



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



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HR607 & the Many Faces of the FCC!

By J Minor, K4GW

"Welcome to the Reimagined FCC.gov - Tell us what you think and help shape the future". This is the headline from the newly redesigned website of the Federal Communications Commission! The FCC is currently changing its look and taking public comment for input! Seems like the perfect time for Amateur radio operators to tell them what they think about House Bill HR607!



Reimagined FCC" is comprised of smooth lawyers and very few qualified engineers! The FCC now serves the slick politicians and super rich corporations with deep pockets! The rights and frequencies of Hams are no longer priorities of these new Federal slackers! ... The new face of the

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 25

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, April 25th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club. This month's meeting will be a presentation by Robert Krasowski, KB2PNM, entitled "Up, Up and Away." Robert will recount his Near Space Experiment (NSP).

FCC is rearing its ugly head!

Formed in 1934, the Federal Communications Commission was established to regulate and protect the US public airwaves. In the 1940s, 50s, & 60s, the Commission issued licenses to qualified applicants and

see **HR607**, page 8

Silent Key: Bill Ingram, WB4OFF

Bill Ingram, WB4OFF, died at his home Saturday afternoon, April 16th, after a long battle with lung cancer. Treatments, including chemotherapy, over an extended period failed to work. After recent

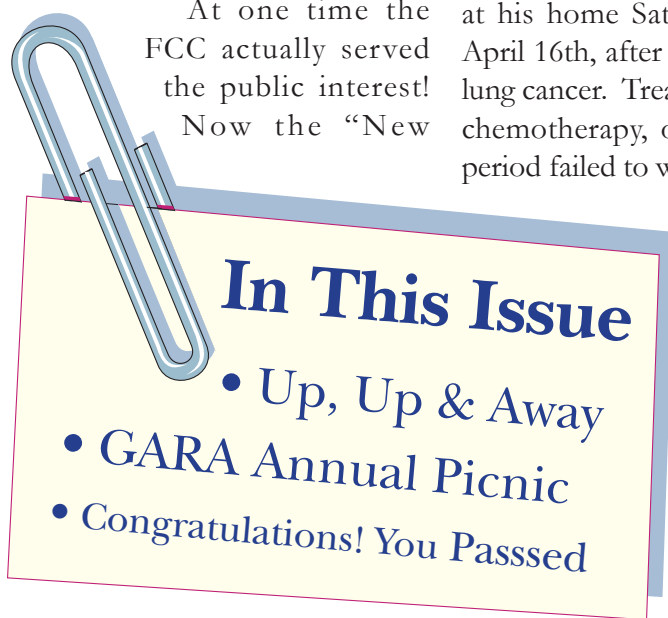
hospitalization, he returned home and was placed under Hospice care.

Services will be held at the Forbis and Dick Funeral Service, 1118

N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC. The Visitation will be held Monday evening, April 18th, between 6 and 8 PM. Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, April 19th, at 11:00 AM at the N. Elm St. Forbis and Dick Chapel. Internment will follow at the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Bill will be remembered for his very special personality and contributions to the amateur radio community. In the 1950s, he was a radio parts salesman at Johannesen Electric where radio amateurs purchased radio gear. Many of us

see **WB4OFF**, page 7



GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes March 25, 2011

The GARA monthly meeting was held on March 25, 2011, at the Golden Corral restaurant located near the intersection of Wendover Avenue and I-40.

Chris Thompson, K4HC, called the meeting to order at 7:19pm, stating that tonight's meeting would be "Show and Tell" but first we'll hear reports from our officers.

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report stating that our expenses are slightly above forecast due to the purchase of the Bird wattmeter and accessories. Income is far better than forecast due to membership payments coming in faster than forecast.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, GARA Treasurer said that dues are still being accepted, bills are paid and

there is money in the bank.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, said that the repeater that was just repaired was put back online and is doing great. Arch, KT4AT, brought out his test equipment and did some testing to try and locate the source of our interference. Our equipment all checked out fine but there is definitely outside interference getting into the repeater the source of which is unknown at this time.

David said that he has donated a cabinet and Larry Campbell, W4JLC, donated a lock for it. This will be used to store items at the repeater site securely.

Todd Smith, AK4TS, said that the K4NSC station at the Natural Science Center is a great place to expose people to ham radio but it needs to be used. Bob Mays, KE4MOW, has donated a G5RV antenna to replace one of the old antennas that are in disrepair. Todd said that one antenna is up but needs some work and the new antenna needs to be raised. Todd said that some supplies are needed for the antennas. Roy Smith, N4BYU, made a motion to allocate \$100 for supplies Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, provided the second, and the motion passed.

Dan Habecker, W9EQ, has repaired the ICOM 756 that belongs to K4NSC.

Bob Davet, W8JFQ, asked that people be sure to let the repeater drop when using eccolink.

Chan White, KJ4ADX, said that Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, needs help for the water festival.

Allen spoke about the early days of the soccer tournaments and the involvement of GARA and GYSA.

Allen also said that he wants to retire from soccer and needs someone to take his place; Allen said he will be glad to train them. Allen said that his son Ryan, KD4TMD, built the K4NSC station as an Eagle Scout project.

Chris stated that it was time for the "Show and Tell" portion of the meeting to begin.

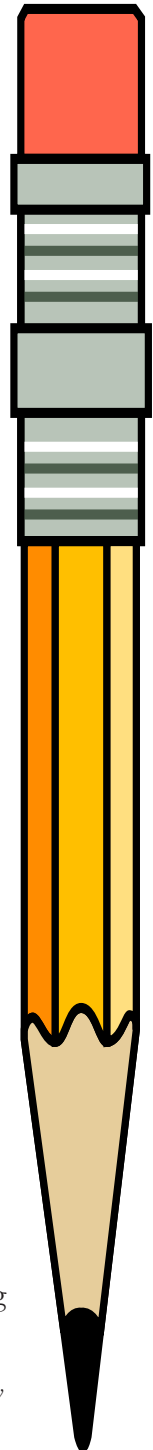
The meeting ended at 9:04pm.

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

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

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

The Feed Line is ©2010 by the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and published monthly. Our address is P.O. Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide the club and prospective members information about the club and amateur radio in general. Material and information should reach the editor by the first Friday of the month for the next edition of the newsletter. Opinions expressed in "The Feed Line" do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, directors, editor or members of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association. Material may be reproduced, provided proper credit is given to GARA.



Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2011

The GARA board of directors held their April meeting at the Benjamin Branch Library on April 11, 2011. Chris Thompson, K4HC, called the meeting to order at 7pm. Other board members in attendance were: Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Betty Williams, KC2BFN; Todd Smith, AK4TS; David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Chris reviewed the reason that GARA cosponsored the 2010 Field Day with Guilford ARES was to satisfy the town of Summerfield's requirement that the users of the park be insured. Chris said that Jim Waynick, N4JLW, had called him and asked if we could do it again this year and provide a person of contact for GARA. The board feels that this person should be a board member and Greg Spencer volunteered to be the contact person for GARA. Greg will coordinate with Jim Waynick and John Doggett, AJ4DV, about what is needed from GARA and report back to the board.

Betty is working on a newly revised brochure for prospective members, and she asked what should be included on the brochure. Tom Forrest, N4GVK, has several hundred brochures left that should be used up first. Betty will continue working with the next design which will be printed when we run low on the existing stock.

Greg renewed the discussion about the need for a larger meeting place as we are running out of

room in our current location. There were 45 people in attendance at the last club meeting and seats were getting scarce. Several places were discussed but we did not find a good place yet so we will still be looking. Any one who knows of a place that will seat around 100 people and is centrally located please let a board member know.

David spoke about the results of some interference testing that he and Todd did while they were at the repeater site last week. David said he is planning on doing some more testing soon to try to locate the source of our interference problem.

David said that he understands that GARA has a radio loaner program but that he has never heard anyone promote it. David said he would like to see it promoted in other ways than just on the website.

David said we need to get more people involved with the D-STAR repeater. We discussed some ways to increase awareness of D-STAR and ways to improve it.

Ernie said that the membership renewals seem to have peaked, and all bills are paid for this month. Ernie received notice that our donation to Amateur Radio Newline was received.

Ernie said he received a note from Tom Forrest about some changes to the web site. Details will be coming soon.

Al said that the dues payments

are 25% above what was forecast. Al spoke about HR607 and said that we all should send a letter to our congressman.

Todd said that Terrell Brown, K4TLB, had told him that he can help us get access to a water tower if we wanted to put our analog 440 repeater back up. Todd also spoke about the K4NSC station at the Natural Science Center.

Todd said that Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, wants to retire from the soccer tournaments and is looking for someone to take his place or possibly a committee to share the work may be better. Todd said that Bob Mays, KE4MOW, had requested his help with the picnic.

David said that he and Todd have gotten the equipment inventory completed and he has determined that there are some changes that need to be made as our equipment has changed somewhat over the last few years. We discussed the value of some items and what needs to

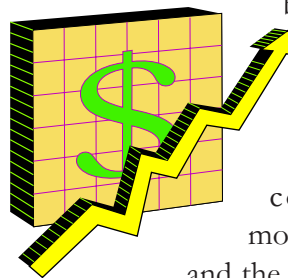
be covered on insurance

and what does not.

Chris proposed that David prepare a new list for the insurance company. Al made a motion and Ernie seconded and the motion passed with one abstention. David said he did not think he should vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

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



From the President's Shack

There seems to be a renewed interest in HF, and working DX. Many evenings, you'll hear various club members talking on the repeater about the DX they're working. For the most part, these stations are modest and consist only of wire antennas and 100 watts. Even Novices (and there are still a few around) and Technicians

can work the

world on 10 meters. With sunspot numbers improving, 10 meters is open more often, and activity is increasing.

If the HF bug has bitten, do what you can to improve your chances of working and being heard. Put up a new antenna, work on upgrading your license class, try a new mode, operate during a contest weekend. There's lots of things you can do to put contacts into the log.

Ask David, AJ4TF or Brian, KJ4LKY - even with 100 watts and a lousy antenna, you CAN make contacts. Remember that CW and some digital modes like PSK31 are

"force multipliers" that will make ANY station more effective.

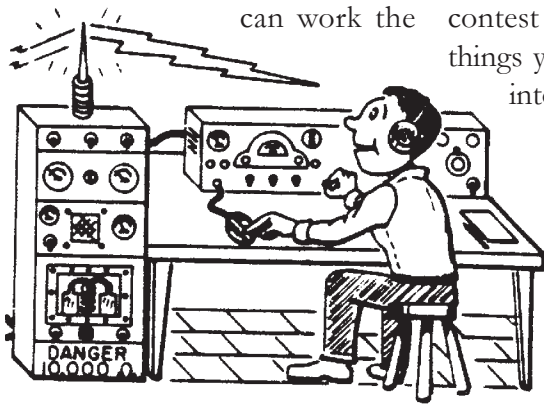
The station at the Natural Science Center, K4NSC has seen several operators over the last several weekends. Sasha, KK4BAY has been enjoying his new General class privileges making contacts from K4NSC. This resource is available to ANY licensed operator.

The point here is, that virtually everyone can expand their horizons, and try something new. The variety of activities available is part of what makes amateur radio so special.

Until next time, keep havin' fun!

73,

Chris, K4HC



GARA Meeting Topic for April: "Up, Up and Away"

By Gerald Donnelly, N4PAX

Come, meet and hear Robert Krasowski, KB2PNM tell us about his Near Space Experiment (NSP) whereby he sent a helium filled balloon to an altitude above 75,000 ft. (14.2 miles) He not only did that, but tracked the balloon ascent and path and took pictures and was able to retrieve the payload. How did he do that? Well, for one thing

he equipped his "craft" with a GPS and APRS transmitter! Dr. Robert Krasowski, MD practices cardiology and internal medicine in Asheboro and High Point.

Now everybody believe. IT CAN FLY !!!!



Congratulations! You Passed!

Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to Glenda

Nicholson, AG4NC, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

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

Next month's testing session

will be on May 14th at #3 Centerview Dr, Hickory Building, Greensboro, NC 27407 at 9:00am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Glenda Nicholson at (336) 674-3810 or by email at ag4nc@bellsouth.net

All Photos Courtesy of Rick Mainhart, WB3EXR



*Michael Sankewitsch - WA3TWG,
Upgrade to General*



*Stanislav Varlamov - KK4BMD,
Passed Tech*



*Alexander "Sasha" Varlamov -
KK4BAY, Upgrade to General, age 11*



April, 2011

Several of the VEs wait as the group takes their test. At least three (3) VEs must be present for the tests to be given. W4VEC often has more than enough.

Remember to tell these folks thank you for their selfless dedication and the numerous volunteer hours they dedicate to the amateur radio community.

Pictured from left to right: Todd, AK4TS; John, W4DX; David, AJ4TF; John, W8CCW

Save the Date! GARA Picnic: May 21, 2011

The annual GARA picnic will be on Saturday, May 21st from 6pm until dusk at Hagan-Stone Park, Shelter #4. This picnic is open to all GARA members in good standing as of April 1st, 2011, and their guest (spouse, significant other or main squeeze).

The food will be provided by

the club and will include but not be limited to hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings, potato salad, baked beans, iced tea, water and a limited supply of regular and Diet Coke.

Please make your plans to attend and RSVP to Todd Smith, AK4TS – todd.smith.greensboro@gmail.com



Engineering Update for March, 2011

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

A modification was made to the D-Star repeater to increase its reliability. Arch has experienced some failures using a certain type of PCI bus right angle adapter for the network interface card in the computers which control the repeater and the Internet gateway, although W4GSO has not seen any issues. We swapped the right angle adapter for a different type which is believed to maintain a more reliable connection.

On Saturday, April 9th, myself and Todd (AK4TS) did an inventory of all of the equipment located at the repeater site. The club's insurance policy for the equipment is coming due, and the last inventory was performed in 2008. The inventory has been given



Photo courtesy of Todd Smith, AK4TS

A view up the tower at the repeater site for the GARA repeaters.

to the GARA board for further action and to update the insurance policy appropriately.

During this visit, we took a few more measurements of the VHF RF environment in the area, using a directional antenna (Yagi). There are some promising "targets" of possible interference, which we will be investigating further in the weeks to come, so, more to come.

In the meantime, I would ask the club members to take note of the date, time and other pertinent conditions if you hear interference on the VHF repeater, and report it to myself, or any GARA board member.

73,

David, AJ4TF



Recycle Your Old Gear & Stuff

"FREE-FEST"

SPONSORED BY GARA



E-mail items for Tom, N4GVK -- n4gvk@bellsouth.net

News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

From ARRL

World Amateur Radio Day

The International Amateur Radio Union and its more than 160 Member-Societies that represent countries around the world will celebrate World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. The theme for this year's celebration is Amateur Radio: The First Technology-Based Social Network. Long before the Internet and smart phones, Amateur Radio operators have been talking, texting and sharing for decades. But unlike those commercial services, Amateur Radio continues to attract people worldwide by providing international communications for free. And because it does not need pre-established supporting infrastructure, these radio-savvy "amateurs" can reach out to friends in every corner of the world, as well as into space.



Special Temporary Call Signs for Royal Wedding

If you are a prefix hunter -- or you just get caught up in the pageantry that a Royal Wedding can bring -- then take note: Ofcom, at

the request of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), will issue special temporary call signs that British amateurs may use from April 29 through May 9, 2011, commemorating the marriage of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton. Amateurs in the United Kingdom who choose to apply for these special call signs will be using GR, MR and 2R prefixes during this time to commemorate the wedding.

Alabama High Schools Successfully Launch High Altitude Balloon

The Pell City and St Clair County High School's joint balloon launch was a great success. The balloon was launched from the St

Clair County Airport in Pell City, Alabama into a brisk wind at 2 PM on April 2. The balloon carried a



variety of experiments ranging from materials, plastic sticks, silly putty, several varieties of seed, batteries, film and cameras, radio location equipment and a radio beacon announcing the balloons flight, as well as a collection of worms. The worms were given physicals by a St Clair County High School science class prior to the flight. They returned home in apparent good health and have made reservations for the next flight. The balloon made a rapid and steady ascent to 94,449 feet and, after bursting, landed near Woodbury, Georgia. The balloon landed in the middle of an open field and was quickly retrieved by Amateur Radio operators from the Auburn/Alexander city area.

WB4OFF continued from page 1

remember how he helped us find just what we needed to solve our problems. He became the Manager of Freck Radio Supply of Greensboro where he sold us amateur radio gear and parts. Later, he went into the fork lift service business in which he remained until his retirement a few years ago. Bill was a member of the old Greensboro Radio Club., Inc. and a long time Thursday Luncheon Group ROMEO member.

Bill can truly be called the father of the Greensboro 146.76 Mhz. 2 meter FM Repeater we all enjoyed so much.

He bought the repeater from Amos Rhames, K4WQS, Danville, VA area, and operated it from several locations around Greensboro, including the Greensboro Radio Club around 1970. When he became Manager of the New Freck Radio Store at Greensboro, he didn't have time to continue working with the repeater. He sold the repeater to me, (Don Harris, W4BUZ), Chuck Bino, K4CJZ, and Al Ross, K4CAW. Bill brought the first 2 meter repeater to Greensboro which became a wide area coverage machine for amateurs to enjoy. Bill will be remembered by those of us who knew him and of his good work. He will not be forgotten.

HR607

continued from page 1

charged a modest fee.

The FCC actually issued refunds to CB license holders in the 1970s for over charging them on license fees! They had a surplus of money and thought it was only fair to give it back to the people! ... The face of honesty!

The 1980s brought change to the FCC when civil rights activist forced racial bias to make it easier for minorities to obtain broadcast licenses. This inspired many prominent African Americans to file and get a broadcast license, then sell it off for a hefty profit! The FCC acted promptly to stop this process using it's "Anti License Trafficking" laws! ... Wow! The face of justice and integrity!

Moving into the 1990s, the Commission began a new "Rule Making" process. During the Clinton Administration the Internet and Cell Networks were growing by leaps & bounds! The FCC made a change in the rules allowing the large Cable TV Operators to quickly buy out the smaller cable systems so they could control the Market. The change required that the FCC drop it's "Anti License Trafficking" rule so that the Large Cable Operators could transact these deals swiftly! ... The face of greed steps in!

Soon after these rule changes took place, the Commission decided that they too could make a large profit by Auctioning off the 700 MHz & 800 MHz PCS Trunking frequencies. Before this time, anyone who was a US citizen could file and

get one or more of these frequencies! With the Anti Trafficking laws gone, the Commission could now violate its own Trafficking laws and sell off frequencies for profit! When the Millions of Dollars came pouring in, the greed had already set in! ... The old faces of the FCC would now change forever, and never to return again!

As Y2K came and went, the FCC decided that there weren't



many frequencies left that they could sell off. So they decided to force TV broadcasters to switch to digital channels. This would open up large blocks of new and profitable bandwidth! Of course, they knew that the broadcasters would not take this lightly, and that the public would also balk at buying new TV's! So the FCC petitioned the US Government to use tax payer dollars to give people two \$40.00 coupons and try to calm the public reaction! Smart! Taking the peoples money, magically calling it a "Free" coupon, then giving it

back! ... A smiling new face appeared saying how much better your TV picture is going to be!

At present, the rich and powerful Federal Communications Commission is scoping out our Amateur Radio Frequencies as a new source of revenue using HR607!

Gone are the days of average American citizens applying for a license! Unless you have at least 20 Million Dollars in your bank account, you can forget bidding on your old 70cm repeater frequency!

After the last two presidents, Washington is still brewing more backroom deals than a Tijuana whorehouse on dollar night! The FCC is spinning up new rules to match whatever Washington wants, no matter what the public cost! Since when did Representative Peter King (R-NY), dictate what frequencies he wants to use to the FCC? Isn't that supposed to be the other way around? (Ref HR607)

If you are an Amateur Radio license holder you had better speak now, or forever hold your peace! HR607, and others like it, will slowly strip away your frequencies one band at a time! ... And the face of the FCC? All smiles!

Public comment on the new FCC website can be found at this link.

<http://fccdotgov.uservoice.com/forums/105541-fcc-gov-feedback>

Note: *This is NOT a public comment link for HR607, but any link taking input is better than doing nothing!* Good Luck! 73

Get involved at www.arrl.org



12th ANNUAL



NC4BL Dayton Hamvention by Bus May 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2011

The bus will leave from Burlington, NC (Exit 141) on May 19th 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, P.O. Box 1446, Dayton, OH, 45401.

A \$100 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 \$ _____ (\$100 required by February 15th, 2011) Balance of _____ (required by April 15th, 2011)

Note: I would like to room with:

_____ Call _____

Area Happenings

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

CLUB NETS:

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

- at 9pm, the **GARA News and Information Net**. This net features *NewsLine* and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Roy Smith, N4BYU is always looking for net controls. Contact him if you would like to help.

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

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

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

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES :

FIRST MONDAY – **The Guilford County A.R.E.S.** monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7pm.

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

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

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

The W4VEC Testing Schedule May to Oct. 2011

May 14, 2011

June 11, 2011

July 9, 2011

August 13, 2011

September 10, 2011

October 8, 2011

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

Time: 9:00am

Contact: Glenda Nicholson

Phone: (336) 674-3810

E-mail: ag4nc@bellsouth.net

GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz. tone

442.8625 MHz. + offset, Digital D-Star



Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA