



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

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2010 Charlotte Hamfest (in Concord)

by Will Ravenel, AI4VE

Greensboro and GARA were well represented in Concord on the opening day of the 2010 Charlotte Hamfest. One of the things I enjoy the most about going to a Hamfest is the chance

to see and talk to Hams I haven't seen in a while and to meet new Hams. I drove down with my son, Aubrey Ravenel - KJ4ODR, Scott Suter - KJ4OXE, and Andrew Chambers - KJ4RZV. Accompanying us in another car



were Jesse Lindley - N4BFD, Dave Lindley -

W4TR, and John Strandberg - AJ4BT. We ran into Ken Butler - KJ4SPC at our Biscuitville breakfast stop. He was looking for

a dual band HT to replace his older brick with no tones. He's been listening on the repeaters but hasn't been able to join in. Ken passed his General license exam at the hamfest and picked up an HT so listen out for him.

The Cabarrus Arena and Events Center is a perfect location for a Hamfest of this size.

There was plenty of free parking and room for new equipment vendors as well as an indoor flea market. Inside we ran

into Foy Flowers - W4FOY, Craig Bondy - N8STA, Carl Fenske - KC4WGA, and Brian Wilson - KJ4LKY, who was there with his son, Brian Michael and his daughter, Sarah. [Editor's note: Curt Youngblood, WB4LMH, was also there

NEXT MEETING Monday, March 22

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, March 22nd, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club.

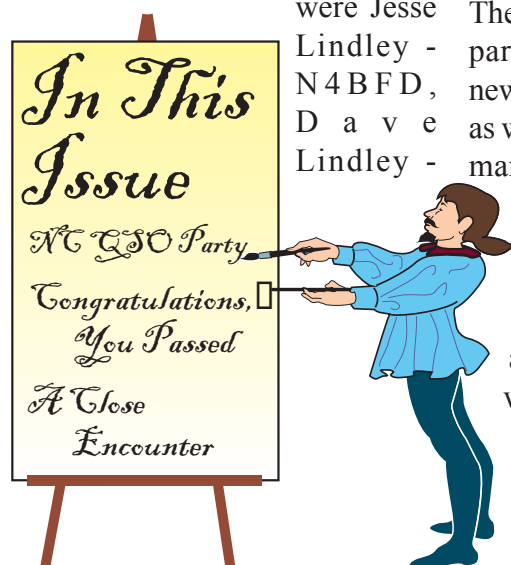
but had to leave early for his 82nd birthday celebration! Three of Carl Fenske's new students were planning to take their Technician exam that afternoon. I understand that two passed so keep your ears open for Lindsey Cooke, KJ4SZU and John Ball, KJ4SZP, on the repeaters.

I enjoyed talking with Scott Robbins, W4PA, who left his Marketing Manager position at Ten-Tec in December to buy the Vibroplex Company. Scott



moved the company from its former location in Mobile, AL and re-opened at its new location in Knoxville, TN in January. According to their

see Hamfest, page 6



GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes February 22, 2009

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010, at the Golden Corral restaurant near Wendover Ave and I-40.

Will Ravenel, AI4VE, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm and then asked everyone to identify him or herself. There were 21 members and 6 visitors present.

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted as published in the *Feed Line*.

Reports from officers:

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasury report stating that all major bills are paid, and we are in good shape.

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report. He stated that income is a little behind last year,

as we have not had some renew their membership yet.

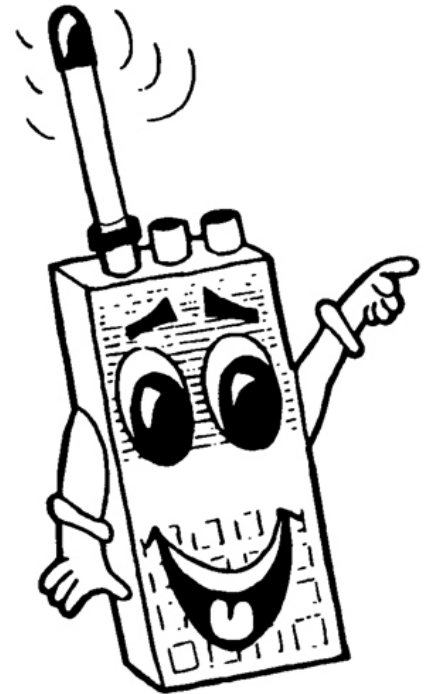
Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that we are asking the D-STAR users to pay an additional \$25.00 per year to help with the cost of Internet access for the D-STAR repeater. Roy emphasized that this is not a requirement to use the repeater.

New Business:

Chris Thompson, K4HC, said that there will be a D-STAR users forum on March 6th from 2-4pm, at the EM Training center located at 1002 Meadowood Road. All current and prospective D-STAR users are invited to attend.

The D-STAR controller will be getting another software update this weekend to add more features.

The NC QSO party will be this coming weekend, and Will, AI4VE, will be at the Natural Science Center of Greensboro running the ham station. More volunteers are needed to help staff the exhibit. Will said that the Icom radio at the Science center has a problem with the encoder on the tuning knob. Will discussed an article he read about the problem and said we could probably repair it ourselves as it would be a good gesture to the Natural Science Center for GARA to repair it. Will made a motion to have the board investigate the cost of getting the radio repaired before we attempt



it. The motion carried.

Will said that there are some activities coming up and some proposed activities for later in the year. We will have a copper pipe J-Pole antenna building session sometime soon. We are looking at the possibility of reviving the Mt Mitchell trip in the fall. There is also a proposed trip to the Green Bank Radio Observatory possibly coming up, so stay tuned for details.

A guest speaker presented the program from the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department.

The meeting ended at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Will Ravenell, AI4VE
Vice-President Roy Smith, N4BYU
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ
Engineering Chairman Jesse Lindley, N4BFD
Operations Bob Mays, KE4MOW
Member-at-Large Rob Erikson, KG4OPX
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.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes February, 2009

The GARA board of directors held its monthly meeting at the Benjamin Branch of the Greensboro Public Library.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Will Ravenel, AI4VE, Roy Smith, N4BYU, Al Allred, K4ZKQ, Ernie Wall, NC4EW, Betty Williams, KC2BFN, Bob Mays, KE4MOW and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV were present.

A list of members that are permitted access to the city property where the repeater is located has been updated and sent to the city. We discussed who should hold keys to the property and the need for having two people there at any time repairs are being made.

Will received a copy of the repeater site information published in the Feed Line in 2006 which covered site access and other details about the repeater site. Will is going to update the document and send a copy to all board members.

We discussed the Radio class at UNC-G. They would like someone to come and talk to the class about amateur radio.

We discussed a request from a student at NC A&T University about starting an amateur radio club there.

Will received a letter from Joel Slazyk, AA2PP, who is looking for some WWII era radio

gear to be used as a prop in a play about the south pacific.

There will be a technician training class coming up April 24th and May 1st.

Jim Waynick, N4JLW, has purchased the remaining license manuals left over from last year.

Ernie said that 39 members have not renewed their memberships thus far. We discussed a reminder letter or e-mail.

Bob has done some research on a trip to the Green Bank Radio Observatory, and we will bring this

up at the next club meeting.

Betty has been putting together an e-mail list of area hams.

We discussed whether to we need to hold a physical board meeting each month or just e-mail each other with topics and responses, after some discussion it was decided to keep holding a physical meeting each month and send e-mails if something comes up between meetings.

The meeting ended at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

Silent Key, Carney Allgood, WA4SQB



It is with deep regret and sorrow that I advise you of the passing of Carney Allgood, WA4SQB, an old friend to many and a well-known old Greensboro Radio Club member of many years. Carney passed on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at his home.

The Greensboro News & Record obituary said, "Born in Forsyth County to the late John and Bessie Allgood Sr., Carney

was a member of Friendly Avenue Baptist Church. He retired from AT&T, previously known as Western Electric. He loved RV travel and was a member of the WBCCI. He and his wife visited every state in the U.S., along with visiting all of the Canadian provinces and the two territories. Carney was an avid NASCAR fan and was a veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Navy."

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family and friends of Carney Allgood. Thanks to Herbert Dixon, WA4MFG, for letting us know of Carney's passing.

From the President's Shack

by Will Ravenel, AI4VE
GARA President

OK, I think we made it. Spring is here (or at least will be within a week). I'm finally getting my house painted and can take this long overdue task off the list. Winter shut me down last fall and paying college bills over the past few years pushed paint to the back burner. The down side of this is that I'm off the air as far as HF goes for a few days since the feed lines have been disconnected and the window feed-through removed for painting.

The NC QSO party at the Science Center was fun and so was the Charlotte Hamfest (see articles in this issue). This was a rare hamfest where I didn't actually buy much of anything, although I had fun helping others spend their hard earned cash. There seems to be an increase in interest in CW operation within the club and a preliminary slow code practice net was held last night on ten meters. Andrew - KJ4RZV, John - AJ4BT, and I met at 28.300 and spent about 45 minutes sending (and sometimes copying) code. I found out later that Jesse - N4BFD was listening also. I hope that this will become a regular event after my

feed lines are reconnected. This is a friendly, low pressure way to improve your CW skills so if you're interested send an email to me at ai4ve@arrl.net and I'll be sure to let you know when and where we'll resume.

We've received exciting word that a new Amateur Radio Club is forming at NC A&T University under the leadership of Jonathan Matson, KJ4AEL, who is a student there. Jonathan has also

expressed interest in joining GARA, and I hope he'll be at the next meeting. Let's all give

Jonathan a warm welcome and offer any assistance we can to help him get the club off to a good start.



Finally, I'd like to remind you that the Natural Science Center is operational and open to any licensed Amateur who would like to use it. Just inform the front desk attendant that you are an Amateur Radio Operator and request a key to the shack. The Science Center staff is interested in more use of this facility. They only ask that you open the sliding window while there and answer any questions asked by visitors about Amateur Radio. This is a great way for those without operational HF stations to get on the air and have some fun while giving back to the community.

Will, AI4VE

Congratulations, You Passed!!

As many of you know Mr. Carl Fenske, a fifth grade teacher at Greensboro Day School heads up the Ham Club at the same, N4GDS. Many children have come through that club and have tested and received their license through the years, and this year is no different.

Saturday at the Charlotte

Hamfest, two of his students tested and passed their Technician Exam.

Congratulations to **John Ball**, KJ4SZP, and **Lindsey Cooke**, KJ4SZU. Great job on passing the test. We hope to hear you guys on the repeaters soon.

To the other students that are preparing: Work hard and soon you will see your name in this section as well! Study Hard!

News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

A Close Encounter for AMSAT-OSCAR 51

From ARRL

While many in North America were fast asleep Monday morning, March 1, the AMSAT-OSCAR 51 satellite had a potentially dangerous encounter with another spacecraft known as Formosat 3D. OSCAR 51 is a popular Amateur Radio satellite that often functions as a crossband FM repeater, relaying brief conversations over hundreds of miles. Formosat 3D is part

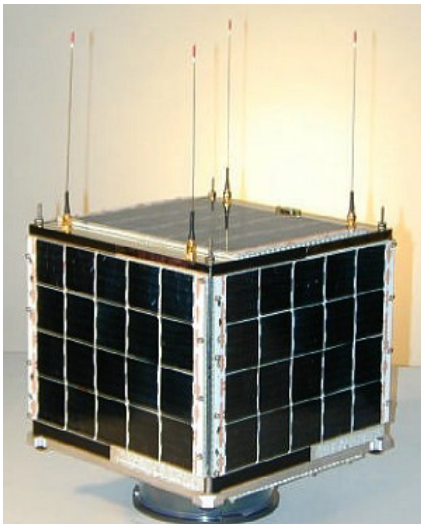
of a constellation of six remote sensing microsatellites that collect atmospheric data for weather prediction and for ionosphere, climate and gravity research. Both orbit at an altitude of approximately 500 miles.

On Sunday evening, AMSAT-NA Vice President of Operations, Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, received an e-mail alert from the US Joint Space Operations Center, warning of the close approach between Formosat 3D and OSCAR 51 that would take place the following morning. "There is really nothing we can do other than watch and try to collect telemetry," Glasbrenner said. "Of course, any contact would mean instant death for OSCAR 51. It's all predictive until they smack together, but the estimate was that they would come within 2900 feet overall, but only 130 feet radially. I'm visualizing that scenario as one car merging on a highway at 17,500 MPH

with another car 2900 feet in front and 130 feet to the left or right. Scale the 17,500 MPH to 70 MPH and

the distances in the analogy would be 12 feet in front and 6 inches abreast, just to put the velocity and distances in perspective!"

Glasbrenner was awake early Monday morning to monitor OSCAR 51's telemetry as the close approach unfolded. At 1056 UTC, he determined that the satellite was still alive, having survived the encounter without a scratch. "We were all relieved that OSCAR 51 was fine," Glasbrenner said, "but it reinforces how tenuous our satellite presence is, and the fact that we should be constantly working and fundraising to build and launch new satellites."



ARRL Seeks Input

The International Amateur Radio Region 2 conference -- held later this year in El Salvador -- brings together delegations from the national Amateur Radio Societies in

the Western Hemisphere. One of the topics on the agenda will be the Region 2 HF band plan. This band plan is "harmonized with" -- spectrum management-speak for "very similar to" -- the IARU Region 1 and Region 3 band plans. At this year's conference, the IARU Member-Societies will consider possible changes to the Region 2 band plan. The ARRL

is cooperating with this procedure by inviting input to be sent to the ARRL Board of Directors' Band Planning Committee. The committee will review the existing Region 2 band plan, consider input from the amateur community and make recommendations to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2.



Hamfest

(continued from page 3)

website, Vibroplex is the oldest continuously operating business in the Amateur Radio industry, having been in business since Horace Martin invented the “bug” semi-automatic Morse key in 1904. It’s nice to know that the classic Vibroplex keys and paddles will continue to be produced under Ham ownership.

Jesse, Andrew, and John were all interested in finding a deal on a paddle to use for improving their CW skills. Jesse and Andrew left with used Bencher BY-1 paddles. John, who is currently using a borrowed BY-1 decided to keep looking. He was impressed with the Vibroplex Square Racer and we might see one of those in his shack in the future. We’re talking about starting a slow code practice

net on 10m. Keep checking the <http://w4gso.org> Schedule of Events page for more information if interested.

I also talked with Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, who had a booth to sell his Amateur Radio Video News (ARVN) DVDs. Gary is active in D-STAR and among his other ARRL activities has authored D-STAR articles and reviews for QST magazine. I bought two new DVDs, the Dayton Collection Volumes 1 and 2. These have a tour of the 2009 Dayton Hamvention, coverage of the 2008 and 2009 FCC forum, the 2009 ARRL forum, the 2009 TAPR forum, and 2009 Software Defined Radio forum. These DVDs might be some material



for a future GARA club meeting program.

Amateur radio equipment manufacturers present included ICOM, Yaesu, Ten-Tec, Hy-Gain, and MFJ. Dealers included Ham Radio Outlet (HRO), Quicksilver, dBj Electronics (located in Jamestown), The Ham Station, The Wireman, and VIS radio (dealer for Vibroplex and others). No major purchases among our group, but everyone bought something they needed and a fine time was had by all.

NC QSO Party at the Natural Science Center

by Will Ravenel, AI4VE

GARA members activated the Greensboro Natural Science Center station for the North Carolina QSO Party on Sunday, February 28, 2010. The contest is sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Society (FARC) and ran for ten hours from 1200 to 2200 EST. This event provides a chance for



Hams outside the state to collect NC counties and for NC Hams to collect NC counties and states. It’s also a fun, low-pressure event that is the perfect opportunity to give new Technician class Hams a chance to work HF.

The Natural Science Center’s Sunday hours of 1:00 to 5:00 pm meant that we could participate for about half the contest. In addition

to myself, the other participants included John Strandberg, AJ4BT, Scott Suter, KJ4OXE, Andrew Chambers, AJ4RZV, Ken Butler - KJ4SPC, Mike Walker, KE4MOY, and his friend Casey.

In spite of pretty poor propagation that day the group managed to log a total of 50 stations from 10 states and 17 NC counties on 80, 40, and 20 meters. Our total score with multipliers and bonus points was 2750. This will be the target to beat when we do it again next year.



NC4BL Dayton Hamvention by Bus

May 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th, 2010

The bus will leave from Burlington, NC (Exit 141) on May 13th at 7 AM with the following pick up locations and times:

<u>Greensboro</u>	<u>Four Season's Mall</u>	<u>7:20 AM</u>
<u>Kernersville</u>	<u>Behind Hardee's</u>	<u>7:50 AM</u>
<u>Winston-Salem</u>	<u>Lowe's Parking Lot</u>	<u>8:15 AM</u>
<u>Mt. Airy</u>	<u>I-74 /Exit 8</u>	<u>9:00 AM</u>
<u>Hillsville, VA</u>	<u>I-77/Exit 14(Citgo Station)</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>Wytheville, VA-</u>	<u>I-81/Exit 80 (McDonald's)</u>	<u>10:00 AM</u>
<u>Bluefield, VA</u>	<u>I-77 TBA</u>	<u>10:35 AM</u>



The cost will be \$250 per person (which covers lodging for 3 nights at the University of Dayton (double occupancy) and the coach). It is advisable to order your Hamvention ticket (good for all three days) in advance for \$20 as they will cost \$25 at the door. Their address is: Hamvention Advanced Tickets, PO Box 1446, Dayton, OH, 45401.

A \$75 deposit is required with the balance due by April 15th.

(Note: I will take the first 50 people to make a firm commitment – either by sending in their deposit or contacting me personally)

Complete the form below—clip and send along with your deposit to:

Bill Lundy, NC4BL
151 Brady Johnson Lane.
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

or email: nc4bl@surry.net
Phone: (336)320-2135
Fax: (336)320-2136

Name _____ Call _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is deposit of \$ _____ (\$75 required by March 15th, 2010) Balance of _____ (required by April 15th, 2010)

Note: I would like to room with:

Call _____

Area Happenings

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

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.

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

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.

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

THURSDAY – at 11:15 AM, 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 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee.

GARA REPEATERS

145.150 Mhz - minus offset
100 Hz. Tone
442.8625 Mhz. + offset
Digital D-Star

The W4VEC Testing Schedule April to Oct. 2010

April 10, 2010

May 8, 2010

June 12, 2010

July 10, 2010

August 14, 2010

September 11, 2010

October 9, 2010

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

Time: 9:00am

Contact: Glenda Nicholson

Phone: (336) 674-3810

E-mail: ag4nc@bellsouth.net



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