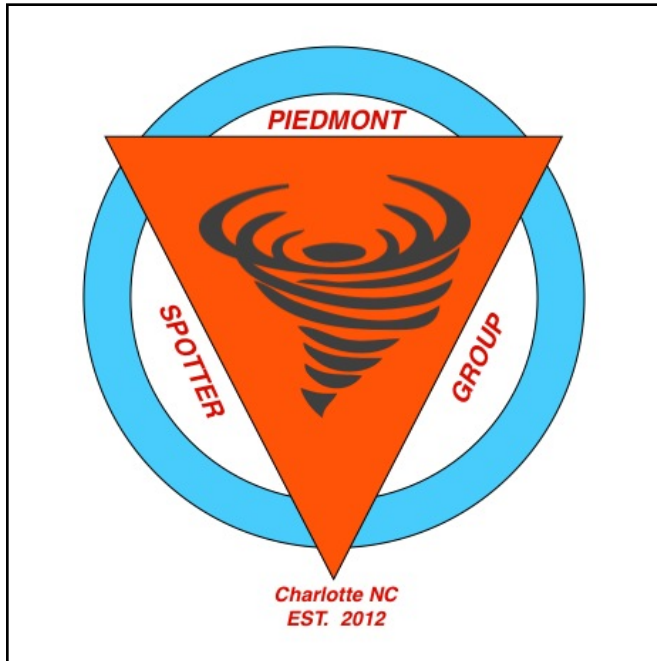


NEWSLETTER



Fat man in Bright Red Suit

The PSG has a special night planned coming up in December! I can't say exactly who will be taking time out of their busy schedule to talk with some young folks that have connections in Ham Radio, but it is rumored that a DX NCO will be calling a special net sometime before he gets into his sleigh for his big night. QSL cards will be made for all and should be a fun net for children of all ages.

This net will be called on **Saturday December 21, 2013**. We are encouraging folks checking in to Pre-Register so that pertinent information can be passed to the DX NCO so he can attach the info to your call and will be ahead of the curve

somewhat, because we are expecting quite a bit of 3rd party traffic during this net. This is the perfect opportunity to get your kids, or grandkids involved in Amateur Radio. Again, email your call sign, child/children names, ages, etc. to:

piedmontspotters@gmail.com

EMAILS will need to be received by **December 15** so preparations can be made for the net. Please check in with the PSG net Everynight at 8pm so you'll know as further details are revealed! Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Restaurant Review

This one is for those looking for a challenge and a great item for take out. Mr. Charles Chicken and Fish is Located on the corner of Atando (Lasalle) & Statesville Ave. First I will recommend the chicken, then I'll get some 'taters for a side and start looking for a good place to nap. Mike(owner) and Wesley (Mike's dad) will flat out feed you some good food! I've had burgers and their chicken and have never been disappointed.....always having the 'tater wedges too. The 'taters could stand alone as your meal. They are deliciously fried in peanut oil and are good sized....and you get plenty. My XYL made a claim "this is the best fried chicken I've ever had", first time I brought home an order. She is not alone! I claim it to be the second best, just slightly behind "The Coop", but in all actuality it's too close to call. Mr. Charles has great food and great prices, but it's all take out. Order ahead and it'll be waiting. 704-333-0455



PSK31 for HF

How to get on PSK31 for HF

HF Digital modes can be exciting and often times easier to contact DX stations as the signal can be weak and still be decoded and usable.

Things you'll need before getting on PSK31:

- An HF radio
- A Soundcard interface
- Usually a Windows based computer
- Software for the digital mode you want to use

Most modern HF radios will be able to get onto HF digital modes. All it needs is a way to get the audio output of the speaker of your radio into your computer (headphone jack will work) and a way to send a sound to your microphone. That's where your soundcard interface comes in.

There are many soundcard interfaces out there, from West Mountain Radio to Signalink. The signalink USB soundcard interface is actually a soundcard in a box, since it doesn't use your computer's sound card to generate the audio. This is the interface I decided to buy and use.

There are many, many PSK software solutions out there. Most of them run on a Windows PC, but you will find some for Linux and Mac as well.

As far as software, one that many use is Ham Radio Deluxe/Digital Master. You might be able to still locate the free version, but HRD is now available for a fee. HRD supports several different digital

modes as well as PSK. Other popular programs are Digipan and FLDIGI for (These are free!)

Once you have the necessary equipment and software you almost set. Setting up the software to work is pretty easy and you'll be up and scanning the waterfall quicker than you think and communicating on PSK.

We've just scratched the surface with this article on PSK, so I invite you to check out this YouTube channel to learn more from K7AGE and his PSK-31 series.

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8D7C6EBD6E2081E2>

73's and we'll see you in the waterfall!
Chris, N1CRG

Local Nets

Daily Nets:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 8:00 PM PSGnet | 145.230 tone 118.8 |
| 8:00 PM PETN | 145.350 |
| 9:00 PM CLTMetro 2 meter Emergency Net | 146.940 tone 118.8 |
| 9:00 PM Blue Ridge Emergency Net (GSP) | 146.610 tone |
| 9:30 PM Central Carolina Traffic Net (Wilkesboro) | 146.820 tone 94.8 |

Mondays:

| | |
|---|---------|
| 8:30 PM Shelby ARES Net | 146.880 |
| 9:00 PM Cleveland Co Simplex Net (1st Monday of the month) | 147.505 |

Tuesdays:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 7:00 PM Catawba Co RACES | 145.170 tone 88.5 |
| 7:30 PM Gaston Co. Amateur Radio Club | 147.120 tone 100 |
| 8:30 PM Triad SKYWARN® Net | 147.255 tone 82.5 |

Wednesdays:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 7:30 PM Mecklenburg ARES Net | 146.940 tone 118.8 |
| 8:30 PM Rowan Emergency Net | 145.410 tone 136.5 |
| 9:00 PM Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club | 146.805 tone 100 |
| 9:00 PM ICARS Net W4SNC | 146.685 tone 77 |

Thursdays:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 PM Gaston ARES | 147.120 tone 100 |
| 7:30 PM Lincoln RACES | 147.015 tone 141.3 |
| 8:00 PM Boone NC | 147.360 tone 103.5 |

Fridays:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 8:30 PM Shelby ARES | 146.880 |
|---------------------|---------|

Saturdays:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8:30 PM Dixie Radio Pirates Net | 145.410 tone 136.5 |
| 9:00 PM 6600 Net | 145.190 |

Sundays:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 8:30 PM Mecklenburg Simplex Net | 147.505 |
| 9:00 PM Caldwell Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net (CARES) | 147.330 tone 141.3 |

Net Totals

October 2013 and Letter from Net Manager AKA "Renderings from the Trash-bin"

Hey everybody hope you're all well. As I write this, Thanksgiving is almost here. Gatherings of family and friends, the food; turkey and stuffing, cranberry sauce, dressing – mmmmmm good!!! I hope and pray, all have a safe and blessed Day!! Along those thoughts, we are reminded of how much of a 'family of Hams' we have become. We are concerned when we don't hear one on the Net for a few nights in a row. Someone having trouble with their WIRES turned on. One of our NCO's can't make the Net and asks an Alternate NCO to cover the Net. All of this shows how much we care about the PSGNet and its Members. I couldn't be any prouder to be associated with such a Professional Group! Thank you!!!

Our numbers are about the same from other months. Tell your friends to meet you on the Net. Let's work at getting our numbers up. So here are the numbers:

Traffic = 2 (I'd like to see more traffic on the Net)

Announcements = 69 (we do talk a lot about other people's stuff

Check ins = 799

Total Net Minutes = 957

Number of Days in Month = 31

We had 12 different NCO's!!! With Steve KJ4FEL with 5 Nets, closely followed by Les KK4JRW and myself with 4 Nets each. (How does Steve do that two months in a row?) Congratulations Steve!!

We just finished our first Support Net. Helping Tony KE4VVF, and the Mecklenburg ARES SET, we had some good numbers there too. 22 unique calls, 2 pieces of Traffic, 1 ARRL Radiogram and 1 RMS Express, both copied and delivered by Chris N1CRG, thanks Chris!! We had some Liaison Station too. Butch WB4KJV did HF Liaison, Chris N1CRG did RMS and Skywarn Liaison and Ben W4BGP was Iredell Co. ARES Liaison. Also Jeffrey WX4LAB handled our Wx Station Liaison. Thanks everybody!! I heard there was a round table QSO on Wx Stations during the Net, while check ins were slow, and I heard it was very informative!! OK, do I hear a Net Program one night...???

Our Net lasted almost the entire 5 hours. Ben W4BGP and Greg KI4RBB copied the Net log in the background. And on that point let me say, we had 3 NCO's, with me starting the Net and Greg taking over for 10-15 minutes (ha more like 2 hours and 16 minutes) and Tony KK4CTN jumping in to help Greg.

Ok, the reason it took so long was, I wanted to pass NCO for the PSGNet to someone else and Greg stepped up. So I went to 146.940 to give Tony a break, since he didn't plan on anyone helping him. So as he checked Digital Traffic and Packet, got some lunch and 'OTHER' important stuff, I logged some time as NCO on W4BFB. OVER 2 HOURS!! Whew, good thing I don't get paid by Tony, get paid 15 minutes for 2 hours of work!!! Ha ha ha! It was all good fun. And I think Tony had a VERY SUCCESSFUL ARES SET!! I hope our NCO's and Net Members had fun too!

OK, keep an eye out on your email for a PSGNet Dinner soon!! Also, I heard there were plans for Santa Claus to make a surprise visit to the Air Waves.... 'Ya better be good, ya better be nice.....'

God bless, 73!!

Jeff KA4WYC PSGNet Manager

SKYWARN® Appreciation Day 2013

National Skywarn Recognition Day December 7th 2013

National Skywarn Recognition Day is on December 7th (Saturday) from 0000z to 2400z (Friday 6th @ 7PM to Sat 7th @7pm local) Our local NOAA NWS Office GSP will be operating a special event call sign W4G from 13Z-21Z (8AM to 4PM Local). They will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 440 MHz and Echolink K9OH-R

1. Object For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.

2. Date NWS stations will operate December 7, 2013, from 0000 – 2400 UTC.

3. Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site (“sunny”, “partly cloudy”, “windy”, etc.).

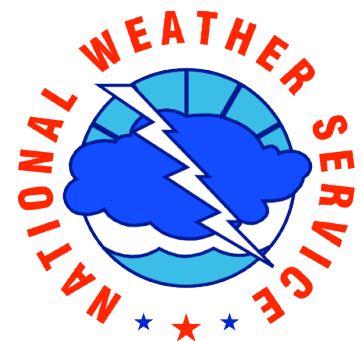
4. Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append “NWS” to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).

5. Station Control Operator: It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.

6. Event and QSL Information: The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will likely be electronic and printable this year. Stay Tuned!

Website for more Information:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>



PIEDMONT SPOTTER GROUP

CLEAR AIR

In September of 2013 some very good changes were made in the Greater Charlotte Area concerning Skywarn®. Since then the New Face of Skywarn® in this region has continued to take shape. The Skywarn® Frequency has changed to the W4BFB repeater 145.230 mhz and a new EC's have taken their command positions.

Piedmont Spotter Group was developed prior to this changing of the guard due to deficiencies in this region, and have gelled nicely with Charlotte Regional Skywarn®

This region is made up of 15 counties in the Piedmont and Foothills of NC and SC, in and around the Charlotte Region (Hence the name Charlotte Regional Skywarn). These counties provide service to over **2 Million** citizens and it is very important that we have well trained spotters in all of those counties. We have tested our 145.230 repeater in all of our coverage counties and can cover most areas of these counties with a 50 watt mobile radio. Base stations can reach the repeater relatively easily from all of these counties.

If you are in any of the following counties:

- Alexander
- Burke
- Cabarrus
- Caldwell
- Catawba

- Chester, SC
- Cleveland
- Davie
- Gaston
- Iredell
- Lincoln
- Mecklenburg
- Rowan
- Union, NC
- York, SC

Please check in with us on the PSG net each night at 8pm. The better connected we are in all counties, the better we can serve the over 2 million citizens that are depending on the information we pass to the NWS.

Since starting the PSG Twitter account we have been connected with NWS, Local Media, Local Meteorologists, and several Emergency Service Providers. We are still very active on Twitter and now FaceBook and our own Website. We train nightly on the PSG net so that when Skywarn® is activated, we have the best group of well trained spotters out there.

Thank **YOU** for meeting with us each night and helping to develop and maintain a group with a high amount of professionalism and courteousness.

Lee Sossamon
PSG NCO,
-PR & Marketing Director
-Asst. DC, Charlotte Regional
Skywarn®

Calendar**Dec 6 PSG Christmas Feeding**

Dutch treat at Hillbilly's BBQ Gastonia
6:00pm Open Invitation

Dec 7 Skywarn® Appreciation Day**Dec 21 Special DX NCO PSGnet**

Check in every night @ 8pm to learn more about this special net and more events to come.

MORE TO COME

Contacts

Twitter:

@piedmontspotter

Facebook:

Piedmont Spotter Group

Website:

www.piedmontspottergroup.com