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**The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association**

# Feed Line

*Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad*



**Volume 17, No. 2**

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

**February, 2008**

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## Meet Our Members



John Standberg, AJ4BT, is our member for February. John was recently elected as vice-president of GARA.

John is from Greensboro, and became interested in Ham radio from his Dad, Charles, KB4AK.

"Some guys at work were Hams so I got my novice license in 1983 (KB4HKG). But I went back to school, and started raising a family, so I never did anything with it and let the license expire," John commented.

John said, "I had been hearing more about ham radio from my father and Mike Best WD4DUG who were going to the

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Travel Plans To Europe On Your Agenda? Take Note ...

## **European Reciprocal Licenses Now Limited to Advanced and Extra Class Licensees**

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license.

Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license. This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted.

US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions. These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland.

The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues. "Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager.

"While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home. (*The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 5 February 8, 2008*)

## **NEXT MEETING - February 25**

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Assoc. will be February 25, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave., near Sam's Club. Our guest speaker will be Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, of WFMY-TV, Ch 2, who will present a program "Will My TV Work Next Year?" and also discuss the new changes in the television industry, with the switch to HDTV in 2009.

# GARA Meeting Minutes



## Regular Meeting Minutes January 28, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held on January 28, 2008, at the Golden Corral restaurant beside Sam's Club near I40 and Wendover Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15. President Chris Thompson, K4HC, asked for everyone to identify themselves. Chris said that Bill Mauldin, WG4R, has some Rohn 25 tower sections for sale, the price is negotiable; contact Bill at 632-9801.

Also Dan McMillin, W4DGE, has offered to donate equipment for GARA to be given to any interested member for their personal use in exchange for a donation to the club treasury.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will have a Hamfest on April the 12th. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Feed Line. Chris outlined the procedure for approving the minutes for the new members.

There was no old business to discuss. New business – We are putting together a list of Elmers to help members with any ham radio related projects that they would need help with. Volunteers are welcome, please contact any board member if you would like to help.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasury report. Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, gave the engineering report for Bob Morris, W0EG, who is out of the country on business. We still need one more person for the engineering committee, please contact Bob if you can help.

John Strandberg, AJ4BT, vice president would like input on programs or activities. Roy held a drawing for 1 year free membership from all renewals that came in before 1/1/08. The winner was Jim Hightower, W4JLH.

Roy will pay \$5.00 toward the test fee to any member who has been a technician class operator for six years and upgrades to general by the March meeting. Contact Roy for details. Roy wants everyone to be able to experience the HF bands.

Chris promoted the GARA website. John, AJ4BT, spoke about upcoming programs about antennas and weather. John then introduced Dave Touvell, KN4ZO, who gave an excellent program on a Linux operating system version called Ubuntu. After the presentation Dave answered questions and passed out live CD disks for anyone who wanted to try this operating system.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM. Respectfully submitted, Greg Spencer KG4UQV, GARA Secretary

engineering chairman said it has not been done yet, as he was out of the country on business. Bob stated "It should be done by the next board meeting."

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, asked if the Skywarn codes were still active on the 145.15 repeater, as it is the second backup for Skywarn. Chris stated that the codes and status are still the same.

New business - Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report, stating that it is still too early in the year to get an accurate forecast, but we are looking good so far. Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasury report, stating that he has received some dues payment, and paid some bills. He said that we would have an insurance payment coming due soon. A discussion was held about making another contribution to Amateur Radio Newline in the sum of \$50.00. Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, made a motion to make the donation, Bob Morris, W0EG, seconded. The motion carried.

Bob Morris, W0EG, has sent a list of the engineering committee personnel to the city of Greensboro. Dave Touvell KN4ZO asked about building projects. Chris stated that he would be planning an antenna building session sometime in the spring. Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, will be giving a presentation at the next monthly meeting on the move to HDTV with a program titled, "Will my TV work next year?"

John Strandberg, AJ4BT, said that the Greensboro News and Record is running an ad for our club meetings and will print any other activities that the club is doing. Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, said that John Doggett, AJ4DV, ARES EC, would like to thank GARA for the donation to ARES for the website. Chris Thompson, K4HC, said that he will pass around a sign up sheet at the next monthly meeting for the ELMER program so anyone can sign up to give a helping hand to those that need it.

Chris thanked John for hosting the meeting. Clark made a motion to adjourn Dave seconded. The meeting closed at 8:00PM. Respectfully Submitted by, Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary

## The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Chris Thompson, K4HC  
Vice-President John Strandberg, AJ4BT  
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW  
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV  
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ

Engineering Chairman Bob Morris W0EG  
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU  
Member at Large Clark Doggett, KG4HOM  
Member at Large Dave Touvell, KN4ZO

Appointed Positions:  
News letter editor and Webmaster:  
Tom Forrest, N4GVK

"The Feed Line" is ©2008 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.

## Board Meeting Minutes February 12, 2008

The February meeting of the GARA Board of Directors was held on 2/11/2008 at the home of vice president John Strandberg, AJ4BT.

President Chris Thompson, K4HC, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Present at the meeting were Chris Thompson, K4HC; John Strandberg, AJ4BT; Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Bob Morris, W0EG; Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Clark Doggett, KG4HOM; Dave Touvell, KN4ZO and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Old Business – Status of equipment inventory, Bob Morris, W0EG, our

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Chris Thompson, K4HC  
GARA President

Well, it's time for the newsletter again, and Tom is pestering me to give him some notes from the president.

I've been occupied with the ongoing General class, which will end on February 28th. As of now, approximately 18 people have attended. Hopefully, we'll have a good influx of new Generals after our test session on the 28th.

At the club meeting on the 25th, I'll be handing around a form looking for volunteers for the Elmer list I discussed at the last meeting. Almost everyone has something they're good at – even if it's as simple as programming a particular radio. Please consider sharing your knowledge with others – it's a lot more fun if there are others to play with!

With the leaves down off the trees, many of you are doing antenna maintenance or putting up new antennas.

Please, keep safe while doing any antenna work. Take a few moments to think through the process, and use safe practices. Also, keep aware of your surroundings, and where things might fall if dropped. Be sure to know where the power lines are located, and never erect an antenna where it might fall on power lines, either during erection or if support lines fail.

I hope to see all of you at upcoming club meetings. We've got some good presentations in the works. 73, Chris, K4HC

**Upgrade Class** - Several local Hams are participating in upgrade classes held during February. About 18 Technical Class amateurs are in attendance. The class will run through February 28th with testing to follow.

(Photo by Chris, K4HC)



### Standberg from page 1 ...

Thursday lunches. This summer, I had a lot of free time at home because my wife, Mimi was traveling with 3 of our 4 kids who play competitive golf. I began to think it would be interesting to look back into Ham radio. So in July, I bought the ARRL study guides and took the tests. “

He received his license in August of 2007. His equipment is an Icom 735 and usually on 40 and 75 meters with a G5RV. For two-meters he uses an Icom W-32A dual bander.

John's profession is in electronics manufacturing of sensors and related instrumentation. He holds a BS in Business/Economics, BS in Physics, MBA, and NIMS certifications IS100,

200, 700, 800. He also serves as a local VE.

John's other hobbies include guitar, along following three of his four children in college and amateur golf. John's wife is Mimi.

“I would like to thank GARA and its members for being supportive and helpful to new hams,” John concluded.

### Sympathy

GARA would like to offer our thoughts and prayers to the family of Roger Carson, N4TGH, who passed away on Nov. 25, 2007. Roger was a past president of GARA serving in the early 90's.

### News & Info Net Controls

If you would like to help and be a net control for the 9 pm Sunday evening News & Info Net, you can find the script on the W4GSO web site at [www.w4gso.org/newsnettext.pdf](http://www.w4gso.org/newsnettext.pdf). Your help would be appreciated.

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP TO GARA  
FOR '08  
THERE ARE FUN EVENTS ON  
THE HORIZON FOR THE  
COMING YEAR!  
DON'T MISS OUT!  
TELL A FRIEND ABOUT GARA**

## You Can't Sell GPS Jammers

The FCC has issued an official citation to Garden State Investigations and Security of Jackson, New Jersey. This, alleging that the company marketed an unauthorized jammer of Global Positioning System or G-P-S signals.

On October 2, 2007, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau initiated an investigation into whether Garden State was marketing an unauthorized device listed as the "GPS Blocker."

This after Division personnel saw an advertisement for the GPS Blocker jammer device on Garden State's web site on September 25, 2007.

In Garden State's October 9, 2007 response, the company admitted that it had imported 15 GPS Blocker devices into the United States and began advertising this device on its web site in August 2007. It also admitted to the sale of eight of the GPS Blocker jammer devices to clients within the United States.

The company also said that on receipt of the FCC's October 2, 2007 letter of inquiry, that it ceased all advertisement of the GPS Blockers and that it destroyed its remaining inventory of seven devices.

But in its citation, the FCC says that the rules prohibit any person from manufacturing, importing, selling, offering for sale, or shipping devices that fail to comply with its regulations. Also that intentional radiators must be authorized in accordance with the Commission's certification procedures prior to the start of marketing in the U.S.

The FCC goes on to note that the jammer device that had been marketed by Garden State is not capable of receiving a grant of certification because the device is designed to block or interfere with radio communications.

The FCC says that such use is clearly prohibited by Section 333 of the Communications Act and cannot comply with the FCC's technical standards. (Via AR NewsLine)



## Get Well ...

GARA wishes a continued recovery to Carol Marks, wife of **Steve Marks, KE4FCW**. According to Steve, Carol is doing much better.

Get well wishes for **Darrin Peach, WD4DLP**, after having heart surgery. Darrin has been confined to Baptist Hospital for a number of months, but is reported to be going home soon.

## NC Club Expels Ham

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club news letter "Ham Chatter" of Greenville, NC, reports local amateur operator, Daniel Rouse, KI4WRS, was arrested in Wilson, NC, in January, 2008.

The nature of the charges were not listed, but the BARC membership voted unanimously at their January 8, 2008 meeting to expel Rouse from the club.

"The grounds for the expulsion were based on information received from various amateur radio sources indicating that Mr. Rouse was using his Amateur Radio license and his affiliation with BARC to gain the trust of other amateurs to commit fraud against them," the article said.

Further commenting, "While neither the BARC Board, nor its membership has taken a position on the legal basis of the claims of the sources, it is believed that the relationship between BARC and Mr. Rouse should be severed."

A check of the QRZ database does not list Rouse by the reported call sign. After a Google search of Rouse's name and call sign, the search found a number of interesting hits. One of interest is from QTH.COM (<http://tinyurl.com/2xvbx>) Also, the North Carolina Department of Corrections web site listed Rouse with numerous charges.

(Information used here from the "Ham Chatter")

## Upcoming Events

- **March 2-8:** Severe Weather Awareness Week
- **March 8-9:** Charlotte Hamfest - [www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org)
- **April 6:** Down East Hamfest, Kinston - [www.downeasthamfest.org](http://www.downeasthamfest.org)
- **April 12:** Raleigh Hamfest - [www.rars.org/hamfest](http://www.rars.org/hamfest)
- **April 12:** State ARES meeting, Raleigh
- **April 19:** Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton - [cvhamfest.com](http://cvhamfest.com)
- **May 10:** Rockingham County Hamfest, Reidsville - [www.rcarc.com](http://www.rcarc.com)
- **May 16-18:** Dayton Hamvention
- **May 24:** DurHAMfest, Durham - [www.dfma.org](http://www.dfma.org)
- **May 25-31:** Hurricane Preparedness Week
- **June 7:** Atlanta Hamfest
- **June 14:** Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest - [www.w4nc.org](http://www.w4nc.org)
- **June 28-29:** ARRL Field Day
- **July 12:** Salisbury Firecracker Hamfest

## Kosovo Press Release

A multi-national group of Amateur Radio operators is now in Kosovo in an effort to support and help revitalize Amateur Radio locally. The initial team members will begin activity today. Activity will be on all bands on CW and SSB. Look for YU8/G3TXF, YU8/N7NG, YU8/OH2BH, YU8/OH2PM, YU8/ON8NC and YU8/W3UR. More details will be released when available. QSL via the operator's home callsign.

## Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

Want to travel to the Dayton Hamvention and don't want to drive. If so, you're in for a treat. Travel by bus.

Contact Bill Lundy, NC4BL, at [nc4bl@surry.net](mailto:nc4bl@surry.net). He is coordinating a bus trip once again this year. The total cost of the trip is \$250 which covers lodging for 3 nights at the University of Dayton(double occupancy) and the bus. You are responsible for your Hamvention ticket. A \$75 deposit is required by March 1, with the balance due by April 15. Bill's other contact information is phone: 336-320-2135; Fax, 336-320-2136; and mail address is: 151 Brady Johnson Lane, Mt. Airy, NC 27030.

## Wireless Failures Shows Failcy Of Ham Radio EMCOMMS Going To The WWW

There are good reasons why hams should not to become dependent on the Internet to carry emergency communications. This as the commercial wireless infrastructure that connects to the Internet proves twice in less than a month that its prone to difficulty.

The first event took place on January 31st. It involved AT&T service for customers with Web-enabled wireless devices across the Midwest and Southeast which had no service most of that day. According to news reports, customers could make voice calls but experienced trouble getting e-mail or connecting to the Internet with their smart phones, P-D-A's or laptop computers. An AT&T spokesman said that the outage on the nation's largest telecommunications company's 3G and Edge networks began about 5:30 a.m. Central Standard Time and was repaired by mid afternoon.

And, on Monday February 11th Blackberry wireless device users suffered

about a 6 hour outage. This as Research in Motion, the company that owns the rights to the Blackberry system, suffers its second service loss in less than a year.

The glitch that began about 3:30 Eastern Standard Time shut off e-mail and Internet access to more than 8 million subscribers on all wireless carriers in North America for three hours. In a statement issues on Tuesday, February 12th, the Research in Motion says that it is continuing to investigate the exact cause of the service outage and it will provide additional information as soon as it is able to verify the events that prompted the service loss.

No reason by either company for either outage taking place was given. Unlike the wired infrastructure of the Internet, the current structure of ham radio emergency communications is decentralized and not wireline or commercial wireless dependant. As seen countless time in the past, this independence from a centralized

structure and the ability to use low current battery operated gear means that hams can continue to function as emergency communicators. This, even if a widespread disaster takes all of an area's electrical power, telephones, cellphones, wireless devices and all access to the World Wide Web. (Published reports via AR NewsLine 2/15)

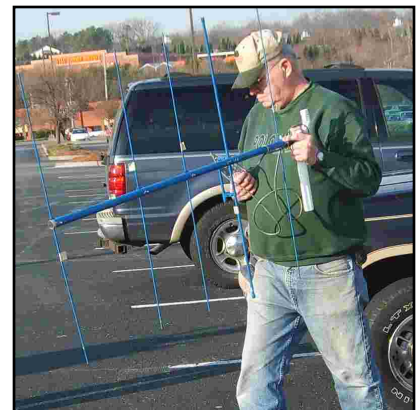


Photo by Bill, W4G4R

## "Fox Hunt" Fun... ARES members sharpen their direction finding skills



Mike Kane, N4MJK, left, and John Standberg, AJ4BT, search for the signal. Right photo is Tom Hatley, KF4JZD and the bottom photo is John, AJ4BT and wife Mimi, get the win. John, AJ4DV, Guilford County ARES Coordinator is on the right.



Saturday morning February 16, started out cool and brisk as three teams of ARES "Fox Hunters" gathered in the Big Lots parking lot off Battleground Ave. The "Fox" was out there somewhere hidden away and it was up to these guys to find it.

Participating were Mike Kane, N4MJK; Tom Hatley, KF4JZD and John Standberg, AJ4BT (and XYL Mimi). Dave Collins, KE4IAF, once again, was the hidden transmitter. In about an hour, John, AJ4BT, located the transmitter at the Summerfield Recreation Center. Close behind were Mike and Tom.

Photos by Roy Smith and John Doggett

# Area Activities

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30 PM, 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 6:30 PM for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 PM

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## 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, K4HC is the net control station. (Not operational present time)

**WEDNESDAYS** – The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

## 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 6:30 PM The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Greensboro Police Western Sub Station at 300 Swing Rd in the community room. Refreshments at 6:30 PM and the business meeting begins 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.

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY** – at 11:15 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria off Big Tree Way and a Friday lunch bunch 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 Guilford College (summer location till Daylight Savings time changes)

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Greensboro Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 7054  
Greensboro, NC 27417



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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 7054  
Greensboro, NC 27417  
www.w4gso.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - RENEWAL / NEW - 2008

**\$24 per year**

(\$2 per month)

Please fill out the following information and mail the address above or hand deliver to the GARA treasurer. Your membership is appreciated!

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal? Yes ( ) No ( )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

News Letter requested by: Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(For all new members, there will be a \$10 extra charge per year to receive the newsletter by US Mail.)

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

(please advise if this is unlisted and it will not be published on the club roster)

Note: Family memberships are available for persons living under the same roof or if a family member is a school student living away from home - no extra charge.

Is this a family membership? Yes ( ) No ( )

If ,Yes, family member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

**A new year is starting & there are great things on the horizon for GARA!**  
**Please renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Already renewed?**  
**Pass this sheet along to someone else who might be interested if you don't need it.**

# ***Become Radio Active!*** ***Join GARA for 2008*** ***Progressive & Active Ham Radio*** ***for The Triad***

**We are a diverse group of Amateur  
Radio operators providing public  
service for the Triad area.**



**If you want to be part of an organization that "Gets It Done,"  
join GARA. We are planning a great year for  
Amateur Radio in the Triad area.**

If you are a renewing member, we appreciate your continued support!

- Get in on the fun! Come visit a meeting. If you decide to join, membership is only \$24 per year. Our yearly membership period begins January 1. Your membership supports two top-notch repeaters, a first-class area monthly news letter, and a frequently updated web site.
- Radio broken? As a GARA member, you have access to a loaner radio free of charge whenever yours needs to go to the shop!



By joining, you help support two repeaters 145.150 and 442.875. GARA is also the support repeaters for Guilford County ARES and one of the back-up repeaters for Triad SkyWarn.



**Visit us on the web at: [www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)**  
**If you have any questions, please e-mail**  
**us at [info@w4gso.org](mailto:info@w4gso.org)**

145.150 left, 100 Hz. tone  
442.875 right, 88.5 Hz. tone

**Greensboro Amateur Radio Assoc. • P.O. Box 7054 • Greensboro, NC 27417**