

December
2023

The Maury Amateur Radio Club BOX 1871 Columbia TN 38402 e-mail w4ggm@qsl.net

Merry Christmas!

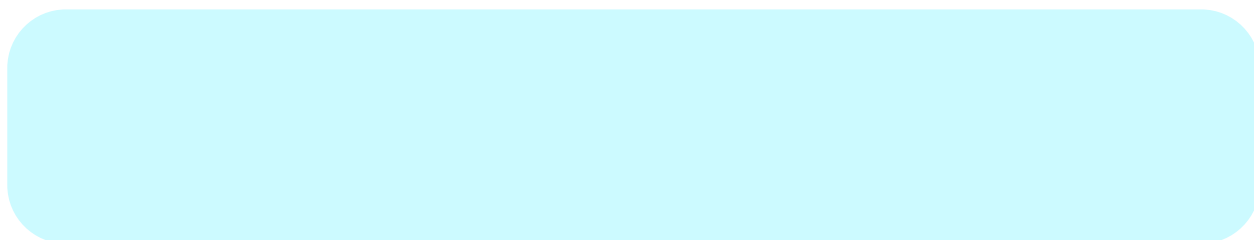
I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are now in the Christmas spirit. My wife and I were blessed to go on an African Safari hunting trip in the week before

Thanksgiving and had a wonderful time! The weather there was hot during the day and wonderful at night. They are entering their summertime right now so we enjoyed about 8 days with nearly 14 hours of daylight! We're glad to be home now and recovered from jet lag. I've got plenty of pictures to show so let me know if you'd like to see them.

Jonathan (KQ4ATG), Butch (KQ4FWR) and I took another go at finding the fox on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and had a fun time. We decided it was best to team up together and got underway around 10am. We didn't make record time, but we did find the fox after a quick stop at Arby's. At one point we thought it might be at Bill's (W4WRR) QTH and made a stop by there to get another reading. While Bill didn't know exactly where the fox was, he had a few more context clues to send us in the right direction. A special thanks to Andreas (KJ4JEK) for hiding the fox again for us. I hope we can have another hunt in the Spring.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and that Santa brings you lots of wonderful radio gear!

73, Travis KO4HUO



***Where: South Gate Church of Christ
Fellowship Hall
2700 Pulaski Hwy. Columbia, TN***

Bring: A dish to pass or Finger foods (like: sandwiches, sausage balls, pigs-in-blankets, chips and queso, fruit etc.) and desserts

Club will provide drinks, plates, cups, silverware.

We will have a brief meeting and then play Dirty Santa. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10-\$20max) if you would like to play.

November Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at LaFuente Restaurant 14-Nov-2023

Attendance: 21 in-person; 8 on Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Justin K4LEN

Motion made to accept the minutes from the October meeting by Rick K4PKA
Motion 2nd by Jonathan KQ4ATG
Motion Passed

The Financial Report was not available at the meeting.

New Business:

Reminder from Justin K4LEN that we need articles for the newsletter.

Jonathan KQ4ATG mentioned that work is progressing on the high powered hot spot but there have been some issues. Hope to get it on the air soon.

Discussion about the December Club Meeting/Christmas Party. May be a pot luck dinner this year. Possibly to be held at Southgate Church of Christ.

Motion to Adjourn made by Rick K4PKA.
Motion 2nd by Everette WA2BHS. Motion passed. The business portion of the meeting ended at 7:07 PM.

Presentation by Bob K4HRK and Bill W4WRR immediately following the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted
by Joe N4JW*



The Original iPad

Keith KQ4FXD with an update. The D-Star repeater is up and running on REF050 C for those that want to connect. Johnathan has done a fantastic job setting it up. I have used it on the mobile and at home with a clear and strong signal. You will hear a repeater message every 10 minutes just like the one on our local repeater but in voice mode, so you will know you are connected every 10 minutes. We have a video posted that you can view with the full install and testing. Please send any comments or suggestions to Bill K4BX, Johnathan or myself. We are trying to enhance your ham radio experience. Thanks for all your comments so far.

The latest testing video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3te9ghCKZfM>

73 Keith KQ4FXD

Pi-Star Digital Voice Dashboard for KQ4ATG

Dashboard | Admin | Live Logs | Power | Update | Configuration

Gateway Hardware Information

Hostname	Kernel	Platform	CPU Load	CPU Temp
pi-starhipow	5.10.63-v7+	Raspberry Pi 3 Model B Rev 1.2	0.87 / 0.71 / 0.72	34.9°C / 94.8°F

Service Status

MDVMHost	DMRGateway	YSFGateway	YSFParrrot	P25Gateway	P25Parrrot
DStarRepeater	incDORGateway	TimeServer	PiStar-Watchdog	PiStar-Remote	PiStar-Keeper

Modes Enabled

D-Star	DMR
YSF	P25
YSF XMode	NXDN
DMR XMode	POCSAG

Network Status

D-Star Net	DMR Net
YSF Net	P25 Net
YSF2DMR	NXDN Net
YSF2NXDN	YSF2P25
DMR2NXDN	DMR2YSF

Radio Info

Trx	Listening
Fx	145.770000 MHz
Rx	145.770000 MHz
FM	MPDVH: 20190158
TCXO	12.0000 MHz

D-Star Repeater

RPT1	KQ4ATG C
RPT2	KQ4ATG B

D-Star Network

APRS	notate.aprs2.net
IRC	ircv4.openquad.n
	Not Linked

DMR Repeater

DMR ID	3192925
DMR CC	1
TS1	disabled
TS2	enabled

DMR Master

BM 3103 United St..

YSF Network

PARROT

D-Star Link Information

Radio	Default	Auto	Timer	Link	Linked to	Mode	Direction	Last Change (CST)
KQ4ATG C	REF086 C	Auto	Never	Down	None	--	----	----

D-Star Link Manager

Radio Module	Reflector	Link / Un-Link	Action
KQ4ATG C	REF086 C	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Link <input type="radio"/> UnLink	Request Change

Active BrandMeister Connections

BrandMeister Master	Repeater ID	Static TGs	Dynamic TGs
BM 3103 United States	3192925	None	None

YSF Link Manager

Reflector	Link / Un-Link	Action
YSF99999 - Parrot - Parrot	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Link <input type="radio"/> UnLink	Request Change

Gateway Activity

Time (CST)	Mode	CallSign	Target	Src	Dur(s)	Loss	BER
06:51:49 Dec 2nd	D-Star	KQ4FXD/5100 (GPS)	CQCQCQ	RF	2.3	0%	0.0%
04:50:40 Dec 2nd	D-Star	KQ4ATG/INFO (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	7.0	0%	0.0%
03:15:09 Dec 2nd	D-Star	VK5PBZ/OWAP (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	1.2	0%	0.0%
21:04:51 Dec 1st	D-Star	KQ4ATG (GPS)	CQCQCQ	RF	2.3	0%	0.4%
21:02:05 Dec 1st	D-Star	KQ4ATG/ECHO (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	3.1	0%	0.0%
20:56:59 Dec 1st	D-Star	M6GLR (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	0.7	0%	0.0%
18:55:52 Dec 1st	D-Star	M4GM1/795 (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	5.3	0%	0.0%
18:45:50 Dec 1st	D-Star	MD4TGK/7100 (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	5.7	0%	0.0%
18:06:43 Dec 1st	D-Star	KY4RUS/Russ (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	5.7	0%	0.0%
18:05:19 Dec 1st	D-Star	K4LEH (GPS)	CQCQCQ via REF050 C	Net	9.1	27%	0.0%
17:55:30 Dec 1st	D-Star	KQ4FWB/5100 (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	8.3	0%	0.0%
17:53:40 Dec 1st	D-Star	AI4B/5100 (GPS)	CQCQCQ	Net	27.0	0%	0.0%

Local RF Activity

Time (CST)	Mode	CallSign	Target	Src	Dur(s)	BER	RSSI
06:51:49 Dec 2nd	D-Star	KQ4FXD/5100 (GPS)	CQCQCQ	RF	2.3	0.0%	-59+50dB (-43 dBm)
21:04:51 Dec 1st	D-Star	KQ4ATG (GPS)	CQCQCQ	RF	2.3	0.4%	-59+50dB (-43 dBm)

Testing the high power Hot Spot

from Jonathon KQ4ATG

Friday Keith/KQ4FXD and I set up the high power hot spot at his place on his Diamond antenna. We spent the afternoon testing with help from Justin / K4LEN and Butch / KQ4FWR. After some radio configuration issues were sorted out (I had missed one location to put my call sign in my handheld) we confirmed that both my radio and Keith's were able to access the hot spot. Keith recorded a [video](#) and has posted it on YouTube of us testing D-star.



The hot spot is running on 145.770, currently has C4FM/Yaesu, DMR, and D-Star enabled. D-star's configuration was the most finicky for me, most likely because I was the least familiar with it.

D-star needs the hot spot added as a repeater location, using call sign KQ4ATG/C, gateway call sign of KQ4ATG/G, and set an offset direction either up or down but leave the offset at 0. If we decide to run the hot spot permanently I'd like to explore changing the call sign over to the club call sign.

73 Jonathon KQ4ATG



Get a new digital ham radio for your mobile amateur radio needs? Wonder how to set it up and make that first digital contact? In this video I show you how to link and unlink to a gateway and reflector in addition to the cq cq cq feature. I make a contact with Tony K9ARV in Florida from my mobile DStar ham radio while in my driveway of Southern California using a few watts and digital features. I show you how to connect a local digital repeater to the gateway, also known as the internet, in order to link two digital repeaters to one another through the internet to make a ham

radio contact with ease. An important step in using the digital DStar ham radio, is to understand how it works and the etiquette involved. Like all things on amateur radio, you need to listen before connecting the various machines and I would suggest taking it a step further to inquire or ask the user base before linking if anybody has objections to the linking for a SHORT period. There are many reflectors and digital repeaters across the world to explore so give it a try and don't be shy about pushing the PTT and making a contact with somebody else. After all, we got our ham radio licenses to talk to one another and USE them. Have fun!

73 KG6HQD

Where is that Old Man in a Van?

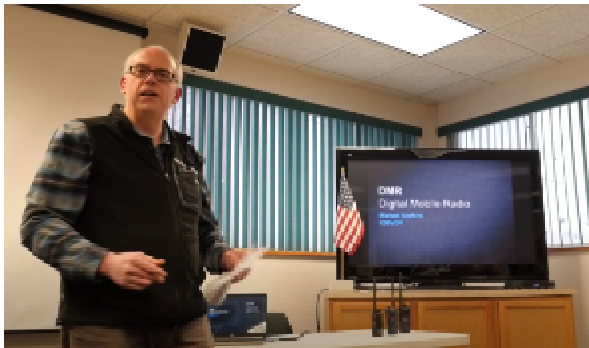
Where is Jeffery K4JSS



I just about forgot about Jeff until one of his videos popped up on YouTube. He is currently in Arizona in his latest video that you can watch [here](#). You can watch all his other videos at [An Old Man in a Van](#). You may recall meeting Jeff at the last Field Day where he was showing off his van he was going to live in.



The Williamson County ARES group has a lot of very interesting videos on many subjects such as Antennas, Propagation, Nano VNAs, POTA, MTEARS, WinLink, Field Day, ARES, Shack Tours, and more....
<https://www.youtube.com/@wcaresmedia2048/videos>



If you are new to ham radio or an old fart like me, you hear a lot about DMR. Digital Mobile Radio. If you wonder what DMR is all about this YouTube video is a good start to figuring what DMR is all about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu-KeIHRI2E>



The next MARC VE Test Session is scheduled for January 20, 2024. For more information, please go to <https://w4ggm.org/testing>.

You will need a FRN number, a valid e-mail address, a photo ID and the \$15 testing fee.

The Times They Are A Changing

As Fall has arrived and nearly winter. I have decided that this is a good time to turn over a new leaf. I have been the Emergency Coordinator for Maury County for well over 16 years. My 1st Net as Net Control was in March of 2006. I sure was nervous. Actually I still am.

I did not do this alone. I received guidance from just about everyone in the club. Many stepped up to the Net Control when I was unable, due to work schedule or medical reasons. I would like to thank all that did.

I have decided that as of December 31st. I will turn over the position of Emergency Coordinator to a very qualified and dedicated individual. This will give me more time to pursue other areas in amateur radio and more time with the family while I am still able.

I am not going anywhere yet. I will still assist in anyway possible as long as needed. I will continue to participate in club and ARES events.

The Incoming Emergency Coordinator has submitted his application and resume to the Tennessee Section Manager and the Tennessee Section Emergency Coordinator. His name will be announced after the final approval by them.

Bill Reed W4WRR 73

More ramblings from the editor.... Bill K4BX k4bx@arrl.net

Hard to believe Bill W4WRR has been our Emergency Coordinator for 16 years! That made me feel a little old because it made me think about how long I've been doing the newsletter. I don't remember exactly when I started doing the newsletter, but it was back in late 1993 or early 1994. That's about 30 years! I think it's time for someone else to take over. I have decided that the March 2024 issue will be my last.

I just feel that there is not much interest in the news anymore. If it wasn't for Keith and Jonathon's articles about D-Star and DMR, this newsletter wouldn't be worth reading. I'm sure several of us that don't know anything about these digital modes will go on and watch Keith's videos and learn more and perhaps get involved. Nobody reads the newsletter for the minutes or financial reports. Too bad that others won't talk about what they have fun with on the bands.

As a little history of the newsletter, when I took it over it was actually a printed newsletter which was mailed to all club members. I would assemble the news and take it to a print shop in downtown Columbia to have 130 printed. It was printed on an 11" by 17" sheet of paper that when folded in half made a 4 page document. Then Linda and I would have to further fold them and stuff envelopes.

Luckily the secretary would print all the address labels. Back then we had over 100 dues paying members and you would not believe how busy the repeater was. I had five 2 meter rigs and the club had a net every weekday, Monday through Friday. Then came cell phones...

How many of you have been inspired to try something new because you heard or read about what someone else was doing? As an example, I thought QRP was a stupid thing but after seeing what Jerry N4EO was doing with QRP got me into that!

Going back several decades, I got into computers after buying a Commodore 64 for the kids. I played with it more than the kids and ham radio got pushed aside. I met a ham at work one day and he was telling me I could hook the computer to the radio which lead me to packet radio. You talk about something fun! Most hams back then had packet radio running all the time. Back in the 90's I still had packet radio going here. It was like texting on the radio. You could send me a message anytime. If I wasn't in the shack, the text would go into a mailbox. Anyway, it lead me into PACTOR, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, and other digital modes.

73 and Happy Holidays