



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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## A Report on GARA Events

### GARA Amateur Radio Open House

Photo courtesy of Tom Forrest, N4GVK

GARA has tentative approval to hold another Amateur Radio Open House at the Greensboro Science Center on Saturday, April 20th. In addition to operating the K4NSC station, we will have exhibit demo tables set up for things like QRP station, D-Star/UHF/VHF, kit building and Raspberry Pi. We will be looking for other exhibit/demo ideas and volunteers. - John, W4DX

### GARA Picnic

GARA is planning its annual picnic on Memorial Day weekend, May 25th. The cost will be \$7.00 per adult (12 and over). Children 11 and under will be free. So that we can get an idea of how much food to buy, we would like members to confirm with Roy as soon as possible.

### N4G Special Event Station

By all accounts the 2nd Annual N4G Special Event Station was a tremendous success.

Even with poor weather on Saturday night, everyone had a good time. David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, reports that more contacts were made this year than in 2012. A big "Thank You" to David and everyone else who helps make N4G successful. For more information and pictures look on page 4.



## This Month's Program

Our February Meeting will be held on Monday, February 25th at 7:00 pm in Captain Bills Seafood & Steakhouse located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. The presentation will be ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW). The presenter will be Tom Bertolino, KB1P. Tom will explain what Logbook of the World (LoTW) is and is not, who can use it, and how to install it on your computer. Tom plans to facilitate discussion among the members who currently use Logbook of the World (LoTW) and members who are thinking about using Logbook of the World (LoTW) If you are thinking about using Logbook of the World (LoTW), This is a chance to ask your questions to other hams who use it, so you can make an educated decision if Logbook of the World (LoTW) is for you.

Also a reminder February was the start of our Join /Renew ARRL membership through GARA campaign. If you chose to join/renew your ARRL membership through GARA, you can do it at this meeting Craig Bondy, N8STA, GARA's treasurer will have the forms with him. See you at the meeting.

### NEXT MEETING

#### Monday, March 25

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, March 25th, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. This program for this month's meeting will be about ARRL's Logbook of the World. Tom Bertolino, KB1P. Tom will explain what Logbook of the World (LoTW) is and is not, who can use it, and how to install it on your computer.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes February 25, 2012

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting on February 25th, 2012, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. GARA president, Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK, called the meeting to order at 19:20.

Donna reminded everyone to respect others and keep things family rated.

#### Officer reports

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, said that he is suspicious of the receiver on the VHF repeater after the lightning strike that we had at the tower site recently. David said the repeater seems to have lost some of its sensitivity so he will swap to the backup repeater as soon as he can get over to the site.

David said that he now has an engineering committee with Craig Bondy, N8STA; Layman Idol, KK4LLY; and Ken Worland, KK4GSM, volunteering to assist him.

David also spoke about the N4G special event station coming up on March 16 & 17. Setup will be on March 15th at 1300. David said that he has all equipment lined up and just needs people to work. David spoke about last year's event.

Donna asked everyone to identify themselves.

Donna spoke about the ARISS contact coming up in April. RF micro devices will donate a ham station to McNair Elementary School where the ARISS contact will be made.

Craig Bondy, N8STA, gave the treasury report and stated that we have 86 paid

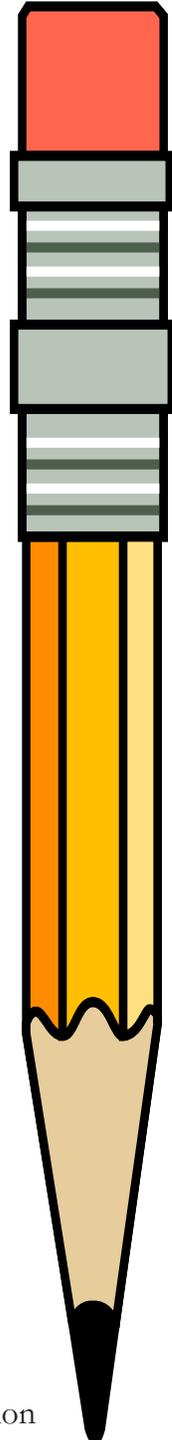
members so far. Craig also spoke about the ARRL sign-up and renewal program that we are offering through GARA.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that Gaither Fry, W4GCF, will be teaching a Technician License Class on April 6th at Fire Station 13 from 0800 to 1500.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, spoke about the proposed changes to the GARA by laws and explained the reasons for the changes. Bob Mays, KE4MOW, made a motion to approve the changes, David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, gave the presentation on coaxial cable.

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



#### The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK  
Vice-President Thomas Bertonlino, KB1P  
Treasurer Craig Bondy, N8STA  
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV  
Financial Todd Smith, AK4TS  
Engineering Chair David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF  
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU  
Member-at-Large Gaither Frye, W4GCF  
Member-at-Large Chan White, KJ4ADX  
*Appointed Position:*  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor  
Brian Wilson, NX4U

The Feed Line is ©2012 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 March 11, 2012

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on March 11th, 2013, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse. The members present were: Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK; Craig Bondy, N8STA; David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Chan White, KJ4ADX; Tom Bertolino, KB1P; Todd Smith, AK4TS; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Donna called the meeting to order at 19:00. The board discussed the Technician Class that Gaither Fry, W4GCF, will be teaching and the license testing.

### Officer reports

Roy said that he will check on the shelter availability for the club picnic.

Craig gave the treasury report and said that we are up to 74 paid members at this time. Craig also said that dues are coming in faster than last year.

Tom and Craig will get together and file the application for non-profit status.

David said that he has not yet had time to get to the repeater site and swap the repeaters. David said that he will continue looking at alternative internet suppliers.

David also said that the preparations for the N4G special event station are coming along well. Setup will be on Friday, March 15th at 13:00.

Todd will talk with Fred Lomax. KK4BAW concerning fund-raising ideas. Tom said that after we get 501c status we can sell advertising in *The Feed Line* and do other fund-raising easier. Todd said that he would still like to see a reduction in phone charges. We discussed some other internet provider possibilities.

We discussed the club picnic coming up this summer.

The Ham Radio Expo will be held at the Greensboro Science Center after April 20th. The exact date will be announced at a later time. We also discussed the status of the K4NSC station at the Science Center.

We discussed programs for the next few months with the March program on Logbook of the World presented by Tom.

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

## List Public Service Events Here

*By Tom Bertolino, KB1P*

As the weather gets better we are approaching the beginning of a new Public Service Event season. In an effort to support area public service events and assist ham coordinators with their recruitment efforts *The Feed Line* will publish a list of Public Service Events held in the Triad area. The event will appear in *The Feed Line* until the event's date has pasted. It will contain the event name, date, where the event will take place, and the ham coordinator's contact information. If you want to list your event in *The Feed Line* please contact Tom Bertolino at kb1p@arrl.net with the following information: name of event, date of event, where the event take place, and your contact information and any special radio equipment required or if you know of an upcoming event please send me the ham coordinator's contact information.

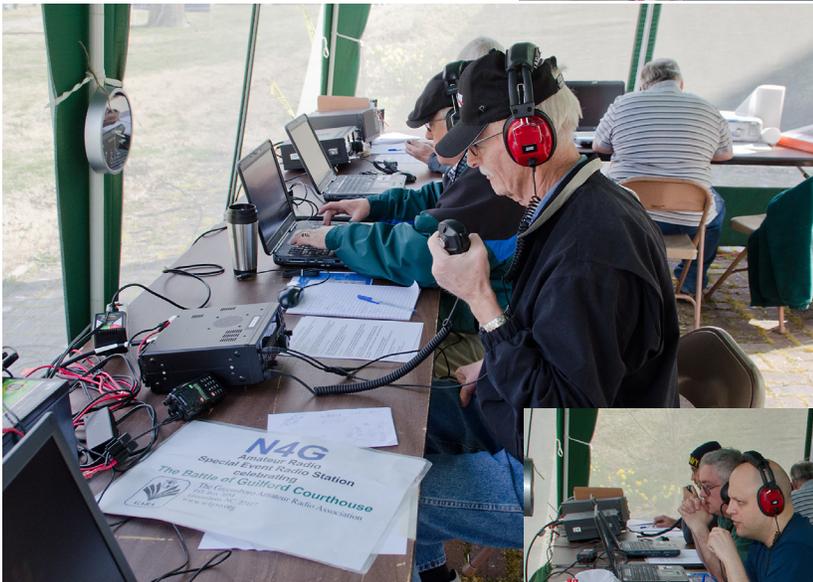
## Special Event Station - N4G

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

Everything went well, even though we had to stop Saturday night for a couple of hours due to weather (hmmm... just like last year!) By everyone's accounts, it was really a "special" event.



All photos courtesy of Tom Forrest, N4GVK



Many GARA members participate each year in the N4G Special Event Station. It is a great opportunity to promote Greensboro and make contacts around the country and around the world.



### Unofficial QSO count:

20 meters: 208

80/40/17/15/10 meters: 145

2/0.7 meters: 61

QRP station: 26

Off-site Digital: 1

Total: 441. Compared to last year, that is almost 40% more contacts.

**March, 2013**

## Info from Around NC

From North Carolina Section News by Bill N2COP

**NORTH CAROLINA'S YOUNGEST HAM** is 5 year old Ethan Kemp, KK4ORG, of Fairview. Ethan passed the Technician exam at WCARS's February 21st test session in Asheville. Ethan is the son of proud parents Kevin, KK4LMP, and Mitzi, KK4OJD, Kemp. Preliminary research suggests Ethan might currently be the nation's youngest Amateur Radio operator.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE** – For those deserving young Hams who missed the February 1st deadline for ARRL scholarships, there is still time to apply for scholarships from F.A.R., the Foundation for Amateur Radio. Many high school senior and present college students may qualify for scholarships to help with their higher learning expenses, including graduate studies. Make a note for ARRL's next application period of October 1 – February 1 for a deserving young operator. Meanwhile, the deadline for F.A.R. scholarships is April 15th. More information at: <http://www.farweb.org/2013-scholarship-application>



**COMMENTS WELCOMED** – One of the things ARRL does on behalf of Amateur Radio is to advocate with federal and international regulators. The Western Hemisphere falls under Region 2 of the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union), the international body which coordinates Amateur Radio frequencies and use. ARRL is seeking comments on proposed IARU revisions which would bring 40 meter CW and digital modes in Region 2 into alignment with Region 1 (Europe, Africa, Middle East and Northern Asia) and Region 3 (China, SE Asia and Australia/New Zealand). IARU bandplan recommendations are just that – recommendations – and are not codified by the FCC, however once adopted are generally observed. In IARU Region 2, narrow band modes are permitted 7.0-7.125 MHz. The IARU proposal would be to cut narrow mode use from 7.0 to 7.04 MHz in Region 2. You can learn more about this at <http://www.arrl.org/news/iaru-region-2-seeks-input-on-hf-band-plan> If you'd like to make comments, ARRL needs your comments soon so go to the hyperlink above to learn how to file them.



**HAMFESTS** – Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9, Charlotte Hamfest, Cabarrus Arena & Event Center 4751 Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025. Talk-In: 146.655 (minus) No Tone. More

information at: [www.charlottehamfest.org](http://www.charlottehamfest.org) Saturday, March 30, RARSfest (North Carolina State Convention), Jim Graham Building, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. Talk-In: 146.64 (minus) No Tone. Details at: <http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

## 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 Roy Smith, N4BYU, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

In March, we had three (3) individuals who passed their test(s) and earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on March 16th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, 27407, at 9:00am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Roy Smith at (336) 312-0647 or by email at [n4byu@arrl.net](mailto:n4byu@arrl.net)

If you cannot make it to this test session, W4VEC holds a second test every month in this area. Test sessions are held the last Saturday of month at the Red Cross High Point Chapter, 815 Phillips Ave., High Point, NC 277262. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact information is Bob Williams, KB4TWG, email [bobwilliams@northstate.net](mailto:bobwilliams@northstate.net), phone (cell), 336-812-5500.

All Photos Courtesy of Roy Smith, N4BYU



*Robert Reinbold, Jr., KK4POQ  
Passed Tech and General*



*Nathan Chambers, kK4POO  
Passed Tech*



*Edward "Mike" Murray, KK4POP  
Passed Tech*

## For Sale

I have a **Yaesu FT-5100 VHF/UHF** radio \$125.00 Has never been mobile always in the house. I also have (2) **Yaesu FT-212RH** 2 meter VHF radios \$75.00 each. All radios are in good working order they all have the vehicle mounting brackets. The condition on all the radios is good. Please contact Tom Willis at [thomas.j.willis@earthlink.net](mailto:thomas.j.willis@earthlink.net) or you can call at 336-510-4996.

## Engineering Update for March, 2013

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

Last month, we talked about the repeater site being hit by lightning on Thursday, January 17th. Recently we have noticed that the RX sensitivity of the VHF repeater seems to be lower than normal. This could be a result of latent damage to the repeater from the lightning strike, or it could also be due to the periodic interference issue that we see about once a year or so. After we get done with the N4G station, we'll try to investigate it a little more.

Last month I told you about a couple of projects that I am considering for the VHF repeater, and that I was looking for some volunteers to be a part of the Engineering Committee. I am happy to report that the engineering Committee is now a real committee! Ken (KK4GSM), Layman (KK4LLY), and Craig (N8STA), have all volunteered to be a part of the action.

Here is the status of the projects I told you about last month:

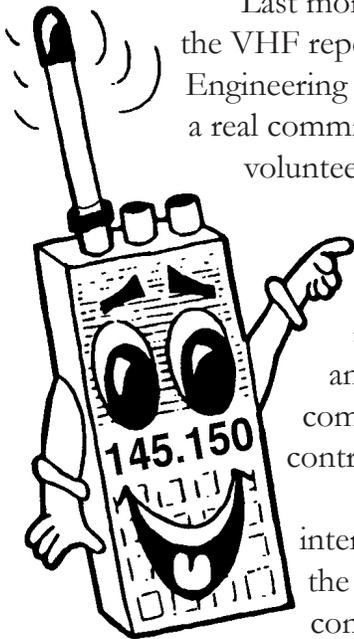
1) Investigate replacement controller: As you know the existing repeater controller, while it works well, is obsolete, and in the case of a hardware failure, we do not have a backup controller on hand. Ken and Layman are still looking at the differences between the controller commands for the existing controller, and a proposed replacement controller.

2) Replacement for AR NewsLine Phone Patch: An audio playing interface connection to the VHF repeater controller. Craig has built up the circuit that could connect into an unused port on the VHF repeater controller to perform this, and I have done enough work on a Raspberry Pi computer that has convinced me that this could be the right interface platform to actually access and play the audio. Look for a club meeting presentation on the Raspberry Pi in the next few months.

### UHF D-Star Repeater:

There are some clean up activities that I need to do on the gateway computer, which I will work on during the next couple of months. During the last backup attempt, I noticed that the D-Star software and database synchronization scripts were restarting on their own after I had killed them prior to the backup. On further examination, I saw that there is indeed an automatic restart function running in the operating system for those tasks. The problem with this, of course, is if the database happens to change in the middle of the backup, it could corrupt the backup! I have a method to prevent this from occurring in the future. This will take a little bit of programming, and I will work on this project after the N4G event.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your club repeaters, either VHF or D-Star, or any other technical topic, please contact me at [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net)



## ARRL Membership Through Affiliated Clubs Drive

By Tom Bertolino, KB1P

GARA is looking at ways to cut the Club's expenses and increase the Club's revenue. One way to increase the Club's revenue is to take advantage of ARRL's Membership Through Affiliated Clubs program. This program allows an affiliated club to retain a proportion of ARRL's membership dues when a club member renews his ARRL membership or joins ARRL for the first time through his Club. The affiliated club receives \$2.00 for every ARRL membership renewal and \$15.00 for every new member. A new member is defined as anyone who has never joined ARRL or someone who has let his membership lapse for more than two years.

If you are a member of ARRL you can help the GARA by renewing your membership through the Club. If you are not a member of ARRL, and plan to join ARRL in the future please consider joining through GARA.

Since a renewing ARRL member can renew at any time, before their current membership expires, GARA will conduct an ARRL Membership Through Affiliated Clubs drive every 3 or 4 months. This allows the Club to cut the monthly expense of processing renewals/new memberships and insures your renewals/applications arrive in a timely manner to ARRL. We will start our first drive in February. So if your membership expires between April and the end of June or if you want to join ARRL please consider renewing/joining through GARA during our drive in February.

How do you renew/join through GARA? You fill out an ARRL Membership Application form (attached at the end of newsletter). Then you give/mail the application along with your ARRL dues to the Club's Treasurer. (The Club's address is: Greensboro Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417.) The Club then submits all application forms to ARRL less the Club's commission.

If you have any questions about this program you can contact me. My contact information is: email kb1p@arrl.net ; phone 781-608-6186



## Reminder Club Dues are Due

Just a reminder your Greensboro Amateur Radio Association dues is due in January 2013. Club membership runs from January to December of each year. You can pay your dues at a club meeting or fill out the GARA Dues Form 2013 and mail it along with your dues to the address on the top of the form. You can download the form by go to the club's web site at: <http://www.w4gso.org/> and click on "Join GARA" on the left side of the page, then follow the instruction.



**RFMD Amateur Radio Club  
presents**



**Talk In  
145.250MHz  
PL 88.5Hz**

## Freegate 2013

**A free tailgate swapfest!**

**NO admission fee, NO space rental! All profit is yours!**

We provide a paved parking lot and indoor toilets. You provide everything else:  
tables, canopies, power, drinks, food, and merchandise.

### When:

Saturday, May 18, 2013

**8:00 AM**—11:00 AM

Check [KD4RF.org](http://KD4RF.org) for updates

### Where:

RFMD Headquarters –  
BACK parking lot ONLY  
7628 Thorndike Rd.  
Greensboro, NC 27409



### Vendors

- dBj Electronics

***NO firearms, NO pornographic material permitted on site!***



**RFMD Amateur Radio Club**

7628 Thorndike Rd  
Greensboro, NC 27409

E-mail: [info@kd4rf.org](mailto:info@kd4rf.org)

## Calendar of Events

March 25	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Presentation: ARRL's LoTW)
March 30	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
March 30	NC State Conventions (Raleigh Hamfest <a href="http://www.rars.org/hamfest/">http://www.rars.org/hamfest/</a> )
April 8	GARA Board Meeting
April 13	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
April 20	Ham Expo (Greensboro Science Center)
April 20	Catawba Valley Hamfest (Morganton, NC <a href="http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/">http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/</a> )
April 22	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Presentation: TBA)
April 27	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
May 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
May 13	GARA Board Meeting
May 25	GARA Picnic (Shelter #5, Hagan-Stone Park)
May 17-19	Dayton Hamvention 2013 (Dayton, Ohio <a href="http://hamvention.org/">http://hamvention.org/</a> )
May 25	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
May 27	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Presentation: Field Day)
June 8	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
June 8	Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest
June 10	GARA Board Meeting
June 22-23	Field Day (Tannenbaum Park Greensboro)
June 24	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
June 29	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
July 8	GARA Board Meeting
July 13	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
July 20	Mid-Summer Swapfest (Cary, NC)
July 22	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
July 27	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
July 27	WCARS Hamfest (Waynesville, NC)
Aug 3	15th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC <a href="http://www.cfarsnc.org">http://www.cfarsnc.org</a> )
Aug 10	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Aug 12	GARA Board Meeting
Aug 24	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Aug 25	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Aug 31	Shelby Hamfest (Shelby, NC <a href="http://www.shelbyhamfest.com">http://www.shelbyhamfest.com</a> )

This purpose of this calendar to provide information on events in and around our area that might be of interest to our readers. As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place in North Carolina and around the Greater Greensboro Area. If you know of an event that would be of interest to our readers, please contact Tom, KB1P at [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net).

# Area Happenings

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409. 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 March to Aug. 2013

April 13, 2013

May 11, 2013

June 8, 2013

July 13, 2013

August 10, 2013

September 14, 2013

**Location:** Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407,

**Time:** 9:00am

**Contact:** Roy Smith

**Phone:** (336) 312-0647

**E-mail:** n4byu@arrl.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)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

*The Official Publication of GARA*