



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

www.w4gso.org

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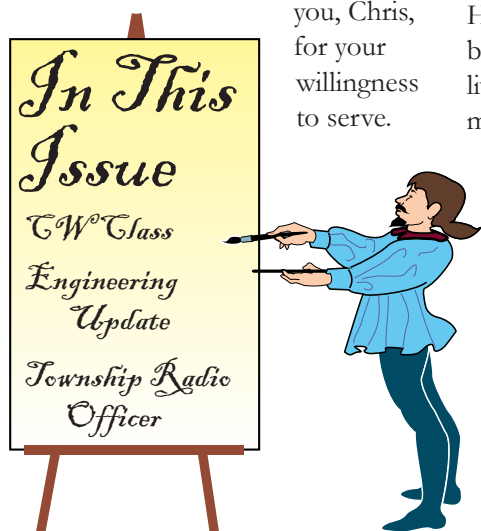
## Changes for 2011

By Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

With a new year come many changes. Let's look at a few of them.

For the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association, the biggest change is the leadership. The Board of Directors for 2011 looks similar to in years past, but there are some new faces as well.

Starting at the top we see Chris Thompson, K4HC, returning as President after a one year break. Chris' willingness to subject himself to the responsibility and criticism that comes from holding this office is not something that many others would demonstrate. While it sounds like a nice thing to be the "one in charge," anyone who has served in a leadership position knows that when there are problems, difficulties and disgruntled members, it is the president who takes the heat. Thank you, Chris, for your willingness to serve.



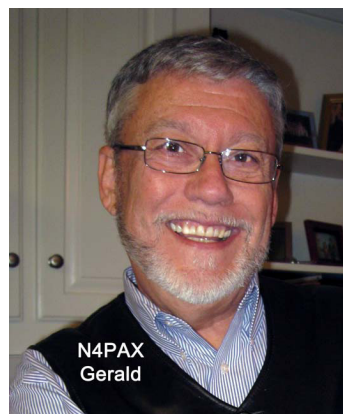
Also, returning to serve in their same offices as last year are Al Allred, K4ZKQ, Financial; Ernie Wall, NC4EW, Treasurer; Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, Secretary; Bob Mays, KE4MOW, Operations; and Betty Williams, KC2BFN, Member-at-Large. Several of these folks serve behind the scenes, and one would never know what they do UNTIL it doesn't get done, then everyone would know. Thanks guys (and gal!)

The good news is there are some new faces as well.

Gerald Donnelly, N4PAX, is the club's Vice President. Many know Gerald as the one who brought his Flex 5000 to Open House this past year, but do you know what he does for a living? Be sure to ask at the next club meeting.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, is the new Engineering, Chairman. David has started something new, that I hope will become a regular monthly column in the Feed Line. Be sure to look on page 5 for the "Engineering Update."

Also, Todd Smith, AK4TS, is our second Member-at-Large. You may recognize Todd's name and maybe his face from that

N4PAX  
Gerald

### NEXT MEETING Monday, January 24

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, January 24th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club. This month's meeting will be entitled "Web Searching Made Easy." see page 4

two-part article that ran in the *Feed Line* in October and November of 2010. He did a great job of giving us his account of the GARA trip to Mt. Mitchell.

I hope you will find a way to make these folk's job a little easier this year. Get involved, find a way to help and support them and YOUR club.

Also, a BIG change this year is the weather. Many have said to me that this seems to be the coldest winter in a long time. A white Christmas and now another big snowfall have made several changes.

The W4VEC testing session in January was cancelled but don't worry. Those faithful volunteers will be ready on February 12th to help out anyone wanting to test for their license or upgrade. Just contact Glenda Nicholson at (336) 674-3810 or by email at ag4nc@bellsouth.net for more information.

Also affected by the weather

see **Changes**, page 3

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes November 23, 2010

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their last meeting of 2010 on November 23rd at the Golden Corral restaurant located near the intersection of Wendover Avenue and Interstate 40.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Will Ravenel, AI4VE, who greeted everyone and asked them to identify themselves.

Steve Marks, N4SCM, who is the Technical Services manager for Guilford Metro 911 spoke about the weather station that GARA donated to the city of Greensboro and gave a big thank you to GARA for the donation. Steve said that the WX station will be a big help to the 911 center.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasury report stating that "there is money in the bank, bills are paid and the check book is balanced."

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report stating that the finances are ahead of forecast mostly due to membership increasing faster than forecast.

#### The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Chris Thompson, K4HC  
Vice-President Gerald Donnelly, N4PAX  
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW  
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV  
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ  
Engineering Chair David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF  
Operations Bob Mays, KE4MOW  
Member-at-Large Todd Smith, AK4TS  
Member-at-Large Betty Williams, KC2BFN  
*Appointed Positions:*  
Webmaster Tom Forrest, N4GVK  
Newsletter Editor Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

*The Feed Line* is ©2010 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.

Betty Williams, KC2BFN, said that the search for new members has been suspended until after the holidays.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that Jesse Lindley, N4BFD, has swapped the repeaters and the feed line connections on the tower have been checked to try and alleviate the noise we have been hearing. There seems to be noise in the area, and Roy said that the 145.13 repeater in Galax, VA is also having a similar problem. Roy also reminded the club members that DSTAR users are asked to help defray the cost of the Internet connection that the DSTAR repeater uses.

Will said that he appointed John Strandberg, W4DX, as the nominating committee. John came up with a list of nominees for officers.

#### President

Chris Thompson, K4HC

#### Vice President

Gerald Donnelly, N4PAX

#### Secretary

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV

#### Treasury

Ernie Wall, NC4EW

#### Operations

Bob Mays, KE4MOW

#### Engineering

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

#### Financial

Al Allred, K4ZKQ

#### At large

Betty Williams, KC2BFN

Todd Smith, AK4TS

Roy made a motion to accept the slate as presented. There were several people seconding the motion and the vote was all for and none against.

Bob Mays, KE4MOW, said that the club should thank Will for his leadership he put forth this past year. Bob's remark was met with a round of applause from the group.



Will thanked everyone and said he had wanted to build a closer relationship between GARA and the Natural Science Center this year but did not finish it so he hopes that GARA can complete this some day. Will also discussed the ICOM 756 that belongs to the science center. This radio has a malfunctioning encoder that needs recalibrating. After much discussion it was decided that we try to get it repaired locally and if that is unsuccessful we will ship it to ICOM for repairs.

Will also gave some history on the science center station and how the antenna as recently repaired by GARA volunteers.

Roy presented plaques to Will, AI4VE; John Doggett, AJ4DV; Chris Thompson, K4HC; and Allen, KD4IUN; Madeline, KE4SVJ; and Ryan, KD4TMD, Bradley, for their service to the club. A thank you goes out to Bill Blackwell, KM5DW, for his excellent wood working talents.

Jim Hightower, W4JLH, spoke about the Christmas party coming up on December 7, 2010, at Bonnie Kay Seafood in Greensboro.

Bill Lundy is taking reservations for the bus trip to Dayton. The cost is \$250.00 plus lodging.

The meeting ended at 7:56pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer,  
KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*

## News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

### Silent Key, Bert Rupert, KD4BQD



GREENSBORO — Bert Rupert, 86, passed away at Moses Cone Hospital on December 15, 2010. He was born on November 23, 1924 in Eskdale, WV, to

the late Dr. Leancy Bertram Rupert, Jr. and Jane Penrod Rupert. He is survived by his son, Leancy Rupert IV, and daughters Alannah Fitzgerald and Cynthia Rogers.

Bert enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1939, serving in Troop B 1st (Horse) Cavalry. During World War II he was in the Pacific notably with the 6th Ranger Battalion until 1945. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts among other

decorations.

Bert had many occupations — farmed, sailed on oil tankers, worked as construction foreman, and retired from H.U.D.

Bert's volunteer activities included serving as Volunteer Fire Fighter, a Greensboro Reserve Police and Guilford County Sheriff's Reserve Officer. He enjoyed archery, firearms, hunting, fishing, sailing and photography. He was a charter member of Guilford Bow Hunters, belonged to NC Bow Hunters Association, National Rifle Association, Greensboro Elks Lodge No. 602, Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and Guilford Amateur Society.

*Published in News Record on January 9, 2011*

### Carolyn Freeman Clapp

Our sympathy to Harold Clapp, KD4TPJ, in the loss of his

wife, Carolyn Freeman Clapp, on December 14th. Services were held December 17th. Harold's son Richard is K4RHC. Harold is the trustee of the local 224.960 repeater in Greensboro.

### CW Class

Here is the info for the CW class on Echolink:

CLASS SCHEDULE: Two weekly one hour sessions conducted on Sunday and Tuesday at 7 PM EST (0000 Z) starting Sunday January 30th, and completing on Tuesday February 22nd.

This will be on Echolink on the SCARS conference server.

See: <http://voip.southcars.com/main/node/58>

Forward any questions that you might have to me. Please feel free to pass on to anyone interested.

73, Jim, KJ4WKD

## Changes

**continued from page 1**

was the Winston-Salem FirstFest. The annual winter-time hamfest sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC) has been rescheduled. It is now scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 29, 2011, from 7am - 12 noon at Summit School Parking Lot/Dining Hall, 2100 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem.

There is certainly a good chance that more bad weather will visit the Triad this winter, and, as always, there will be SkyWarn weather spotters and other ARES members ready when activated. Thank you for your service.

Finally, on a political note: we will see if a new congress will

**January, 2011**

consider a bill that the old congress didn't have time for. ARRL reports that Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18) introduced The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, on January 5 and it has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ARRL states, "Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- HR 2160 -- in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- S 1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December

2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House. The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations."

Maybe a call to our senators and representatives is in order??

Have a great 2011 and may you enjoy your hobby and your club.





## From the President's Shack

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to a rewarding and fun year in GARA. With the winter weather keeping more of us inside, I hope you're enjoying the opportunity to get on the air and try new things. This is a good time of year to review your current installation and make a list of how to improve it. Perhaps cleaning up the rat's nest of wiring and cabling, finally getting around to labeling the various cables. Maybe making plans for that new antenna or tower installation, and listing the things needed and beginning acquisition of those things. It's also a good time to build a kit, as David, AJ4TF recently did with his Elecraft K2.

Ham Radio is like virtually every other hobby – what you get

out of it is directly proportional to what you put into it. Don't be afraid to stretch outside



Photo by Tom Forrest, N4GVK

**Chris Thompson, K4HC**  
**GARA President, 2011**

your comfort zone a little – try something new!

A reminder and a request – this is YOUR club – is there something you'd like to see the club doing? Bring it up! Is there a presentation at a club meeting you'd like to see? Let us know! Is there a project you need some help with? Ask someone! (or several someones). The club is a reflection of those who participate. I encourage you ALL to participate.

As always, have fun, and stay safe!

A thought lifted from K0BG's website ([www.k0bg.com](http://www.k0bg.com)) – *Set the example, don't be one.*

73,  
Chris, K4HC

## Web Searching Made Easy

Most of us use the web to find answers to our questions or information about topics we're interested in. Normally we just type in the word, phrase, or question in Google and hope for the best. However, we usually end up getting millions of hits that we have to wade through!

For example, try this, if you type in "ham radio" in Google, you'll get about 5.2 million hits! But you were looking for information on Ham Radio in NC only. So



type in "ham radio +nc". This will narrow the results to 1.8 million results. You now decide that you were only interested in ham radio in Guilford County: "ham radio +nc +Guilford". Now you get ~17k results. If you only want ham radio information in Greensboro, try "ham radio +nc +Guilford +Greensboro" This finally narrows

down your search to ~6.5k, with the GARA website being on top! (if you try these examples, don't type the quotes in Google!)

This session will focus on simple, but effective search techniques that will save you time and frustration. Gerald Donnelly, N4PAX, will demonstrate using his laptop connected to the web by means of a wireless Mi Fi router. He will provide illustrations and handouts.

## Engineering Update for January, 2011

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

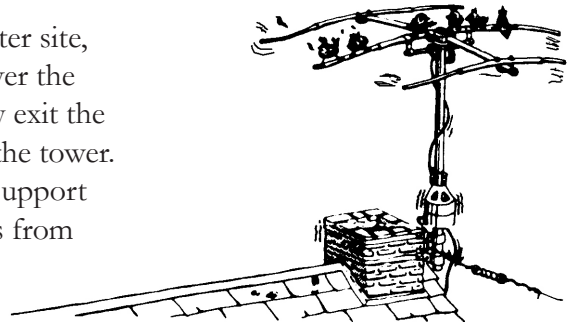
1. As you know our D-STAR gateway has had some difficulties recently. We got hit with a power outage that corrupted the disk. This was corrected by installing a better (read: functioning) UPS thanks to Jesse, N4BFD. I have the old one with the dead battery, and I was planning to pick up another battery at the next hamfest. Arch has created a backup script that backs up the entire gateway onto an 8GB USB flash drive. The gateway is now restored and operating. I have now subscribed to the Yahoo groups D-STAR-Admins and D-STAR Gateway, but I have never had any training or information on D-STAR gateway functions or administration. It helps that I am very familiar with Linux, and I know how to administer a Linux system.

2. Earlier this month, the tower owner performed some

maintenance at the repeater site, installing an ice bridge over the antenna feed lines as they exit the shelter and transition to the tower. This structure serves to support and protect the feed lines from chunks of ice falling from the tower...

previously they were just hanging in space. They were able to do this work without disconnecting the two feed lines that service our VHF and UHF antennas. The installation looks 100% better. You would think it is an actual professional antenna installation now.

3. We continue to have an ongoing occasional issue with receiver de-sensing on the VHF (145.15) machine... the receiver occasionally becomes hard of hearing. This condition is intermittent. Because the other antenna owners on the tower have also seen this condition on their systems (not in the amateur



bands) it is likely that there is some type of interference occurring. It has not seemed too bad for the last week or so.

We haven't yet switched to the backup radio. That will be the first thing we try if the de-sensing comes back and gets bad (and we can catch it while someone is actually at or near the site!)

Roy, the repeater trustee, has suggested, and I agree, that the next step in looking into this is to consider doing a set of measurements on the duplexer cavity, and both the receiver and transmitter, to make sure they are on frequency.

## Congratulations! You Passed!

Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to Glenda Nicholson, AG4NC, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

**January, 2011**

In January the testing session was cancelled due to inclement weather aka a whole bunch of snow, so no one was able to test for their license or upgrade.

Next month's testing session will be on February 12th at #3 Centerview Dr, Hickory Building, Greensboro, NC 27407 at 9:00am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Glenda Nicholson

at (336) 674-3810 or by email  
at ag4nc@bellsouth.net



## Township Radio Officer

By Betty Williams, KC2BFN

Sometimes I wonder why I brought up the subject of our former township's emergency communications. N2LGH informed me that the former township radio officer had just given up trying to get the township to incorporate amateur radio into their emergency communications vehicles. I contacted the head of RACES and asked what needed to be done. He told me exactly what I needed to do and it seemed as if I was now the person in charge. He told me who to contact in the township in reference to emergency management.

I got in touch with the police lieutenant who was in charge of the emergency response team. After a brief introduction, we opened a dialogue about amateur radio and emergency management and the benefits of allowing amateur radio equipment to be included on their emergency communications vehicle. The police lieutenant gave me permission to purchase a radio and an antenna. The former radio officer had managed to get a small 2 meter radio installed on the communications bus but it was so old I wasn't even sure it would work.

Besides getting a new radio for communications, I was also appointed with the task of

putting together a RACES team for the township. I joined with the County RACES officer who sent out hundreds of letters to township amateur radio operators. Only a handful of hams responded but it was enough to organize the township team. We started by inspecting the communications bus which was sitting in the side lot at the police station. It was a rehabbed school bus which was starting to rust and, at the time of our inspection in November, it was very cold inside the bus. There were several small antennas on the roof so we tried to boot up the Kenwood that was there. It had been so long since it had been used that it wasn't in workable order. I asked the lieutenant if we could remove it and try to get it in working order. Luckily there were several hams on the team that knew their Kenwood radios and within weeks it was in working order. We decided to use it for packet radio once the new one that the lieutenant would be ordering for us came in.

Unfortunately, a year into organizing the township RACES team, the lieutenant died of a sudden heart attack. A couple weeks later a new lieutenant was appointed head of the emergency response team. I had to start all over again...I called this new lieutenant, introduced



myself and finally got a meeting set with him. We talked about the communications vehicle that the township would be purchasing with confiscated drug money. Within six months this new vehicle was in service and our new radio—a Kenwood TMD700A-- the old Kenwood and the antenna—a 2 meter 440 beam--were installed on it. The vehicle held communications for the police, fire, ambulance dispatchers and now it held amateur radio equipment. The township team decided to get familiar with the vehicle so we scheduled several drills... one of which was to determine the range of the coverage for a township that had 65,000 people and had a lot of low spots. We managed to get coverage for the entire township on the repeater frequency and also on simplex.

We were called out on an emergency a few weeks later. Not a flood, not a hurricane, not a snow storm but a missing senior

see **Officer**, page 7

## Officer continued from page 6

citizen. Our team members were assigned to walk with the police officers, manning our radios and keeping the police airwaves clear for their communications while we kept in touch on the simplex frequency. After several hours the dogs lost the scent at a bus stop on one of the main highways. We were dismissed by the police officer in charge and, although we didn't find the senior, our RACES team demonstrated what we were capable of...assembling a team in under an hour and communicating with each other, relaying vital information to the police in charge.

I believe, after that incident, the emergency management team in the township looked at us a little differently. We were no longer those weird radio people.

We were actually called to sit in on their table top drills and all the briefings before snow storms and major summer storms.

Amateur radio will always be needed and sometimes even appreciated.

## The end of the Story

By Al Allred, K4ZKQ

The August, 2007, issue of *Feed Line*, on page 4 had a story entitled "DX Contact Spawns Urban Ministry." It built on a US aviator being shot down in the jungles of New Guinea. It ended with the following: "The account of Fred's parachuting into the jungle and his rescue by a U. S. submarine about six months later is an intriguing story for another time.

That aviator was Fred Hargesheimer, W0EBG, also VK9FH, later in New Guinea. The link below is to his obituary as carried by the *L4*

*Times*; it also appeared in the *New York Times*. It does not include the ham radio connection.

Probably, very few will remember the initial story - unlike Tom Forrest who recognized the name in the obituary as it appeared locally from the AP wire service.

Space does not permit the running the entire obituary here in the *Feed Line*, but as closure to the initial story here is the link: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/afterword/2010/12/fred-hargesheimer-world-war-ii-pilot-who-gave-back-to-rescuers-dies-at-94.html>

## Free Fest!

The GARA web site ( [www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org) ) has a new addition and a first of it's kind in the area for Hams.

It's a web page on the GARA site called a "Free-Fest" which is a place where Hams and non-Hams can list items to be given away. These items have to be "free" and no money is exchanged. This is a method of recycling your "old stuff" and magazines, etc, instead of

dumping them in the trash. Someone may need what you have. This is a free service of GARA and is open to all. You do not have to be a GARA member to list an item.

One exception, if the item you wish to give away has a transmitter, the

item should belong to a Ham and be received by a Ham.

This could include items that just aren't worth selling and collecting dust and taking up space in your shack.

Information and rules are located at the top of the page, located at [www.w4gso.org/freecycle.html](http://www.w4gso.org/freecycle.html) There is also a link in the middle of the home page. There is still a "For Sale" area on the GARA site for those wishing to sell equipment.

Send items to list to Tom Forrest, N4GVK, e-mail: [n4gvk@bellsouth.net](mailto:n4gvk@bellsouth.net)





# Area Happenings

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave, near Sam's Club. Please plan to gather at 6:30pm for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15pm

## CLUB NETS:

**SUNDAYS** – at 7:30pm, the **Technical Forum** on the 145.150;

- at 9pm, 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.

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

**TUESDAYS** – at 9pm, the **D-STAR Net** meets on 442.8625 (W4GSO B and Reflector 17C)

**WEDNESDAYS** – at 8:30pm, **The Guilford Amateur Society Rag Chew Net** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

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

## 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 7pm.

**THIRD MONDAY** – at 6:15pm **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at Tex & Shirley's Restaurant in Friendly Shopping Center. Eat at 6:15pm and the business meeting begins at 7pm.

**THURSDAY** – at 11:15am, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria, 300 Forum VI Mall at Friendly Shopping Center. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone.

**EVERY FRIDAY** – at 8pm (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks at Edney Ridge Rd.

## The W4VEC Testing Schedule Dec. 2010 to May 2011

**February 12, 2011**

**March 19, 2011**

**April 9, 2011**

**May 14, 2011**

**June 11, 2011**

**July 9, 2011**

**Location:** #3 Centerview Dr,  
Hickory Building,  
Greensboro, NC 27407

**Time:** 9:00am

**Contact:** Glenda Nicholson

**Phone:** (336) 674-3810

**E-mail:** ag4nc@bellsouth.net

## GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz. tone

442.8625 MHz. + offset, Digital D-Star



**Greensboro Amateur Radio Association**

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)

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