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Welcome!

Dear Fellow Amateur,

Congratulations on becoming a member of the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club (GSARC). Attached you will find the latest copy of the official GSARC Handbook, which will guide you through the many aspects of our club and its membership.

The primary mission of the GSARC is to provide Public Service Communications support for the communities in which we live and work. Whether you're a permanent resident, regular visitor, or vacation guest, there are many club activities for you to participate in, and programs that would benefit from your ideas and support.

If you would like to volunteer your time in support of our many committees and programs, please contact one of our club officers, and someone will contact you.

Again, thanks for becoming a member! We look forward to a fun and productive year/

Joe Markey, AJ4QM
President

Bill Grammer, KY 4Y
Vice-President

Bob Hawkins, KI4HEE
Secretary

Bud Fongeallaz, KA1GOY
Treasurer

Tim Thompson, W2SOC
Public Information Officer

Club Officer and Committee Heads

Club Officer and Committee Heads

President	Joe Markey, AJ4QM	aj4qm@w4gs.org
Vice Pres.	Bill Grammer, K4GSR	k_4_@w4gs.org
Secretary	Bob Hawkins, KI4HEE	ki4hee@w4gs.org
Treasurer	Bud Fongeallaz, KA1GOY	ka1goy@w4gs.org
PIO	Tim Thompson, W2SOC	w2soc@w4gs.org
Trustee	Jason Morgan, K4SHP	k4shp@w4gs.org
VE Coordinator	Mike Lang, W2ANL	w2anl@w4gs
BeachFest Chairs	TBA TBA	xxxx@w4gs.org xxxx@w4gs.org
Field Day	TBA	xxxx@w4gs.org

Meetings

Meetings

Regular club meetings are held on the first Monday of each EXCEPT January and July. Meetings are held at the Santee Cooper Building, 1703 North Oak Street, Myrtle Beach, at 7:00 PM

In addition to the regular meetings, each January we hold our Annual Dinner Meeting.

Breakfast

Breakfast

Club members meet for breakfast each Saturday morning at Uncle John's Restaurant located on 24th Avenue North, between Kings Highway and Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach. Feel free to bring your spouse, friends, and invite guests to attend. We generally start getting there around 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Club Repeaters

Club Repeaters

145.110 MHz

Location	D.O.T. Tower Facility, Highway 701 North, Conway, SC.
Transmitter	Motorola MICOR Exciter, PA & Power Control Modules
TX Output Power	~60 Watts
Power Delivered to Feedline	~30 Watts
RF power At Antenna	~15 Watts [calculated]
Receiver	Micro Control Specialties [Kendecomm]
Pre-amp	Advanced Receiver Research [ARR] GaSFET
Duplexer	6 cavity. 2 Bp, 4 Bp/Br
Controller	Computer Automation Technologies [CAT] 300 DX
DC power	Astron RM50 with battery back-up - two deep cycle marine 12V batteries - diode switched. Site also has an AC generator
Antenna Height Above Ground	Approx. 400'
Antenna	Diamond X700 HNA Dual Band mounted on tower South leg
Advertised Gain	9.3 Dbd VHF - Pattern: OMNI-Some shading to NW
Feedline	Approx. 470' 7/8" foam, with 40' 1/2" Superflex top jumper - NOTE: Antenna and feedline are diplexed to the 145.11 & 444.675 repeaters
VHF ERP	Calculated to be ~120 Watts

444.675 MHz PL Tone 85.4 Hz

Location	D.O.T. Tower Facility, Highway 701 North, Conway, SC.
Transmitter	ICOM Repeater
TX Output Power	~50 Watts
Power Delivered to Feedline	~30 Watts
RF power At Antenna	~8 Watts [calculated]
Receiver	ICOM Repeater
Pre-amp	Advanced Receiver Research [ARR] GaSFET
Duplexer	4 cavity. 4 Bp/Br

Club Repeaters

Controller	Internal ICOM with CTI Telephone Interconnect
DC power	Internal ICOM . Site also has an AC generator.
Antenna Height Above Ground	Approx. 400'
Antenna	Diamond X700 HNA Dual Band mounted on tower South leg
Advertised Gain	3.0 Dbd UHF - Pattern: Some shading to NW
Feedline	Approx. 470' 7/8" foam, with 40' 1/2" Superflex top jumper - NOTE: Antenna and feedline are diplexed to the 145.11 & 444.675 repeaters
UHF ERP	Calculated to be ~150 Watts

147.120 MHz

Location	Maisons-su-mer Condominium complex, Lake Arrowhead Rd.
Transmitter	ICOM Repeater
TX Output Power	~25 Watts
Power Delivered to Feedline	~16 Watts
RF power At Antenna	~ 8 Watts [measured]
Receiver	ICOM Repeater
Pre-amp	Unknown manufacturer
Duplexer	6 cavity. 6 Bp/Br
Controller	Computer Automation Technologies [CAT] 300 DX
DC power	Internal ICOM
Antenna Height Above Ground	Approx. 268' (approx. 26 floors)
Antenna	Cellwave PD340 4-bay
Advertised Gain	9.0 Dbd Gain
Pattern	Offset [shading East]
Feedline	Feedline: RG-8 Unknown Length or condition [3db of loss has been measured, however making the length about 100+ ft.]
VHF ERP	Calculated to be ~64 Watts

Nets

Nets

GSARC Nets

The GSARC holds its weekly 2 meter/440 nets as follows:

Every Tuesday – 8:00 PM – 440 Net (444.675 MHz PI Tone 85.4 Hz)

Every Thursday – 8:00 PM – 2 Meter Net (145.110 MHz PI Tone 85.4 Hz)

Every Sunday – 8:00 PM – 2 Meter Net (147.330 MHz PI Tone 85.4 Hz)

All Amateurs are encouraged to participate.

All Amateurs are also encouraged to be Net Control Operators. The experience to be gained is invaluable, and it's a lot of fun! You may volunteer by contacting the Net Manager – Bob Hawkins by email kj4hee@w4gs.org or at the beginning of any net.

Other Area Nets

Be sure to check in to these other area nets as well – they need your support.

Dillon Net Every evening – 9:00 PM 146.745 MHz

PALS Linked Net Every evening – 9:00 PM 145.470 MHz

Net Control Preamble

Net Control Preamble

1. "This is _____, net control calling 'CQ CQ' to the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club (440 or 2) meter net. MY name is _____, and I'm located in _____. Our Net schedule is as follows: Tuesday Night on 444.675 MHz; Thursday Night on 145.110 MHz and Sunday Night on the 147.330 MHz. All of these nets are held at 8:00 PM local time. These nets may be superseded by ARES or Sky Warn "IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY".

All amateurs are cordially invited to participate. "The primary purpose of our nets are to keep the Amateur community informed on upcoming events, meetings and Hamfest's, as well as any announcements of storm warnings or advisories.

The secondary reason is to provide a place for our Amateur community to request help with any hobby related questions or to post items for sale or needs. Please do these during your rag chew, try to keep time to a minimum. It is legal to include price but it cannot be for profit.

2. "Before we begin, do we have any FORMAL TRAFFIC, BULLETINS, and OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?"
(HANDLE IN THIS ORDER ONLY)
 - Handle traffic first
 - Handle Bulletins second, unless they are emergency related
 - Handle announcements third
3. "This is a directed net. Please check in by your proper alphabetical group. List if you have any informal traffic and if you will remain on frequency for the rag chew portion of the net. Please direct all comments to the net control station."
 - Check for Short Time Stations
 - Check for Mobile Stations
 - Check for Maritime Stations

"Short Time, Mobile and Maritime stations not wishing to stay for the rag chew portion of the net may secure at your pleasure. Thank you for checking in."

A-D -----Alpha through Delta
E-H -----Echo through Hotel
I-L -----India through Lima

M-P -----Mike through Papa
Q-T -----Quebec through Tango
U-Z -----Uniform through Zulu

All through the alphabet for any late stations.

4. Handle all informal traffic.
5. "All stations not wishing to stay for the rag chew portion of the net may secure at your pleasure. Thank you for checking in."
6. Proceed with rag chew. Check for late stations at midpoint and conclusion.
7. "Before we conclude, are there any additional comments or business for the net? If so please call now."
8. Thank everybody for checking in.
9. Call the NET MANAGER if He checks in and pass your net report. Include the count of traffic items as part of your count.
10. Close the net: "I now return this repeater to normal operation." Give your call and clear.

**REMEMBER TO USE NORMAL CONVERSATION WHEN USING THE REPEATER.
OUR SYSTEM IS MONITORED.**

Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Constitution

Preamble:

We, the members, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, constitute ourselves the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, hereafter called the Club, and enact this exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, individual operating efficiency, and fraternalism. The Club shall conduct programs and activities so as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio and provide voluntary emergency service to the community in general as needed.

Article I

Membership:

All persons interested in amateur radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application and election upon such terms as the Club By-laws provide. Membership shall be of four types:

1. Regular Members: to be only currently licensed amateur radio operators, and are to have full voting privileges.
2. Family Members: to be only currently licensed amateur radio operators residing in the same household and related to the regular member, and are to have full voting privileges.
3. Associate/Visitors: to be non-licensed persons interested in amateur radio, and are to have no voting privileges.
4. Non-Resident Members: to be currently licensed amateur radio operators whose permanent residence is outside of South Carolina, and are to have no voting privileges.

Article II

Officers:

The officers of this Club shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Officer and Trustee. These officers as a group shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Article III

Elections:

- Sec. 1. The officers of this Club shall be elected for a term of one [1] year by ballot of the members present, provided there be a quorum, at the meeting on the first Monday night in December.
- Sec. 2. Officers may be removed on the motion by three-fourths ^[3/4] majority vote of those attending, provided there be a quorum.

- Sec. 3. Any Officer can announce his/her resignation by letter to the Secretary or Treasurer or in person. Said announcement shall be made public at the next regular meeting.
- Sec. 4. Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by a special election at the first regular meeting after the withdrawal or resignation is announced.
- Sec. 5. A majority of the attending members, provided there be a quorum, is necessary for the election of new officers.
- Sec. 6. All officers shall be current year, and become term year members of the GSARC.
- Sec. 7. The Trustee shall be nominated by the outgoing Trustee and must receive a majority vote of approval by a quorum of the general membership at any regular meeting. The Trustee's term of office shall continue for the term of the new club license, as indicated on the FCC Form 660, unless terminated either by the Trustee or by a quorum vote by the general membership at any regular club meeting. Termination by the Trustee shall be the subject of 30 days prior written notice to the Executive Committee.

Article IV

Duties of Officers:

- Sec. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of this club and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of the Constitution and By-laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents that are adopted by the club, and none other; and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the Office of President.
- Sec. 2. The Vice President shall preside over all meetings in the absence of the President, assure that accurate minutes are recorded in the absence of the Secretary, be responsible for the accuracy and maintenance of the Club's Equipment Inventory for monthly Executive Committee review, and Co-chair the Technical Committee [with the Trustee].
- Sec. 3. The Secretary shall preside over club meetings when the President and Vice President are absent, keep the club's constitution and By-laws and have them available at each meeting in the event they are needed by club officers or members, act as Club Parliamentarian and be in possession of a current copy of Robert's Rules of Order; shall record the club's minutes, publish the meeting minutes of the Executive Committee meetings; prepare and distribute meeting agendas; handle all club correspondence as well as establish and maintain files for all correspondence, meetings, membership roster, notify members of all meetings whether regular or special; be responsible for assembling and publishing the club 5 year plan, and edit and distribute the club's monthly newsletter no later than 2 weeks prior to the next meeting.
- Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies received by the GSARC, including dues and other monies owed; establish and maintain a cash accounting system and keep current within 30 days; be responsible for all the club's banking operations, including being custodian of the club's checking account; be responsible for all club disbursements; shall submit written

financial reports to the club membership every other month (6 times per year); responsible for the outside auditing of the club's financial records at the end of each year, and reporting the results to the membership; develop a proposed annual budget for submission for approval by the membership no later than the April meeting each year; coordinate with the various governments with respect to the club's 5 year plan with input from the Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. The Public Information Officer shall promote the Club and its activities to the public and shall assist the Hamfest Manager with publicity; He/she will provide the club with a monthly report.

Sec. 6. The Trustee shall possess a valid Amateur Extra Class Operator License to maintain the assignment of the Club's [W4GS] call sign. Should the FCC Rules governing the class of operator license for the Club's call sign be changed, the Trustee position shall be open to candidates whose license class is equal to or greater than the requirement. The Trustee shall have full responsibility for the licensing and operation of all Club stations [including repeater, auxiliary, packet, and all other], and assure all such operations are compliant with all applicable Federal, State, and Local Rules and Regulations. The Trustee shall Co-chair an appointed Technical Committee [with the Vice President], and oversee the operation of all such stations through a system of designated Control Operators whose definition and responsibilities are outlined in Part 97 of the FCC's Rules. The Trustee shall maintain a current copy of the Club's FCC license at each Club station, and have in his/her possession the latest copy of the FCC Rules pertaining to Amateur Radio. The Technical Committee shall direct the maintenance of all Club stations, and develop new features and functions consistent with this Club's Preamble. The Technical Committee shall also develop and maintain use policies for the Club's repeaters, packet stations, autopatch facilities, and all other club stations and equipment in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and Local Rules and Regulations Said Policies, providing they are consistent and in compliance with all the aforementioned Rules and Regulations, are to be submitted to the membership for approval by a majority of the members present at a regular meeting.

Trustee Duty/Prerogative: Club Station operation can be terminated at any time by the Trustee or Control Operator without the benefit of notice or majority vote when the operation of the club station [repeater, auxiliary, packet, or other] is in violation of any Federal, State, or Local Rule or Regulation. Operation shall only be resumed when the Trustee or Control Operator considers the cause for prior termination to be resolved.

Club Call Sign: The Club Call Sign, W4GS, was obtained for, and by, the Club under the FCC Vanity Call Sign Program. It shall not be released for reassignment or transferred to any other person and/or organization without Executive Committee and membership approval.

If the Trustee's membership is terminated for any reason, the Club's call sign shall remain assigned to the Club. The outgoing Trustee shall provide the original Club FCC license to the Vice President, and together with the Vice President, the newly appointed Trustee shall complete the necessary FCC paperwork to assume responsibility of the Club call sign and station & operator privileges.

Article V
Meetings:

The By-laws shall provide for regular and special meetings. At meetings, a minimum of ten percent [10%] of regular members shall constitute a quorum and no official business can be transacted unless such a quorum is present.

Article VI
Dues:

- Sec. 1. The Club, by majority vote of regular members at any regular meeting, may levy on the general membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization within its object as set forth in the Preamble.
- Sec. 2. Members three [3] months in arrears under normal circumstances would constitute suspension. One [1] year in arrears will cause delinquent members to be dropped from the Club rolls.

Article VII
Amendments:

This Constitution or the By-laws may be amended by two thirds [2/3] vote of the members present at a regular meeting, provided there is a quorum. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next following regular meeting, provided all members have been notified by mail of the intent to amend the Constitution or By-laws at the said following meeting.

Article V11
Rules:

Robert's Rules of Order or Cushing's Manual shall govern proceedings.

Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

By-laws

Sec. 1 Expenditures of Funds:

- a. The Treasurer's responsibility is for all operating expenses. He/she may expend up to one hundred dollars [\$100.00] for this purpose.
- b. The Executive Committee may expend up to five hundred dollars [\$500.00] for extra ordinary repeater maintenance. Club expenses over Five hundred dollars [\$500.00] must be authorized by the membership.

Sec. 2 Dues:

- a. The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31 with dues payable the first of the year.
- b. Dues shall be twenty-five dollars [\$25.00] per year for Regular Membership [Full Voting Rights].
- c. Dues shall be ten dollars [\$10.00] per year for Family Membership [Full Voting Rights].
- d. Dues shall be fifteen dollars [\$15.00] per year for Associate Membership [Non-voting].
- e. Dues shall be fifteen dollars [\$15.00] per year for Non-Resident Membership [Non-voting].
- f. For periods of less than one half [1/2] of the fiscal year, new members shall have their dues prorated at the following rates:
 1. Regular Members, twelve dollars and fifty cents [\$12.50].
 2. Family Members, five dollars [\$5.00].
 3. Associate Members, seven dollars and fifty cents [\$7.50].
 4. Non-Resident Members, seven dollars and fifty cents [\$7.50].

Sec. 3 New Membership:

- a. Membership Application
 1. Initial application for all types of membership shall be submitted in person in writing at a monthly meeting or any official club function.
 2. Renewal for all types of membership will be accepted at any monthly meeting or any official club function or by mail.
 3. Exceptions will be handled by request.
 4. Applicant must express a willingness to abide by the Constitution and By-laws and that will be promulgated from time to time by the club.
- b. Membership Termination
 1. A member may resign from the club at any time upon written notice addressed to the club secretary.
 2. Membership shall be terminated for delinquent dues, i.e., dues 90 days, or more, past due. NOTE: Dues can be waived by a unanimous vote of the executive committee as special situations may warrant.
 3. Members who resign or whose membership is terminated shall be immediately relieved of all duties and rights of membership, and shall surrender all club property in their possession to the GSARC Trustee within 10 calendar days of resignation/termination.
 4. Any member may be terminated for just cause upon written petition of six [6] or more Regular or Family members. Such petition shall be presented to the executive committee. The executive committee after confirming the membership status of each petitioner and investigating the allegations, on which the petition is based, present a report to the membership at the next scheduled meeting. Such report shall contain all pertinent information which the executive committee has found and shall be accompanied by its recommendation for action by the membership at the next regular meeting and final decision shall be made by a two-thirds [2/3] vote of a quorum of members present.

Sec. 4 Meetings:

- a. Regular meetings shall be held on the first Monday night of each month except January and July.
- b. Installation of Officers shall be conducted at the banquet in January.
- c. Field Day exercises will be held on the last full weekend of June.
- d. Special Meetings may be called by the President at any time, or upon written request to the President of any five members of the club. Notices of Special Meetings shall be announced on the scheduled nets and to members who have provided their email address on the membership application, at least seventy-two [72] hours in advance. The announcement will include:
 1. Meeting place.
 2. Purpose of the meeting.

Sec. 5 Committees:

- a. Field Day Committee—Plans and coordinates the field day activities. The President will ask for a volunteer to Chair the event no later than the April meeting.
- b. Technical Committee—The committee will consist of the Chairman [Vice President], and the Trustee, plus any other members as needed.
- c. Nominating Committee—The President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of no fewer than three Regular members at the October meeting. The nominating committee shall bring a slate of candidates before the club at the November meeting. The slate shall consist of at least two qualified [Regular Members], consenting candidates for each of the established offices. In the event the committee cannot secure nominations of at least two members for each office, the slate as presented by the committee may be accepted. However, if the member's present feel there is a need for additional nominations, the November meeting may be adjourned to continue at a later date upon approval. Other nominations shall also be accepted from the floor only at the November meeting. The nominee's names will be announced in the November newsletter. The club election will take place at the December meeting by secret ballot. The nominating committee shall tally the votes.
- d. Special Work Committee As deemed necessary by the membership.

Sec. 6 Newsletter Content:

Items submitted to the newsletter will be for the benefit of the membership and if for profit item or article must be from a current member. Non members who wish to submit items for profit will be charged a nominal fee to help offset newsletter expense.

Sec. 7 Maintenance of the Constitution and By-laws:

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-laws of the club and have the same with him/her at every meeting. He/she shall cause all amendments, changes, and additions to be noted thereon and permit the same to the members on request.

Sec. 8 Dissolution:

If for any reason this eleemosynary corporation is dissolved, none of the assets will be returned to the donors. All remaining assets after liquidation and satisfaction of any indebtedness will be distributed to the American Radio Relay League or other tax exempt organization under IRS and South Carolina Tax Rules and Regulations, as designated and determined by the officers at the time of dissolution.

The current Membership accepted on March 3, 2008.

www.w4gs.org

WWW.W4GS.ORG

The official website of the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, w4gs.org is packed full of useful information. Navigation is easy, with a multi-level navigation bar at the left or top of each page.

Website Search – Search for a specific items at the site

Site Map – View a tree of all available pages.

Net Control Schedule and Preamble

VE Information and Testing Schedule

Classified Section – Post items for sale or wanted

News Letters – Past and current

Club Pictures – Pictures from past events

Members HAM Shacks – Pictures of the Members Stations.

ARES and Skywarn

Links – Favorite links to many Amateur Radio sites

And much, much more !

Skywarn

During severe weather, the club's repeaters will be utilized by SKYWARN for a directed net on the following frequencies:

Primary 146.655 MHz
Secondary 147.090 MHz.

Once SKYWARN has been activated, all amateurs are encouraged to sign in to the net and report any sightings of severe weather to the SKYWARN Net Control. Whichever repeater is used will remain dedicated to the SKYWARN Directed Net until released by SKYWARN. Other club repeaters will remain available for normal amateur use.

In addition to the 2 meter SKYWARN net, a SKYWARN Net Online is also available for those who witness severe weather and do not have their radio handy. The Online Net will be brought up any time SKYWARN is activated and will be moderated by a SKYWARN Net Controller. The Online Net may be reached at the GSARC website <http://www.w4gs.org/> and clicking on the "Chat" link.

Remember, **we are the eyes and ears in our area for the National Weather Service!** Please participate.

What to Report

1. **TORNADOES** - You may not see the funnel itself on the ground. - Look for dust or debris on the ground underneath a funnel or wall cloud.- Power line flashes at night may indicate a tornado.
2. **FUNNEL CLOUDS** - Look for organized, sustained rotation.
3. **WALL CLOUDS** - Should be persistent (tens of minutes) and organized.- Rotating wall clouds are extremely dangerous.
4. **HAIL** - 3/4" diameter or larger.
 - Report hail size and intensity.
 - Report hail size in terms of well known objects (coins, fruit) or in inches.
 - Avoid using the term "marble size".
5. **DAMAGING WINDS** - ONLY winds in excess of 58 mph or 50 knots.- Give best estimate of wind speed.
6. **STORM DAMAGE** - Damage reports are extremely important.- Report any damage caused by hail, wind, flooding or lightning.
7. **FLOODING** - Report flooding that blocks streets, roads or highways.- Report flooding that is a threat to life or property.

Skywarn

8. **LIGHTING** – Report any damage or injuries caused by lighting.
9. **WINTER WEATHER** – Report any significant accumulation of snow or ice.
Report any significant damage caused by snow or ice.

NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies

	Wilmington	162.55
F	lorenc	162.55
Myrtle	Beach	162.40
Lum	ber Bridge	162.525

CONTACTS

Horry County SKYWARN Coordinator
Jason Morgan, K4SHP

k4shp@w4gs.org

Assistant Coordinator
Bob Hawkins, KI4HEE

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