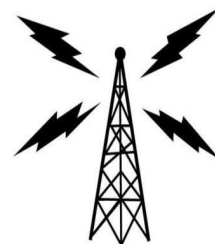




DFARG Signal



A Look Back

The Palmetto Amateur Radio Club was formed on the campus of the University of South Carolina in 1928 by Professor Ashmead Courtenay Carson “...along with several faculty members and students...” Several may be a bit of an over-



statement, as the 1929 Department of Commerce List of Amateur Radio Stations of the United States (aka the Call Book) lists only five other licensed stations in Columbia beside Carson’s W4MN. That callsign, issued to Carson in 1929, remained his until his passing in in Columbia in 1941 and is still the PARC callsign today.

Carson was born on Homefield Plantation near Dalzell in Sumter County in 1876. He attended the University of South Carolina where he excelled as a student, being recognized as a distinguished student in his freshman, junior, and senior years and graduating with honors in 1898. He was eventually appointed as a lecturer in Physics at his alma mater, eventually rising to full professor and served for six years as assistant to the President of the University, Benjamin

Sloan. He was known to have sponsored church services at LeConte College on the Horseshoe, in which the sermon was transmitted via shortwave from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Carson was active in the South Carolina Academy of Sciences, to which he was elected Vice President in 1935, and President in 1936. At the time he was elected Vice President, he demonstrated to the Academy a 5 meter transmitter which he had constructed, Carson remained active in ham radio until his death. In the November 1935 issue of QST, there is a note about the first annual hamfest sponsored by the Charleston ARC, with Carson listed as one of the speakers at the banquet. Also speaking at that 1935 hamfest banquet, and almost certainly in the room in 1929 when PARC was created, was Carson’s protégé Bannie Stewart. Stewart, then a USC student, was a member and one time President of PARC, until 1930 when he relocated the radio station he built and operated at USC to his parents’ home in Dillon. There, operating on 20 and 40 meters, both CW and voice, he reported contacts with South America, Canada, Cuba, Haiti, the Bahamas, and most remarkably, Melbourne, Australia. In addition to serving as president of Palmetto ARC, Stewart was a member of the Gamecock varsity football squad, managed the fencing team, was on the yearbook staff, and served as stage manager for the Town Theater.

Job prospects were not good for the graduates of the class of ’30. Stewart remained in South Caroli-

na as the depression deepened. Like many of America’s young men at



the time, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, and was eventually assigned as the District Education Advisor for Camp Lawrence, near Effingham, SC. Even from the CCC camp, Stewart was active in amateur radio, serving as ARRL Assistant, then Acting, and finally primary Section Communications Manager for Georgia, South Carolina, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands from 1934 until at least 1936.

In 1938, Stewart was commissioned in the United States Naval Reserve and in 1942, along with a number of Navy hams, Stewart was assigned to the Noroton Heights Naval Training Station in Connecticut where he was in charge of the Officer Training School, teaching aspiring radio officers their craft. Stewart served up and down the Eastern Seaboard in the Navy, eventually retiring as a Captain in Columbia, SC. and resuming his original callsign, W4CE. He was a charter member of the Palmetto Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

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Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

01/18/2025 - TarcFest

Location: Tampa, FL

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

02/01/2025 - Middle Peninsula Hamfest 2025

Location: Gloucester, VA

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

02/07/2025 - 02/09/2025

Orlando HamCation, Southeastern Division Convention

Location: Orlando, FL

Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

02/15/2025 - Hernando County Amateur Radio Association Hamfest

Location: Brooksville, FL

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

02/15/2025 - Highlands County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Sebring, FL

Sponsor: Highlands County Amateur Radio Club

02/22/2025 - Dalton Hamfest

Location: Dalton, GA

Website: <https://www.qrz.com/db/W4DRC>

02/22/2025 - Swap Meet

Sponsor: Pioneer Amateur Radio Association

November Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the DFARG/PARC was called to order by President Rick S. Officers

in attendance VP. Charlie B, Treasure John S and Timothy S. Secretary. A round robin introduction of all members was made.

Our presentation for the evening was EMP Protection by Gene Hall W4TCO. The first recorded solar flare was recorded in 1859 which shut down the telegraph system in the United States and other countries. In to today's world a EMP would render computer systems, communications system and power grids. The Amateur Radio operator has to plan for such an event with the use of a EMP proof enclosure. The example of Gene's box was explained. The ammo box was lined with thick cardboard so that none of the devices, his radio, volt meter and frequency counter made contact with the outer housing. The box can use either metal screen mesh or aluminum foil for the cover. A metal trash can be used in the same manner as long as the items inside were insulated from the metal enclosure. It was advised

that the EMP proof container not be mounted on the ground but at least 2 feet above the ground. There was time allotted for

questions and the members seemed to enjoy the technical talk.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved by the membership. The Treasures report was given with a total of \$2910.32 in the bank this did not include monies taken in this evening.

The Secretary's report was given and a membership application for Josh Zobel KQ4WIK was voted in as our newest member. VE Report was given and a future testing date of December 7 th was given. This is the last testing session for the year.

The election of officers was conducted. Our current officers were reelected for the 2025 term.

The Christmas party was discussed and a RSVP date of 11/23/24, when all monies for the meals are due.

Being no further business a motion was made to adjourn motion carried.

Upcoming DXpeditions:

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

| Start | End | DXCC | Call |
|-------|-------|------------------|------------|
| Jan01 | Feb08 | Guyana | 8R1TM |
| Jan05 | Jan17 | Cayman Is | ZF2BJ |
| Jan06 | Jan25 | Honduras | VE3VSM |
| Jan07 | Jan18 | Ecuador | HC1MD/2 |
| Jan07 | Jan21 | Greenland | OX3LX |
| Jan09 | Jan26 | Guadeloupe | FG/VA3QSL |
| Jan10 | Jan16 | Palau | T8 |
| Jan10 | Jan28 | Guatemala | TG9BBV |
| Jan10 | Jan31 | Benin | TY5C |
| Jan11 | Jan25 | Bahamas | C6APS |
| Jan12 | Jan27 | Marquesas | TX7N |
| Jan12 | Jan31 | Curacao | PJ2W2APF |
| Jan18 | Jan28 | Aruba | P40AA |
| Jan19 | Jan27 | Martinique | FM/F4IFF |
| Jan21 | Feb03 | St Helena | ZD7DPX |
| Jan23 | Jan26 | Turks & Caicos | VP5/OE3GEA |
| Jan26 | Feb05 | St Kitts & Nevis | V47JA |
| Jan26 | Mar01 | Guinea Bissau | J52EC |
| Jan27 | Feb15 | Rwanda | 9X2AW |
| Jan28 | Feb02 | Turks & Caicos | VP5 |
| Feb01 | Feb06 | Senegal | 9G5IK |
| Feb02 | Feb28 | Senegal | 6W7 |
| Feb04 | Feb18 | Anguilla | VP2ECV |
| Feb05 | Feb18 | Cape Verde Is | D440A |
| Feb08 | Feb15 | St Helena | ZD7KYD |
| Feb11 | Feb18 | Cocos Keeling | VK9W5EIT |
| Feb12 | Feb16 | Bahamas | C6ADA |

Ham Humor

**My New Years' Resolution is
that I will buy NO new radios
in 2025!**



Upcoming Contests

| | | | |
|---------|---|----------|---|
| January | | February | |
| 18 | <u>Malaysia DX</u> | 1 | <u>Minnesota QSO Party</u> |
| 18-19 | <u>Hungarian DX</u> | | <u>AGCW Straight Key Party</u> |
| | <u>PRO Digi</u> | 1-2 | <u>Vermont QSO Party</u> |
| | <u>North America QSO Party, SSB</u> | | <u>LABRE-RS Digi</u> |
| | <u>NA Collegiate SSB</u> | | <u>10-10 Winter SSB</u> |
| | <u>ARRL January VHF</u> | | <u>F9AA Cup CW</u> |
| 25-26 | <u>CQ 160m CW</u> | | <u>Mexico Intl RTTY</u> |
| | <u>REF CW</u> | | <u>European Union DX</u> |
| | <u>BARTG RTTY</u> | | <u>British Columbia QSO Party</u> |
| | <u>UBA DX SSB</u> | 2 | <u>Marconi Club Slow CW Party</u> |
| | <u>Winter Field Day</u> | 8-9 | <u>KCJ Topband</u> |
| | <u>Australia Day</u> | | <u>Dutch PACC</u> |
| | | 9 | <u>OMISS QSO Party</u> |
| | | 15-16 | <u>Balkan HF</u> |
| | | | <u>ARRL Intl CW</u> |
| | | | <u>YLRL YL-OM</u> |
| | | | <u>Russian PSK WW</u> |

License Examinations

The next exam session is January 18 at 0900 at the shack,