The Ethel Smith K4LMB Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500 award
- The Mary Lou Brown NM7N Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500 award
- The Martha "Marte" Wessel KOEPE Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500 award

The YLRL believes that education in the fields of radio, communications, electronics and Amateur Related arts and sciences will play an important role in shaping the world's future. Through these Memorial Scholarships, YLRL hopes to encourage female students to learn more about Amateur Radio.

To qualify, students must be female, have an Amateur Radio License, meet the requirements listed on the YLRL.net website and apply using the online application. Applications are due by April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced in July 2025.

Application link: <https://YLRL.net/Scholarships>
 Media Contact: Diane Ortiz,
VicePresident@ylrl.net

Tailgates & SwapFests

Tri-County ARG (SW GA) Coffee / Atkinson / Bacon Counties

Combined Swap-Fest/Tail-Gate,
Duval and Clay counties,
29 March, 0600-1200.
Address 6225 Lake Gray Blvd @ the Journey
Church parking lot.

The NOFARS club and Clay County club have agreed to hold a jointly sponsored "Swap-Fest/Tail -Gate" at the Journey Church parking lot, located at 6225 Lake Gray Blvd in Jacksonville's West Side. The church is accessible via Blanding Blvd/Lake Gray Blvd or from Collins Rd, just East of I-295.

Starting time is 0600, ending time 1200 with all displays and attendee's vacated NLT 1300. The parking lot lighting will be on til daylight. There will be access to restroom facilities. No reserved parking, so adjust your arrival time to fit your need.

Jasper Radio Club Tailgate / SwapFest

Saturday, May 10
7:00 - 10:30
Cornerstone Church,
140 Cornerstone Dr.
Jasper, GA

The inaugural tailgate / swapfest of the Jasper Radio Club will be May 10. Park you car or truck and sell or swap your equipment with interested individuals.

Take Camp Rd. east from GA-515 for 2 miles. Sign for the church is on your right.

May 10, 2025

5th Annual Tailgate & Swap Fest — Forsyth, Georgia

Monroe County Recreation Center

100 Dan Pitts Drive - Forsyth, Georgia 31029

Setup 6:30am—8:00am

Start 8:00am—End 2:00pm

This is an Indoor event at the recreation center main gymnasium building. Soft sole shoes required. Please bring your own tables and chairs. Bring your 2-wheel dollies. A few tables are available on a first come basis. Limited outdoor setup is available.

VE Exams for all license classes will be available at the tailgate. Exams start at 10:30am, reservations are **required**. Please contact Charles Kight (AI4UN) directly at cekight3@yahoo.com **before** May 7th for a reservation. There will be no exam fee, seating is limited to 10 candidates.

Free Admission for all attendees, donations accepted. Food is available for purchase. No pets or alcohol are permitted at the event.

Talk-In is on the W8JI repeater, 147.225, +6, No tone. Visit our website <http://barnesvillega.net> for other information.

For questions, contact N5FBI, Tim Cherry, at N5FBI@ARRL.NET, or call 770-358-2789.

Club Activities

LaFayette Middle School Ramblers Radio Club, W4LMS, participated in the biennial School Club Roundup in February. Their total time on the air was 22 hrs., 32 minutes with 24 hours being the max allowed by the contest.

713 contacts were made with 51 States, Provinces or Territories, along with 12 Foreign Countries, leading to a claimed score of 201,066. As this was an ARRL sponsored School contest, 42 schools with the United States were contacted.

For schools looking to participate in the next Roundup the 3rd full school week of October, see www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup.

We had 14 students behind the microphone this week: some for the first time during School Club Roundup. 2 additional students worked the computer for the majority of the time - they were so patient with the radio operators, helping them at every turn.

All of our students were so supportive of each other. They realized their ultimate score was the club score. If one got tired, another stepped up. I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of this group.

The number of contacts, number of states contacted, number of schools contacted, and total score were new records for Rambler Radio Club. This was a total group effort.

We are so glad to have the support of our fellow school clubs, amateur radio operators, faculty and staff of LMS, our school system, and our parents and families.

Thanks to our club elmers: Tony (WA4TW), Jack (N5UOV), and Allen (KN4FKS). Their ability to communicate with our students, their energy, and their tireless efforts for years are not forgotten.

Be proud of this group's efforts; I know I am.

What a week!
Go Ramblers!!
Jody Carter

Athens Radio Club has created a spreadsheet of regional and local radio nets

https://athensradioclub.squarespace.com/nets?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR2A14kDGomVizFFbrCKbl1ccZFLCV85fyyCbgvsZiY5Fdfohg3pZTS4TVs_aem_5KESihEUmMuSY4riCgLoZg

Hinesville ARES

We successfully performed ground maintenance around our Riceboro repeater March 15. Thanks to all who participated.



Pickens County / Jasper Radio Club has a new friend in the County EOC. For the first time in years, our operators are allowed inside the EOC, and the 3/15 tornado outbreak will be the first activation.



POTA

POTA - Parks on the Air



2025 Contest Period:

Start: April 5, 2025 @ 8:00am EDT (1200UTC)

End: April 6, 2025 @ 7:59pm EDT (2359UTC)

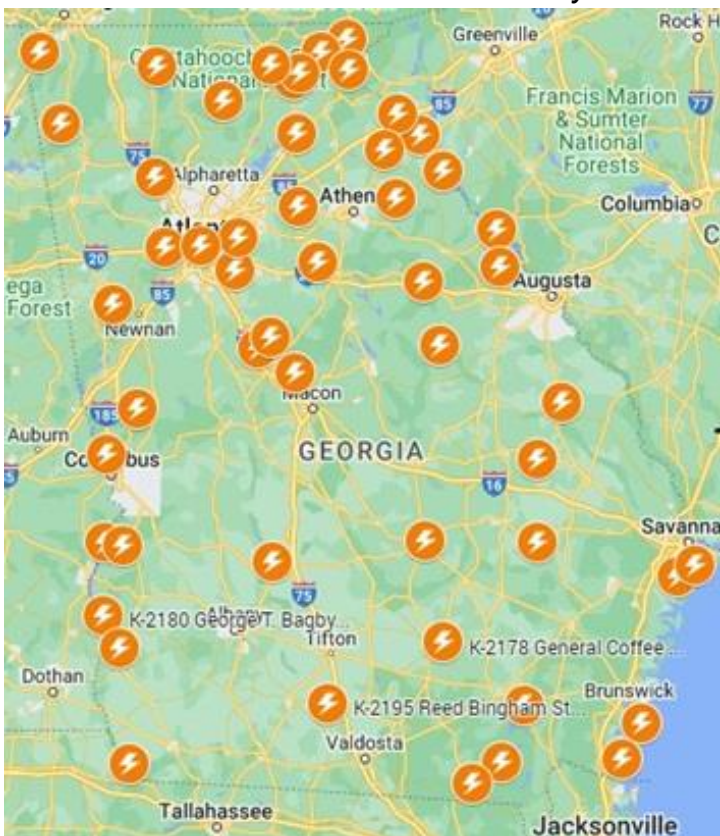
<https://gaparks.org/>

We are only three weeks away from the 3rd annual Georgia State Parks on the Air event.

There are 57 callsigns already on our signup list with only 11 parks that have not been called for.

This is great activity and we should have a big weekend. Please continue to pass the word to your clubs and community of hams and let me know if there's anything we can do to keep it going.

Claude Ray - AC4SH



Thanks to the hunters, I've activated all the POTA Parks in Georgia with number 225 today at US-0139 Eufaula NWR completed today, March 5

AC4SH



NW GA POTA crew

It has been a busy week for the NW Georgia POTA crew. 4 hams, 4 parks. It started Sunday with John KB4QXI at Chattahoochee Bend SP US-2168 making 34 contacts. Then Tuesday Allen KN4FKS was at Sloppy Floyd SP US-2187 making 97 contacts. Then Danny AG4DW and John KB4QXI activated Zahnd WMA US-7903 on Wednesday making 17 and 34 contacts respectively. Then Allen, John, Danny and DAN K2DTS activated Cloudland Canyon SP from the Nick A Jack trailhead on Thursday. They totaled 237 contacts on the day. Band conditions were tough this week but contacts were made and fun had.



Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

Legislation Will Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

“Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death,” Senator Wicker said. “The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires.”

“When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn’t be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies,” said Senator Blumenthal.

“Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times. My district is home to dozens of amateur radio operators ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency, and I am proud to lead this legislation,” said Congressman August Pfluger.

“As we know from recent natural disasters, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities’ best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we’ve taken a strong step in that direction,” said Congressman Courtney.

Background:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban Amateur Radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases.

On behalf of America’s Amateur Radio licensees, Rick Roderick, the President of The American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL’s full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

The text of the House version can be found at this link. [H.R. 1094](#)

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Awards & more news



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Saying the Education Committee had a busy year would be an understatement. We conducted three HamCrams (two Technician, one General). Over the course of the year we trained 47 students, many of which became new GARS members. Many thanks to my training partner John Davis. It's hard to believe we've been doing this for 13 years. We also must include the VE's for their support of this activity. We couldn't have done it without them.

In February we had a successful ARISS contact (Amateur Radio and the International Space Station) at Lilburn Elementary School. Within a very small time window the students were able to ask questions of Astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli. The photo shows future astronauts arriving in the gym ahead of the contact. After the contact, the school held an all-day STEM Day. Paul Kelley presented the history of Morse Code to the students while Tom Crowley explained the in's and out's of Radio Astronomy. Also helping out that day were Earl Whatley and Kevin Igarahsi-Ball. This event couldn't have happened without Daryl Young K4RGK and the North Fulton Radio Real League (NFARL), thank-you again. As many of you have heard me say before, an ARISS contact is at the top of the pyramid when it comes to trying to get students interested in STEM activities.

On a sadder note, and after a 10 year run, we decided to discontinue the McConnell Middle School Amateur Radio Club (KD4TGR). Jean Delashmit and James Reeves, both science teachers at the school, started the club with GARS support. Over the years there were many accomplishments, most notably the many students that got their Technician licenses. A few went on to achieve General and Extra Class. In 2020 when our planned direct ARISS contact was cancelled due to COVID, we were able to pull off an indirect contact with the school's help. Over the summer Jean and I removed all the equipment from the radio room and prepared for a move to Lilburn Elementary. With the help of the county school system's facilities crew, we removed the antennas from McConnell and move them to Lilburn. Lilburn Elementary is starting a radio club on a smaller scale, but has some enthusiastic students willing to learn about radio.

Tom Crowley's had another great year at Paul Duke STEM School, in Norcross. Tom has been helping students with their studies of the universe using radio astronomy. Tom has also been acting as a front man in getting the school to consider setting up a radio club.

Plans for 2025

In addition to our normal HamCram schedule, John and I will be teaching the Technician course to some students at Paul Duke STEM School in late February, early March. I believe this is the first step in getting a radio club started at the school.

The week of February 17th, we have another opportunity to talk to an astronaut on the International Space Station. We have an incredibly excited group of teachers at Woodward Mill Elementary who are helping with the planning for this ARISS contact. Live stream information will be sent to club members as we get closer to the actual date.

Ralph Pickwick KJ4CNC, Education Chairman

Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets Conducted on Sundays

unless there is a declared emergency

*Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at
gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies*

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
kn4qj@arrl.net

Sundays @ 2200 UTC on 3975 KHz.

Net control operator: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
Alt. net control operator: Jim Altman, W4UCK
Alt. net control operator: Frank Dean - K4SJR

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager & Asst. Section Traffic
Manager - Don Jones, K4GO k4go@arrl.net
Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Net Manager: Russell Prevost, AB4QQ
Sun. 0001-2100 Send checkins to GAARES-Net
Net control operator: Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ
Net control operator: Mark Bell, N7GRB
Net control operator: David Blubaugh, ND1J
Net control operator: Brian Freeman, KN4DLT
Net control operator: Bill Hall, K9HRO

Winlink P2P Net Manager: David Blubaugh, ND1J
Sun. 0800-1400 Send checkins to GAARES-P2P

PSK & Traffic Nets Net Manager Kory Oldham, W4RZ
Traffic Sun. @ 2100 UTC -PSK125 every odd month
Net control operator: Richard Austin, W4BYT
Net control operator: David Blubaugh, ND1J
Net control operator: Bob Garza, K4TLG
Net control operator: Don Jones, K4GO
Net control operator: Ken Wallis, KM4HOS

DStar Net 3rd Monday of month, 2030 on REF3A

National Traffic System (NTS) Nets

CW Nets

Georgia State Net (GSN): Medium speed CW
Net Manager, John Laney - K4BAI Alt.
Daily at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on 3549 KHz.

Georgia Training Net (GTN): Slow speed CW
Net Manager, Jerry Brunet - WE4GA
Daily at 9:00 pm 3549 KHz.

Phone Nets

Georgia Cracker Net:
Net Manager, John Collette - AF4XZ
Daily at 0700 Mon-Sat, 0800 Sun. on 3995 KHz.

Georgia Single Sideband Association Net:
Net Manager, Terry Cantrell - W4WTC
Nightly at 2300 UTC on 3975 KHz.
web address: gssaradio.net

Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net (GTEN):
This net has been merged with the GA SSB Assoc
net, held every night (see above).

***VEs - If you, or your club, offers testing,
please forward the positive results of your
session, so that the new (or upgraded) hams
may receive recognition on this page.
GeorgiaSectionARRL @ gmail.com***