



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

www.w4gso.org

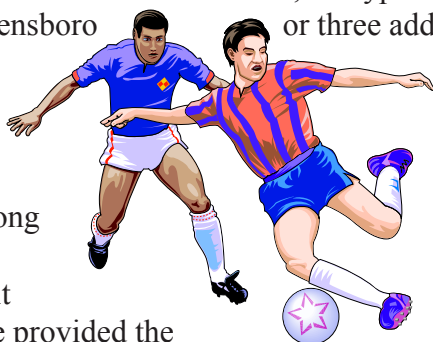
info@w4gso.org

## Soccer Service?

by Allen Bradley, KD4IUN

Soccer is GARA's biggest public service event. We have been helping Greensboro Soccer host tournaments for about 30 years. Long before cell phones and long before the soccer complex was built at Bryan Park, we provided the only communications between the various venues. Without Bryan Park, Greensboro Soccer used to use every available field in Guilford County. Our communications contributed to the early success of what was then Greensboro Youth Soccer Association. This helped establish a good reputation for well-organized and smooth-running tournaments.

These tournaments used to be so widely scattered it took 30 to 40 radio operators to coordinate a tournament.



Now with the 17 fields at Bryan Park, we typically use only two or three additional venues, so we can usually handle a tournament with a dozen operators or less. This is good, because we are not getting as many volunteers as in the past. This may be because our newer members don't

## NEXT MEETING Monday, April 26th

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, April 26th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club. This month's meeting will include the viewing of a DVD on the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

understand what it is we do for a tournament.

Our primary responsibility is to transmit the scores at the conclusion of each game to Madeline, KD4SVJ, who enters the scores into a computer. We see **Soccer**, page 5

## GARA Outreach

by Will Ravenel, AI4VE; with contributions from Terrell Brown, K4TLB, and Roy Smith, N4BYU

How many times have you mentioned your Ham Radio hobby to someone and received the response, "I didn't know people still did that."? Although the FCC license activity numbers show that the hobby is growing again, the general public still seems to think that Amateur Radio is a thing of the past.

GARA encourages its members to get the word out and work to grow the hobby

every chance we get. As Chris, K4HC, is fond of saying, "The more Hams, the more fun." We have lots of ways to do this in Greensboro, including:

- Participation in Field Day every June
  - Participation in ARES
  - Providing communications support at local events such as:
    - Greensboro Soccer tournaments, 3 times a year
    - CROP walks
    - Triathlons
    - Bike Races
    - City of Gso water day
- see **Outreach**, page 7



## In This Issue

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- **An End to BPL?**
- **NRAO Tour Flyer**

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes March, 2010

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

Will, AI4VE, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. Will then asked for everyone to identify himself or herself.

Al, K4ZKQ, and Ernie, NC4EW, were not in attendance so Will gave a summery of their reports: "We have had one D-Star donation so far. We still have some members who have not renewed this year."

Roy Smith, N4BYU, presented Tom Forrest, N4GVK, with a plaque to commemorate his work as feedline editor for the last seven years.

Bob Mays, KE4MOW, is organizing a trip to the Greenbank observatory in West Virginia sometime in June. The trip will be on a Saturday either the 5th, 12th or 19th. If anyone is interested please e-mail Bob at ke4mow@triad.rr.com

Betty, KC2BFN, is still working on the e-mail list for the club.

Lee Price, KD4GCF, said he

needs some volunteers May 1st to teach scouts about ham radio at a camporee near Seagrove.

Will told us he wants to start a informal slow code practice net starting on Monday, March 22nd and continuing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:00pm. Listen to 145.15 to find out the frequency.

Alan, KD4IUN, said that there is a soccer tournament coming up on Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Alan for details and to volunteer your time.

Will said that there has been some interest for a 10 meter ragchew net on Friday nights at 9:00pm. Listen to 145.15 for details.

Roy introduced Phil Wadsworth who was our speaker this month. Phil is running for Guilford County Sheriff and spoke about his desire to get elected and what he would do if elected. He then took questions and answers from club members.

The meeting ended at 8:00pm.

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

## Board Meeting Minutes March, 2010

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 emails if something comes up between meetings.

The meeting ended at 8:00pm.

*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.

## A Day at the Raleigh Hamfest

As seen by Andrew, KJ4RZV

As I sat in my easy chair in the shack on Saturday morning, I had not planned on making the Raleigh Hamfest. This was primarily due to the fact I had made the Charlotte and Dobson Shows and figured I might better sit this one out due to funds. While sitting there listening to the HF and drinking my first cup of coffee, I heard a familiar voice on 2 meters calling for anyone heading to Raleigh. After no response from anyone, I returned the call to K4HC, Chris of Greensboro, and remarked that everyone must have left him

or overslept.

Well Chris proceeded to do what he does best and begin to talk me in the direction of attending the fest which I was not prepared to do - I wasn't even dressed yet. Of course, with a little nudging, he finally convinced me to proceed to the highway where we should just about meet up in the same location by the time he gassed up.



Somewhere just out of town we began to lose the repeater on 145.150, so we switched to simplex where I never heard from him again till I saw him at the Hamfest. I guess we were further apart than we realized.

As I walked thru the doors of the center there I was impressed. This was the largest Hamfest I had attended so far, and I didn't know where to start looking. I had just recently bought a Ten-Tec Jupiter from Will, AI4VE, and was in need of a power supply for it, but I thought "Wow, where do I start!" Right away I found Will and there stood Chris also and as planned AI4VE was manning a table. I proceeded to look around and finally found a new power supply that would work on the Jupiter and bought it. While I was there I decided to get some of the little things I had been wanting in the past, but I had always seem to purchase the big ticket items instead. So

see **Hamfest**, page 10



**RALEIGH HAMFEST** - The 38th Annual RARSFest was held April 3, on the NC State Fairgrounds Exposition Center in Raleigh. A number of events took place at the hamfest including, popular forums, on APRS, D-Star, ARRL Forums and Skywarn. There was a QSL card checking station for those seeking credit for awards and walk-in VE testing. There was also a hands-on activities table for those interested in building a J-Pole antenna. Many dealers were also on hand. The crowds appeared to be good on Saturday morning into early afternoon with a lot of good buys from the flea market area. (Photos by Tom Forrest)



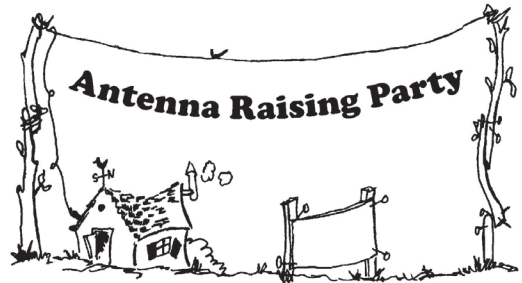
## From the President's Shack

by Will Ravenel, AI4VE  
GARA President

Isn't spring in Greensboro great? If you can stand the pollen there's not many nicer places to be in April. I'm one of several local hams with a new antenna after finally getting around to raising a 50 foot center fed vertical. It's fed with ladder line and I can tune it on 40 through 10m through a 4:1 balun near the radio. So far I can't tell much improvement on DX over my horizontal 96 foot doublet that survived the winter, but at least I've got a spare now. I used my pneumatic launcher to shoot the line and it worked like a charm. Jesse, N4BFD, and I made a couple of these back in February based loosely on some examples found on line.

We got to use these launchers again at Scott Suter's antenna raising party two weeks ago. Chris, K4HC, Jesse, N4BFD, Ken, KJ4SPC, and I helped Scott get a 120 foot dipole up and it was a lot of fun. One hint though, if you put a fishing reel on a pneumatic launcher, be sure you have enough line on the spool to get over the tree and back to the ground. This is the voice of experience. The launchers were a big help getting lines up 50 feet or more over three trees. If anyone needs help with antennas (or any other ham project) don't hesitate to let it be known. You might be surprised at the turn-out.

There's a lot of activities coming up in the next month or so. This coming Saturday, the 24th of April, is the first day of a two Saturday Technician Class the Chris, K4HC, and Rick, K4EXR, will be teaching. There will be a special VEC exam session at the end of class on the 1st of May so we should have a bunch of new hams after that. The Dayton Hamfest is from the 14th - 16th of May. The Durham Hamfest is on Memorial Day weekend as is the first big GYSA Soccer Tournament of the year. These tournaments have been supported by GARA hams since before there was a GARA. Please consider volunteering to help with at least



one day of the tournament. And if you haven't received an email yet please check the web page for the Green Bank Radio Astronomy Center coach trip being planned for June 5th. This event has been advertised with the Winston-Salem Club, the High Point Club, the Burlington Club, as well as the GAS Club, so if you're interested better get your check in to Ernie soon. It should be fun.

Will, AI4VE

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## Silent Key, George Stentz, WA4OBR

Thanks to Carl, W4EAT and John, W4CC, we learn of the passing on March 31st of Piedmont Chapter Member George, WA4OBR of



Greensboro. George had been an active NTS traffic handler for several years.

George was a long-time member of GARA until his health prevented him from driving at night and driven at all. He was big on HF and calling nets.

George, while not a member now, had been a member for probably 25 years. He had not been active on VHF for a while. [Editor's Note: Even though George wasn't that active locally in the recent past, he was my 21st contact on the local repeaters in June of 2009.]

## Soccer

**continued from page 1**

have an outstanding accuracy record. We don't always get the scores right, but in the last 14 years that Madeline has been the net control operator for scoring, we have a perfect record. The scores we recorded have always agreed with the official match report given to the radio operator in the field. You people have done an outstanding job through the years.

Sometimes the match reports are not always accurate. As you can imagine, this causes some coaches and parents to get upset. We have long established procedures for handling this situation. We first confirm the score agrees with the match report then turn the problem over to the Referee Coordinator or the Tournament Director. They usually work it out with the referee.

We also handle other traffic that may be required. Coaches and parents always have questions and your net control operators have heard most of them over the years. If they can't answer it, they can quickly find someone who can. We don't expect you to know the answers because the answer you need is as close as your radio.

GARA radio operators have an outstanding reputation for being able to handle any situation. We are prepared for hot weather, cold weather, wet

weather or our preference: beautiful weather. We show up with whatever equipment it takes to get the job done. Back in the day, we used to need good antennas and more power than an HT offers. Now our repeater is so good, most people just use an HT. Sometimes a mag-mount on a cookie sheet helps.

We are now providing radio support for three tournaments:

1. The Wrangler Jeans / McDonald Youth Soccer Classic is Memorial Day weekend. This year is May 29th and 30th.
2. The Labor Day Shootout is Labor Day weekend. This year is September 4th and 5th.
3. The Challenge Clash is the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year it is November 20th and 21st.

We need your help. If you have never worked a tournament

before, come join us. It is a very good exercise in traffic handling. You will get more practice than any drill and get to watch some good soccer while doing it. You will find that GARA's "soccer team" has a lot of fun and develops a close camaraderie. At the end of the day you get to go home with a feeling of a job well done.

If you have worked a lot of tournaments, we need your help to teach the new guys. If you have not worked a tournament lately, you know how much fun it is. Come on out and join us again. Greensboro Soccer will give you lunch and a t-shirt, as well as a good time.

Volunteers may contact Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, email [allen@bradleydata.com](mailto:allen@bradleydata.com) or (336) 286-8676. Thank you for your help. The members are what make Greensboro Amateur Radio Association such a great club.

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## New ARRL Section Manager

Bill Morine, N2COP, took over the helm of NC ARRL Section Manager April 1. He follows Tim Slay, N4IB, who held the post for a number of years and chose to retire.





## 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 provided 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.

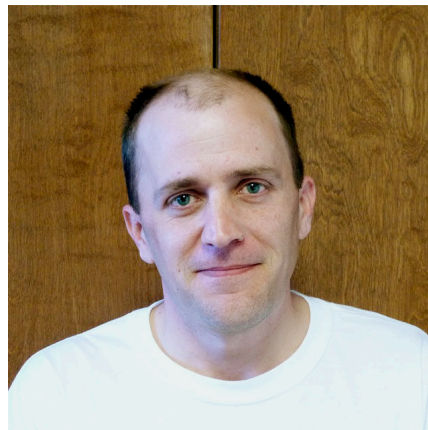
In March, we had six individuals

who passed their test(s) and earn either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

And in April, we had two individuals who passed their test and earned their Technician class license.



***Daniel L Elmes - KJ4TGV  
Passed Tech & General***



***Jeffrey M Harrison- KJ4TGW  
Passed Tech***



***Michael A McLain, Jr. - AJ4WY  
Passed Tech, Gen & Extra***



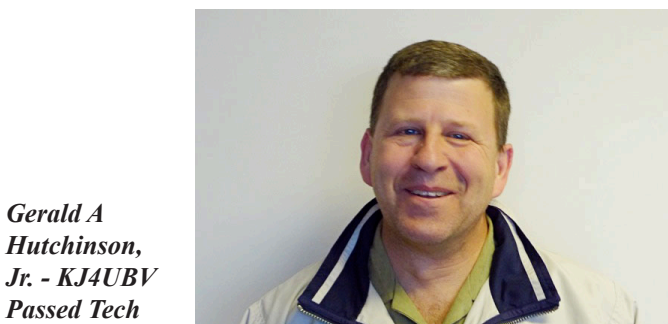
***Scott G Suter - KJ4OXE  
Upgraded to General***



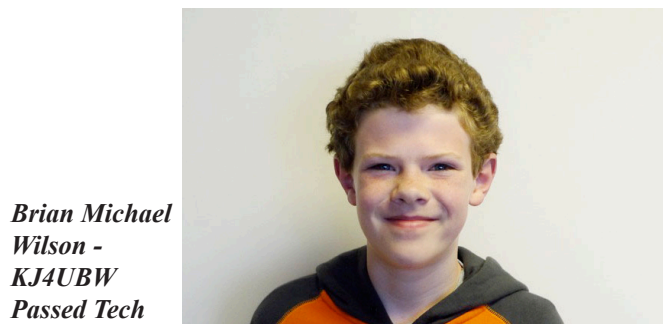
***Andrew D Chambers - KJ4RVZ  
Upgraded to General***



***Robin H McLain - KJ4TGX  
Passed Tech & General***



***Gerald A  
Hutchinson,  
Jr. - KJ4UBV  
Passed Tech***



***Brian Michael  
Wilson -  
KJ4UBW  
Passed Tech***

## Outreach

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- Holding licensing classes such as the Technician class coming up April 24th and May 1st
- Providing Volunteer Examiners for monthly license exams in Greensboro
- Being an Elmer to new or prospective hams
- Operating the Greensboro Natural Science Center station and answer visitor's questions
- Speaking about the hobby at local schools and universities.

Several GARA members recently had the opportunity to do some outreach at local schools.

On March 24th, Will Ravenel, AI4VE, demonstrated D-STAR radio to Mr. Carl Fenske's Greensboro Day School sixth-grade amateur radio club, W4GDS. Two of these 9 and 10 year olds, John Ball, KJ4SZP, and Lindsey Cooke, KJ4SZU, seen holding HTs in the photo, had just earned their Technician license in Charlotte the weekend before so listen out for them. Carl, KC4WGA, calls his students Hamsters until they pass their exam - after that

they're called Hams.

After a summary of D-STAR digital radio basics the W4GSO repeater was linked to Reflector 1C where the computer had shown there was an Australian station operating. Several students were thrilled to use an HT to talk with Brian Farrar, VK2AH, located outside of Sydney, Australia. Brian has offered to make time for a more



extended session in the future.

Another contact was made with a sixth grade teacher in Lakeland, FL. Like Carl, this teacher is sponsoring a ham radio club at his school. He and Carl exchanged contact information and are making plans for future D-STAR contacts between the clubs. Two of the W4GDS members are Brian Michael and Sarah Wilson, children of GARA Feedline editor, Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, seen kneeling in front in the picture below. [Editors note:

Brian Michael, KJ4UBW, just passed is Technician exam on April 10th and became the 25th student of Mr. Fenske's to earn his Amateur Radio license.]

It's fun and rewarding to share our hobby with others. If you know of an event that would benefit from Amateur Radio communications support or if you have friends, who are teachers, why not offer our help?

Let's change the perception that our hobby died years ago and help make some new Hams in the process.

On April 7th, Roy Smith, N4BYU, and Terrell Brown, K4TLB, visited a 'Radio and Media Culture' class on the campus of UNC-G. The goal of this visit was to inform, educate, and promote amateur radio to the

students and to give them a perspective on a culture of radio enthusiasts that very few realized even existed. Roy and Terrell began by discussing their personal experiences, why they entered into amateur radio and continued by sharing the great good it has done for those around the world and especially here in the United States. As expected from a class room full of inquisitive minds, many questions were asked and several of the students seemed very enthusiastic to learn that the craft of amateur radio was one of a diverse group of people from around the world; that it has been and still is used in situations where there are no other means of communications.

see Outreach, page 9



## NRAO Tour - June 5, 2010



### National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Green Bank, West Virginia

***Join us in a coach trip to NRAO, Green Bank Observatory. Home of the world's largest fully steerable single aperture antenna.***

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association (GARA) invites you to participate in a coach trip to the Green Bank observatory on 5 June 2010. We need to fill at least 40 seats to reserve the coach. Cost is \$50 per person not including meals.

If you've never visited this fascinating facility you're in for a treat. The tour includes the Robert C. Byrd telescope and the Science Center. It's a long ride, but a great opportunity to meet and talk radio with your fellow Hams along the way.

If interested please make out a check to GARA and send to:

Ernie Wall, NC4EW  
8504 Bromfield Road  
Oak Ridge, NC 27310

Confirmations with checks are needed by 1 May, so don't take too long to think about it. This notice is being sent to clubs in Winston-Salem, High Point, and Burlington. Full refunds if trip is cancelled due to insufficient interest.

#### Itinerary:

Depart Greensboro	0430
Breakfast near Roanoke	0630
Arrive Green Bank,	1100
Lunch at Star Light Cafe	
Tour	1200
Depart	1330 - 1400
Dinner near Roanoke	1730
Return Greensboro	2030

For questions about the trip, email Bob Mays, [ke4mow@triad.rr.com](mailto:ke4mow@triad.rr.com)  
For more information about NRAO, Green Bank, go to <http://www.gb.nrao.edu>



## City of Manassas to End BPL Service

From ARRL

Once touted as “the most successful BPL deployment in the nation,” the City of Manassas has decided to get out of the BPL business, once and for all. At a Special Meeting on Monday, April 5, the Manassas City Council -- acting on a recommendation from the Manassas Utilities Commission -- unanimously voted to discontinue Broadband over Powerline (BPL) Internet service as of July 1, 2010 to the approximately 520 residents and businesses who currently subscribe to the service; these customers were told that they have three months to find a new Internet service provider.

According to Manassas City Clerk Andrea Madden, there was no discussion on the resolution to discontinue service and the motion was passed “without incident.”

With the motion made by Councilman Jonathan Way and seconded by Mark Wolfe, the City Council cited three reasons for discontinuing BPL service: a declining customer base, an annual income deficit of almost \$166,000 from providing Internet service, and a determination that AMI [Advanced Metering Infrastructure] platforms don’t require BPL. Way and Wolfe favored shutting down the BPL system in November 2009, the last time this matter was brought to the Council’s attention. “The City needs to get out of BPL forthwith,” Way said back in 2009. “It’s not a good product. The whole business is not financially sound and it never has been.”

“In October 2003, the Manassas City Council was told that it could expect as much as \$4.5 million in revenue from awarding a 10 year BPL franchise,” said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

“Instead, six months later, BPL had turned into a money pit for the City of Manassas. Anyone thinking of investing in BPL would do well to learn from the Manassas experience.”

According to the resolution passed by the Council, the Manassas Utilities Department will not be using BPL for AMI, but instead will use “a combination of fiber and wireless technology exclusive of the BPL.” According to the Agenda Statement for the Special Meeting, the BPL equipment will be removed from the system and “inquiries will be made regarding the salvage value.”

Sumner said that the ARRL’s concern was not with the business plan -- that he termed “obviously flawed” -- but with “the interference to licensed radio services -- and in particular the Amateur Radio Service -- inevitably caused by putting radio frequency energy on unshielded, unbalanced conductors. Manassas was touted as ‘the most successful BPL deployment in the nation’ when FCC Chair-

man Michael Powell visited the site with much fanfare -- and, the ARRL maintains, in violation of the FCC’s own rules -- on the eve of the FCC’s vote to adopt inadequate protection for licensed radio services against interference from BPL systems. The taxpayers and ratepayers of Manassas are not the only ones who benefit from the end of this ill-considered foray into BPL. Radio amateurs in the Manassas area have good reason to celebrate, for they have spent countless hours documenting the widespread interference caused by the system.”

BPL technology uses the electricity grid in a city and the wiring in individual homes to provide direct “plug in” broadband access through electricity sockets, rather than over phone or cable TV lines. Because BPL wiring is physically large, is often overhead and extends across entire communities, these systems pose a significant interference potential to over-the-air radio services, including Amateur Radio.

## Outreach

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There were several multi-band HTs on display including two D-STAR radios, a 10-meter radio, a mobile antenna, a working example of a mobile 12-volt battery, and a nice collection of N4BYU’s QSL cards. There was even a QSO with none other than Weldon Fields, W4AJT, on one of the local 2-meter repeaters. A big thank you is due to Weldon for being a model operator and listening on the air, as the class was happy to meet him.

With questions and useful information traded, a joke here and there with accompanying laughter, the presentation was a seeming success

and the class was left with pertinent information of the local clubs and emergency communications groups, as well as links to the ARRL website. Whether or not a potential ham operator has been gained from this visit, there are certainly more people than before that know and are capable of spreading the word about what amateur radio operators do.

One of the goals of GARA is to share the excitement of this great hobby with others. Let’s be ready to recognize and follow through on opportunities such as the above whenever they arise.

## Hamfest

continued from page 3

I knuckled down and started looking for a call sign hat, a call sign coffee mug, a name tag and a desk call sign plate, and behold I found the places to get them all made, and I was happy!

While waiting for all the things to be made, it gave me the time to mosey around and see what all was going on. I finally saw Scott, KJ4OXE, and he and Chris were like two kids in a candy store running around trying to find things to build KJ4OXE's antenna for his new HF rig so he could utilize his new General class license (by the way, Scott and I tested the same weekend and got our General upgrade together). Next, I looked around and I saw Weldon, W4AJT. Now here is a ham that has been operating

since 1930! Can you imagine? Also with him were some other Ole Timers standing there telling tales and reminiscing about the past. I really love to see these pioneers doing those things, and I love hearing the stories they have to offer. But boy sometime you need the waders, too! You can

really learn a lot from these guys if you take the time to listen. They have paved the way for the hobby we enjoy. I would also like to say Amateur Radio for me is becoming a way of life.

All in all, it was an enjoyable experience. It all came alive for me when I saw not only us new hams there starting our careers in the hobby, but in the mist of the crowd were those who have been doing this for

many years, and their excitement seem to be as great or greater than ours.

Then as I looked at my clock I realized the evening had

arrived, some were beginning to pack their trucks, and here I was with my new hat, name tag on shirt, HT on my hip, and a

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**You can really learn  
alot from these  
guys if you take the  
time to listen.**

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bag in each hand headed across that long parking lot to the car. Another great Hamfest come and gone, and everyone it seemed left happy and enlightened. If it had not been for the little encouragement from a fellow ham named Chris, I would be lacking a great memory and experience. Thanks Chris, and to all of you who made this a memorable experience for me.

## A View from the Top

This photo might make you a little dizzy - straight down from 1715 feet up. It's a photo of the new receive antenna for the K4ITL 224.160 repeater located on the WRAL-TV tower. The Comprod dipole array antenna is mounted at 1715 feet with another small Comprod yagi at 1790 feet also for receive point southeast. The antenna was on the top of the tower, but due to the intermod on the tower from the television stations, it was

necessary to move the receive antenna down. Thanks to Murray Adams, WA4DAN, from Adams Tower Service for providing the nice photo. The transmit antenna is at the 1863 foot level on the flat top of the WRAL tower. The 224.160 machine can be accessed from many parts of Greensboro. A previous article on the 224.16 repeater can be found in the GARA Feed Line archives at [www.w4gso.org/archives/feedline0808.pdf](http://www.w4gso.org/archives/feedline0808.pdf)



## Amateur Radio Technician Course

- ◆ Have you ever wanted to obtain your Amateur Radio Operating License?
- ◆ Have you ever wondered how our Amateur Radio volunteers can continue to provide communications when everything else has failed?
- ◆ This course will take you through the material needed to obtain your Amateur Radio "Technician" license through a hands on and interactive class, along with giving you a better understanding of Amateur Radio's capabilities.

### Topics Will Include:

- ◆ Radio and Electronics Fundamentals
- ◆ Operating Station Equipment
- ◆ Communicating with Other Hams
- ◆ Licensing Regulations
- ◆ Operating Regulations



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

**Date:** Saturday April 24th  
And  
Saturday May 1st

**To register and for more information contact:**

**Chris Thompson – 336-402-2210 [k4hc@triad.rr.com](mailto:k4hc@triad.rr.com)**

**Or**

**Jim Waynick – 336-299-6330 [jwayn26534@Gmail.com](mailto:jwayn26534@Gmail.com)**

**10:00 am until 4:00 pm both days**

**There will be a Testing Session held in Greensboro on  
Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am**

### Required Materials:

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (24.95)

You can purchase the book from: <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9639>

You must purchase and review the manual prior to the first class date



# 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.

**EVERY 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 Starbuck's at Edney Ridge Rd.

## The W4VEC Testing Schedule

May 2010 to Aug. 2010

May 8, 2010

June 12, 2010

July 10, 2010

August 14, 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

## 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*