

Feed Line



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Meet Our Members - John Doggett, KI4BMS

John Doggett, KI4BMS, is one of GARA's newer members. John was just recently elected vice president. He joined GARA in 2003. He has been very active as net control for the GARA News and Information net. He received his Technician license in July, 2003.

John has been married for eight years to his wife Angie and they have two children. The family lives in "Doggettville" which is near Summerfield, on their family farm of about 200 acres. They reside in a log home that John built. The family also has two miniature donkeys and two dogs.

John became interested in Ham radio when other members of his family were licensed. John's

father, is Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, and his mother, Jane Doggett, KG4ZQK. His sister is Mary, KG4ZQL.

John's profession is a construction superintendent for Landmark Builders. His hobbies include, Ham Radio of course, and he is an active SkyWarn member. John also likes deer and turkey hunting. He happens to be an avid NASCAR fan following driver Tony Stewart. He is also a certified dive master.

A big thank you goes to John for stepping up to run for vice president at the November GARA election.

Each month we will try to feature a member of GARA and let you see and meet out members.



John Doggett, KI4BMS



Guilford
County

ARES Overview

By Dave Collins KE4IAF
EC Guilford County ARES

Guilford County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) is part of the ARRL Field Organization. The purpose of ARES is to provide communications in times of emergency when other communications are unavailable. We also provide communications between our served agencies such as Emergency Management, the Red Cross as well as others in times of need and are the only lines of communications that are fail-safe. Our primary repeater that is used for these communications is the 145.15 W4GSO.

We held our annual simulated emergency test this past November in which we simulated a countywide 911 phone outage. With no 911 communications Guilford County Ares members were activated. Guilford County ARES members relayed information from the fire departments to the EOC. This showed the usefulness in such of an event for communicators that are trained in providing such communications.

Next Meeting January 24

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover. If you'd like to eat be there at 6:30 with the meeting beginning at about 7:15.

The program for this month will be from Dave Collins, KE4IAF, A.R.E.S. Coordinator.

New UHF Antenna Installed, VHF Antenna Replaced

by Arch, KT4AT
Engineering Chairman

1)- VHF Mastr2 conversion to SMA connectors: By the time this column is published, both VHF Mastr2 will be converted to SMA connectors in the receive chain. There are 9 connectors involved per machine. After retuning, both machines will deliver a 12 dB SINAD sensitivity of -124 dBm, and a minimum squelch unmodulated carrier kerchunk of -136 dBm.

2)- Audio boards: This is complete, with both VHF machines equipped with my receive audio board, and my exciter audio board. A potential improvement to this design will be developed later to include automatic gain control.

3)- Tower work: The tower work is 99% complete. All that is left to do is re-secure the shack hardlines to the walls, and add a grounding kit at the bottom of the UHF feedline. On VHF, we have (a) swapped the antenna to the backup one (the origin of the crackling was found to be the

previous antenna end connector), (b) with City approval, we swapped the VHF feedline to an unused Heliac one (no more old Cablewave), and (c) exchanged all connectors. On UHF, we have (a) deployed our UHF antenna at 285 feet, (b) fixed the feedline situation in conjunction with the City, and (c) exchanged all connectors. See photographs.

4)- UHF Mastr2 machines: This is next in line (first machine available beginning of February). And, the ICOM machine has a dead PA.

GARA OFFICERS

President

Lee Wimbs, W1MBS

Vice President

John Doggett, KI4BMS

Secretary

Tom Forrest, N4GVK

Treasurer

Ernie Wall, NC4EW

Financial Officer

Al Allred, K4ZKQ

Engineering

J.B. "Arch" Archinard, KT4AT

Operations

Roy Smith, N4BYU

Members At Large

Clark Doggett, KG4HOM

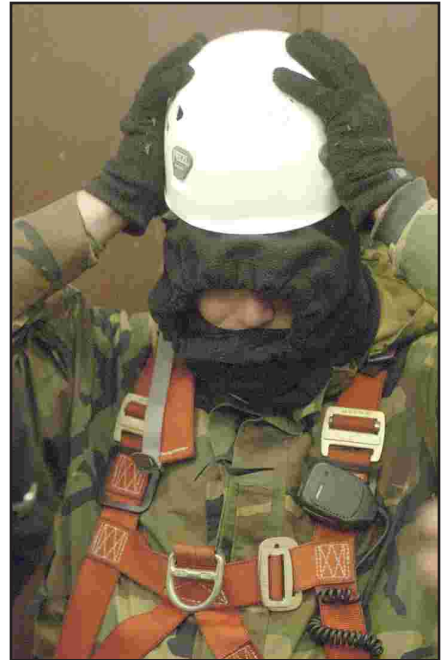
Mark Robertson, KG4STP

Circulation

Paul Shepherd, WA4LGX

Webmaster & News Letter Editor

Tom Forrest, N4GVK



Geoff Brown, of PRS Wireless, dresses for the cold weather as he prepares for the tower climb on 12/20. The Temperature was 14 that day. At left, Geoff is installing the new UHF antenna on a much warmer day in January. (Photos N4GVK)

"The Feed Line" is ©2005 by the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and published monthly. Our address is P.O. Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide the club and prospective members information about the club and amateur radio in general. Material and information should reach the editor by the first Friday of the month for the next edition of the newsletter. Opinions expressed in "The Feed Line" do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, directors, editor or members of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association. Material may be reproduced, provided proper credit is given to GARA.

from Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, GARA President

A Note from the President

"Now is the beginning of a new year for your club."

Recently I stopped on the way home at a local hamburger drive thru to get lunch. As I was sitting there waiting for my order, I noticed a sign below the window. The sign said, "have it your way". What a great thought.

I have mentioned many times at our GARA club meetings that the club is not controlled by

the Board of Directors. The club is, and should be, governed by the individual members. We recently held an election for the officers for the new year. These officers were chosen by the members of the club to represent their requests for the club. The 'chosen' officials are to represent the members of the club.

Now back to the "have it your way" thought. This is your club. The purpose, the direction, the goals, and even the attitude of the club, is represented by its members. We need to get together and make this a club each one of us would be proud of. Together we can make this club better. The result is up to you as a member.

With the new year we have a great schedule of new and

exciting programs for our meetings. We will plan in advance a picnic for our families for the spring. Plans will be made for the fall trip to Mt. Mitchell. More importance will be placed on the soccer tournaments. Greater efforts will be made to recruit new members, and to increase our ham community.

Now is the beginning of a new year for your club. Now is the time to join in the planning and future of GARA. Be a GARA member, and have it your way. Please feel free to contact me as your President, or any member of the Board of Directors with your suggestions, comments, and offers of support. This is your club.

Lee, W1MBS



UHF Antenna Deployment —The UHF antenna for the GARA UHF repeater is readied for hoisting (left photo) to the top of the city tower January 5. Engineering Chairman Arch, KT4AT in the right photo checks the old VHF antenna for damage after it was lowered from the tower. It was discovered there was a broken "N" connector on the antenna array that could have caused noise in the past. The replacement VHF antenna was installed and the old one will be repaired for a spare. Thanks to Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA, for his assistance helping the tower crew. (Photos N4GVK)



GARA Meeting Minutes

ANNUAL MEETING November 22, 2004

The Annual Meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant Monday evening November 22, 2004 at 7:15 PM with 21 members present.

President Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, who asked for a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

There was no Emergency Traffic was reported.

President Wimbs welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. The Annual Christmas "Get Together" organized by the Guilford Amateur Society, was mentioned. It will be held at Bonnie Kay's Seafood on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 7:00 PM Canned Foods are suggested for donations to be made to the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

President Lee Wimbs, W1MBS reminded attendees of the great deal that membership to the club is. \$24.00 a year.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the Treasurer's Report; a copy was available for members' inspection.

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the Financial Report and Projections for the club; a copy was available for members' inspection.

It was noted that Membership is down.

Arch, KT4AT gave the Engineering Report noting that the antenna needs work and will be done by the end of the year, according to the City.

Arch also noted that the hard line was in need of replacing. Approximate cost for 350' of hard line was estimated at \$1,800. A motion was made to "set aside" \$2,000 for hard line should it need to be replaced, but on the condition from the City we would be guaranteed a space on the tower. This motion was approved by the membership.

Bill Mauldin, WG4R was the mystery photo on the club website it was announced.

The Challenge Clash soccer tournament went well, according to Allen Bradley, KD4IUN. Ham radio operators solved many problems that weekend, and volunteers are needed for the Wrangler/McDonald Soccer Tournament in May 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Daryl Brewer, KE4MOH, Secretary

BOARD MEETING November 22, 2004

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held a board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting, as per Article VII, Section 2 of the Association's By-Laws.

John Hamilton, NC4JH, addressed the board in regard to Triad Skywarn's agreement with the club on this use of the repeater during emergencies.

As on the 147.255, Skywarn has a special courtesy tone to notify hams that Skywarn is active. The club has a mode for this already in place on the repeater. A discussion ensued as to the code to bring this mode up. The club was specific in limiting access to this code. It was to be limited on 2 (two) hams within Skywarn.

Another discussion took place in regards to a priority list for use of the repeater during emergencies. 145.15 is listed as "second backup" for Skywarn, so the likelihood of this becoming an issue is remote, as mentioned by John. ARES has first priority over any agency.

Lower priorities, such as a club event, were discussed as to which event would have more importance.

The club is requiring a statement from Triad Skywarn stating who would have the code to bring up the Skywarn mode. Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daryl Brewer, KE4MOH, Secretary

BOARD MEETING January 10, 2005

The regular meeting of the GARA Board was held on Monday, January 10, 2005. For this informal meeting, the location was changed from our normal meeting location, for a get together at Starbucks coffee. A discussion was held on a number of projects for this year, events for the family, and programs you do not want to miss.

Attending this meeting were Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, John Doggett, KI4BMS, Tom Forrest, N4GVK, Al Allred, K4ZKQ, Ernie Wall, NC4EW, Arch Archinard, KT4AT, Mark Robertson, KG4STP, and Clark Doggett, KG4HOM. For this informal meeting the location was changed from our normal meeting location, for a get together at Starbucks coffee.

A report was given by Arch on the tower and feed line work recently done at the tower site. This is a project that has been needed for a long time, and Arch will give a full report at our next club meeting on Monday, January 24th. Arch stated the new UHF repeaters should be ready for us to use in February.

Discussions were held on the following, which will be covered in detail at our next meeting:

- a. A covered dish dinner for the entire family in the Spring.
- b. A planned trip to Mount Mitchell in the Fall.
- c. How about a cook out in the Fall?
- d. Project you can build
- e. Training for new hams, and upgrades
- f. A mini hamfest, or tail gate party
- g. Fun with a 'fox hunt' during the summer
- h. Our part with Field Day
- i. Youth in ham radio, work with the Boy Scouts, and local schools
- j. More HF activities
- k. Becoming a net control operator

As you can see from this partial list, we have an event for everyone. A discussion was held on the importance of the soccer coverage we do. This should be at the top of events we get involved with. Also

See Board, page 7

Christmas Ornament On White House Tree



Pegi Mauldin, N4JBM, and a White House Christmas tree. (Photo WG4R)

Bill (WG4R) and Pegi Mauldin (N4JBM) recently completed an invitation trip to the White House. Pegi does tole and decorative painting, is a Certified Decorative Artist with the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters.

By invitation, Pegi was invited to paint an ornament for the official White House Christmas tree, placed in the Blue Room of the White House. Bill and Pegi attended an invitation reception in

the White House on Wednesday, December 1st

While there, they were photographed with First Lady Laura Bush. They were hoping the picture would arrive in time to be used in their 2004 Christmas card.

The White House Blue Room tree was featured on HGTV on December 7th. This is the second time Pegi has been honored with an invitation to create an ornament for the White House tree.

G.A.S Has New Repeater Installed

Congratulations to the Greensboro Amateur Society (GAS) on the installation of a new 145.250 repeater for the group.

The new Kenwood TKR750 was installed the first of December with the help of repeater builder/designer Danny Hampton, K4ITL. It replaces an older GE Master II. The machine is located on the WFMY-TV Channel 2 tower. The new installation has two antennas, with a separation of 190 feet with the transmit antenna

at 1270 feet and the receive antenna at 1460 feet. It has a power out of 50 watts. The coverage area is similar as before with the antennas oriented North/West and the tower shadows signals to the South and South East.

The controller is the Linkcom Club deluxe and the repeater is a fulltime Piedmont Costal Repeater Network repeater (PCRN).

Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

Parents Featured In Ad

W1MBS, Lee Wimbs' parents were recently featured in an ad in the Greensboro News & Record. Martin and Nelle Wimbs are pictured in an ad for Pennybyrn Retirement Community in High Point.

Celebrates 50th Anniv.

Larry Willoughby, W4TWZ and his wife Mary Ann celebrated 50 years of marriage this past December 18 by renewing their vows at the Pisgah United Methodist Church.

Newspaper Interview

Wayne Jacobs, KE4WZU and his wife Kathi, were featured in a News & Record feature December 31 about their video business and European travels. Wayne's daughter Susan Jacobs, KG4GHO, and Mike Lawrence were also recently married.

Television Interview

David Honeycutt, N4AXV, was recently seen on WFMY News 2, being interviewed about problems with frozen pipes during the season's first really "cold" snap. Dave is employed by a local plumber.

Get Well Wishes

Get well wishes go out to Bill Honeycutt, W4WRH. Bill was recently hospitalized, but is home now doing better. Our best to Bill for a quick recovery.

Tsunami Update . . .

Amateur Radio Praised as Lifeline in South Asia

As the tsunami relief and recovery effort continues in South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has joined those paying tribute to Amateur Radio's ongoing emergency communication role. Director and Executive Vice Chairman S. Suri, VU2MY, of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), noted January 5 that the PM "was all praise for hams in India and the entire world who helped us in this hour of need."

"The district administration chief of Car Nicobar Island spoke to me this morning to say even now it is only the ham communication that is aiding them for relief and rehabilitation measures," Suri said in an e-mail to Jay Wilson, W0AIR, of the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) and shared with ARRL. Mohan, who had received DERA training in the US, was part of NIAR's VU4NRO/VU4RBI DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. When the earthquake and tsunami struck the region, DXpedition team leader Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, promptly shifted the operation to handle emergency traffic and health-and-welfare inquiries between the island and the Indian mainland. More than 20 Indian radio amateurs are said to be involved in providing emergency communication support in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Ironically, until the recent NIAR DXpedition the Indian government did not allow Amateur Radio operation from the islands.

In the disaster's immediate aftermath, Suri said, Mohan and other DXpedition team members risked their lives to alert the chief of administration on Andaman Island, since tsunami waves later overran the road they'd traveled. NIAR staff member Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, was providing emergency communication remote Hutbay Island.

Now back on the Indian mainland, Bharathi Prasad has reported that the VU4NRO/VU4RBI logs are safe and at NIAR headquarters, and QSLing will commence once the emergency operation concludes. DXer Charly Harpole, K4VUD/HS0ZCW, now in Bangkok, Thailand, told The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> that QSL cards already are showing up at NIAR.

Harpole, who was visiting the DXpedition in Port Blair on Andaman Island when the earthquake and tsunami hit, has since been helping to handle emergency traffic from Thailand, where his wife's family lives. Harpole advised amateurs worldwide to avoid the primary emergency traffic frequency of 14.190 MHz.

In Thailand, Harpole reports, hams have been using mostly 2 meters for their emergency traffic "and doing a huge job." He said he's heard very little from Bangladesh, and nothing from Sumatra and Burma (Myanmar). The earthquake's epicenter was some 100 miles off Sumatra, a part of Indonesia.

Just three days after the calamitous tsunami, Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) President Victor Goonetilleke, 4S7VK, declared that "uncomplicated short wave" radio had saved lives.

Goonetilleke said Sri Lanka's prime minister had no contact with the outside world until Amateur Radio operators stepped in. "Our control center was inside the prime minister's official house in his operational room," he recounted. "[This] will show how they valued our services."

According to the latest estimate, more than 150,000 people died as a result of the tsunami, about one-third of them children.

From The ARRL

Time To Renew GARA Membership

Membership renewals for 2005 are due and may be given to the Treasurer at any club meeting or mailed to GARA, Post Office Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417. Either will facilitate prompt deposit and clearance of your check/funds as well as immediate recognition of dues payment. Do not procrastinate--renew early. Membership is \$24 for the calendar year and is used to directly support our two fine repeaters. Checks should be made payable to Greensboro Amateur Radio Association or simply GARA. Please include your call or calls(family membership) on your check.

Ernest Wall, NC4EW, GARA Treas.

Tornados Reach A Record High In 2004



The total number of tornadoes reported in the United States reached a record high during the year 2004, surpassing the previous record by almost 300, according to officials at the NOAA Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

The findings are based on a preliminary review of reports filed by NOAA National Weather Service forecast offices and compared to historical records dating back to 1950. "One tropical storm and five hurricanes affecting areas from Florida to the mid-Atlantic states, as well as several outbreaks in four of the last ten days in May contributed to the year's total number of 1,717 tornado reports in the U.S.," said Dan McCarthy, NOAA Storm Prediction Center warning coordination meteorologist.

This tops the previous record of 1,424 tornadoes in 1998, and the total of 1,368 in 2003. Joe Schaefer, director of the NOAA

Storm Prediction Center said, "Even with the record number of tornadoes, storm related fatalities were limited to 35. This shows that timely watches and warnings combined with our strong partnerships with emergency management and the media to convey that information does save lives." The reported number of 35 deaths attributed to tornadoes is significantly below the usual yearly average for these storm-related fatalities.

"In 2004, record tornado reports were largely the result of an active hurricane season during August and September. Preliminary numbers indicate a total of 173 tornadoes reported during August," McCarthy said.

Preliminary data indicate a total of 247 tornadoes reported in September. This significantly tops the previous September record of 139 tornadoes set in 1967, which was mostly attributed to Hurricane Beulah, which produced tornadoes in Texas and parts of Oklahoma.

Hurricane Frances

produced the most tornadoes for a tropical system with a preliminarily number of 117 reports. Frances tops Hurricane Beulah, which spawned 115 tornadoes in September 1967. Hurricane Ivan was close with 104 tornado reports, and a total of 16 tornadoes were reported in association with Hurricane Jeanne.

(Source: NOAA 12/30/04)

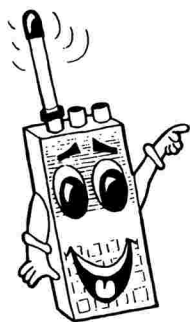
Board from page 4

near the top are the bike rides from Tanglewood, and the Triad Scottish games.

Board suggestion -use the repeater! A lot of work has been performed to make this a reliable and effective repeater for the area. We can only benefit from it if we use it. And when you use the repeater, invite others to join us at our club meetings.

The president commented that this club has a great Board of Directors. They are here to help you make this a better radio club. Lets work together this year to create that better club. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Ham Handheld Outplays Cell Phone After Accident



When Storey County, Nevada, Emergency Coordinator Randy Davenport, KA4NMA, got into an automobile accident early on December 10, he sure was glad to have his 2-meter handheld transceiver along. "I was going

down a side road and hit a sheet of ice," he reports.

"I fishtailed into the other lane and nearly hit a car head on! But for some reason, my Ford Explorer turned sideways going down the road, and it did not roll over."

"I had no cell phone service, so I grabbed my HT and put out a call on 146.61," he said (the antenna for his 2-meter mobile

was broken in the accident).

Richard Foreman, KK7SL, an ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator in Carson City, heard his distress call and dialed 911. Lesson learned: Cell phones do not work everywhere. Always carry a 2-meter radio (or other band) of some sort--handheld with charged battery or mobile--for emergency communication."--
from ARRL

Area Activities

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 PM, the **Greensboro Amateur Radio Association** has their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Please plan to gather at 6:30 PM for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 PM

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – weekly at 9 PM, the **GARA News and Information Net**. This net features NewsLine and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Roy Smith, N4BYU is always looking for net controls. Contact him if you would like to help.

THURSDAYS – The **Guilford County ARES Net** meets on the 145.150 repeater (100 Hz. tone) at 9 PM.

TUESDAYS – at 8 PM, the **2 Meter SSB Net** meets on 144.225 Mhz. USB. Chris Thompson, KC is the net control station.

WEDNESDAYS – The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. John Shultz, K4JBS and Jim Hightower, W4JLH are the net controls.

TUESDAYS – at 8:30 PM The **Triad SkyWarn Net** meets on the 147.225, K4ITL repeater, no tone required.

OTHER ACTIVITIES :

FIRST MONDAY – The **Guilford County A.R.E.S.** monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7 PM.

THIRD MONDAY – at 6 PM The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Dinner at 6:30 PM and the business meeting is slated to begin at 7 PM.

SATURDAYS – at the K&W Cafeteria on Big Tree Way, hams get together for **Saturday Breakfast** at 7:30 AM. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater, with 100 Hz. tone.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS – at 11 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. On Monday they meet at the Oakcrest Restaurant Battleground Ave. and on Friday lunch is at the K&W Cafeteria off South Holden Road. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone.

EVERY FRIDAY – at 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks in Quaker village Shopping center off W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association
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