



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

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New Technicians Minted

By Chris Thompson, K4HC

Back in late February, Jim, N4JLW purchased the remaining stock of Technician class study guides that GARA had on hand from Chris, K4HC, who had custody of them. Since Jim had purchased them all at one time, Chris had a strong feeling that Jim had several candidates in mind for getting their ham tickets. Chris opened his mouth without thinking, and next thing he knew, there was a Technician course laid on over two weekends in late April and early May.

Jim arranged for the location – a classroom at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, and Chris arranged for some assistance in instruction – with Will, AI4VE and John, AJ4BT. Chris also contacted Glenda, AG4NC, the lead VE for the local test team,

and arranged for testing to be held and the end of the second days

instruction.

To make a long story short, on Saturday, May 1st, eleven people took their examination for the Technician license. Eleven people passed. The instructors were very pleased. The students were very pleased as well.

Chris also gave the students



NEXT MEETING Monday, May 24

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, May 24th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club. This month's program will be presented by Weldon Fields, W4AJT. Weldon will celebrate 80 years as a ham this year. Come as listen as he talks about the "old days."

an opportunity to participate in a raffle for a new 2 meter HT. Eleven people kicked in \$10 each for a chance to win a new Yaesu FT-250R. The winner was Steve, KJ4UPX (Steve's dad by the way is AJ4UX – weird, huh?).

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Meet the GARA Board

In an attempt to build the bridge between "old" members and "new," I thought an article that told about the GARA Board

Members would be appreciated.

The "old-timers" have heard most of this info before, but may have forgotten, and the "new hams" can benefit from learning about those who currently lead this club.

I will try to get through all the Board Members in the coming months as space permits. This month I would like to "introduce" two Board Members who work primarily "behind

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GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes April 26, 2010

The Greensboro Amateur radio association held its monthly meeting on April 26, 2010 at the Golden Corral Restaurant located near I-40 and Wendover Avenue. The meeting started at 7:15pm.

Will, AI4VE, asked everyone to identify themselves.

Will recognized the members who served in WWII and asked that they tell us about their service.

Roy, N4BYU, said that the humming noise that was heard on the autopatch phone line is in the phone company's equipment and should be repaired next week.

Will asked about approving the minutes from last month. The minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

The trip to the Green Bank radio observatory has only generated 3 interested people so far.

There is a soccer tournament coming up on Memorial Day weekend. Please contact Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, at kd4iun@arrl.net to volunteer.

New Business

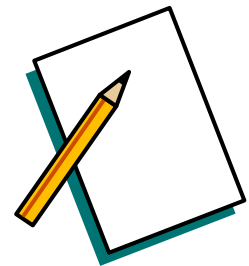
Roy, N4BYU, said Field Day is coming up at the end of June and it will be in Summerfield again at the same place as last year. John Doggett, AJ4DV, will head it up with Jim Waynick, N4JLW, assisting.

Rick Howell, AE4RH, introduced himself as the new assistant emergency coordinator for Skywarn in Randolph and Guilford

counties. He can be reached at ae4rh@aol.com. Rick reminded everyone about the Skywarn net on Tuesday nights at 8:00pm on the 147.255 repeater.

The program was given by Will about the trip to the Dayton Hamvention last year.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



Board Meeting Minutes May 10, 2010

The GARA board held their May meeting on Monday May 10, 2010. The meeting was held at the Benjamin Branch of the Greensboro Public Library.

Members present were Will Ravenel, AI4VE; Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Bob Mays, KE4MOW; Jesse Lindley, N4BFD; Ernie Wall, NC4EW and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Ernie said that the phone bill had dropped to \$78.00, and he still has not received an invoice from Arch for the repeater repair last year. All other bills were paid.

Roy suggested we send Arch a "reminder letter" and the board agreed.

Al said that membership is 5 members ahead of forecast with 56 paid memberships.

Jesse told the board that the

weather radio is still not working correctly. Jesse said the interface cable was lost when we had the radio repaired and he has been unable to get the new cable to work. We discussed the possibility of upgrading to a newer repeater controller for the VHF machine at a later date.

Bob said he was concerned about the lack of interest that was shown about the trip to the Green Bank radio observatory. We discussed possibly rescheduling for a later time of the year.

Will said he would like to see GARA have a summer picnic. We discussed having a picnic for the June meeting which will be held at Hagen Stone Park shelter #5 on June 28, 2010 from 6pm until dark.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Will Ravenel, 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

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News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

The Last Tech-Plus License to Expire in June

From ARRL

In February 1991, the FCC dropped the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for new Technician licensees, and in 1994, it created a new class of Amateur Radio license: the Technician-Plus, also called Tech-Plus. This new license differed from the Technician license in that Tech-Plus licensees had passed the code test and had more operating privileges on HF. Patricia Phillips, N3IGI, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received her Technician licensee on June 12, 1990. On March 21, 2000, she upgraded her license to Tech-Plus, and, at the same time, renewed her license, now set to expire June 12, 2010. This makes Phillips the last Tech-Plus in the FCC database. If she renews her Amateur Radio

license, she will be a Technician.

In 2000, the FCC restructured the license classes, and where there were six classes -- Novice, Technician, Tech-Plus, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra -- only the Technician, General and Amateur Extra survived. Novice and Advanced class licenses could still be renewed and modified, but Tech-Plus licensees would be classified as Technicians upon renewal, but still retain their code credit and HF operating privileges.

According to the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, the Tech-Plus licenses came about when those who had earned their Technician licenses when the Morse code requirement was still in effect wanted a way to distinguish

themselves from the new Technician licensees (who did not have a Morse code requirement). In 1994 -- and effective December 20, 1994 -- the FCC issued and Order called Amendment to Amateur Service Rules to Change Procedures for Filing an Amateur Service License Application and to Make Other Procedural Changes that instituted the Tech-Plus license class: "Technician Plus means that a Technician class licensee has also passed a telegraphy examination. We believe that showing this information in our licensee data base and license document as a separate class rather than continue to treat it as a category of the Technician class is consistent with current licensing procedures."

RCARC Swapfest

The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club hosted the 6th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 8am to 12 Noon at the parking lot of the Calvary Baptist Church, Reidsville, NC.



left to right, Rick Mainhart, WB3EXR; Jesse Lindley, N4BFD; John Strandberg, AJ4BT and Larry Sharpe, K4LS, of Lexington.

General "tailgating" and other fun at the RCARC Swapfest. There was a

good turn out and a local ham even won a door prize. (So Tom, about that book I want from ARRL . . .)



From the President's Shack

It's been a busy time since the last Feed Line was issued. Chris, K4HC, did an excellent job with the Technician class taught at Hinshaw United Methodist Church the last Saturday in April and the first Saturday in May. I had the pleasure of helping with the first class (muddling through the elementary electronics section) but had a family commitment in South Carolina the second weekend. John, AJ4BT, was able to help Chris with that session and a special test session was held at the end of the class. Everyone who took the class passed their exam adding, if I'm not mistaken, a total of 13 new hams to the community (including two that tested on the regular test session the following weekend). Thanks, Chris, for your time and effort with this class.

For the second year in a row I had the pleasure of attending the Dayton Hamfest in Dayton, Ohio.

I joined 24 other hams

on a bus driven by Bill Lundy, NC4BL. We left Thursday

morning for the nine hour trip and stayed three nights in a dormitory on the University of Dayton campus. The bus made stops along the way to pick up Hams from Burlington, NC to Wytheville,

VA so a big part of the fun was meeting and getting to know other Hams from the region on the way there and back. We had two fun and exhausting full days at the Hamfest on Friday and Saturday and returned to Greensboro on Sunday.

Anyone who has not been to the Dayton Hamfest should definitely try to do so, at least once. This is the largest Hamfest/ Amateur Radio Convention in the world and nearly everyone who is involved in Amateur Radio, commercially or professionally, is there. It takes nearly two full days just to see all the exhibits inside the Hara Arena complex and there is an outside flea market area that can take an entire day to fully explore. On top of that there are four separate forum series running continuously throughout the Hamfest with topics of interest presented by experts in various aspects of the hobby. It

is impossible to do it all so hard choices have to be made.

Don't forget that Field Day is coming up the last weekend in June (26th and 27th). Guilford County ARES will be operating a site in Summerfield again this year and non-ARES GARA members and other Hams are welcome to come help out. Even if you cannot participate in Field Day, please mark your calendars for the post-Field Day GARA cookout to be held on the regular Monday meeting day of June 28th at Hagan Stone Park. Details will be provided at the May meeting and on the web page.

Have fun and 73,
- Will, AI4VE



Minted

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When you hear one of these new hams on the air, be sure to take a moment to say "howdy".

Many thanks to the following people:

Jim Waynick, N4JLW – for the excellent location and support

Martha Waynick, KJ4MUE – for making coffee!

Will Ravenell, AI4VE – for teaching help and the projector

John Strandberg, AJ4BT – for teaching help

The W4VEC Greensboro test team:

Glenda Nicholson, AG4NC
Walt Thompson, WA2LT
Rick Mainhart, WB3EXR
Roy Smith, N4BYU

And of course – thanks to the students and new hams – they are the ones who did the real work!

GARA to Host a Post-Field Day Picnic

On Monday, June 28th, instead of the regular GARA meeting, GARA will host a Post-Field Day Picnic at Hagen Stone Park, Shelter # 5.

The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixin's. The event is FREE to all hams and their guests.

If anyone would like to bring a desert, they may feel free to do so, but it is NOT required.

We will plan to eat at 6pm, and I am sure there will be much talk about the Field Day activities.

Invitations will be sent to all GARA members, GAS members and ARES members.

It is important for planning purposes to make your intentions known. If you are planning to attend, will you please contact, Roy Smith, N4BYU, at n4byu@

arrrl.net, and let him know you are coming and how many will be attending

with you. This is essential so they can plan for the right amount of food and fixin's.



Meet

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the scenes": Betty Williams, KC2BFN, and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Betty Williams, KC2BFN, (although the name on her license is Elizabeth A. Williams) is currently serving as a Member-at-Large on the GARA Board. Although she was born



in Philadelphia, she grew up in Southern New Jersey.

Her husband, Dan, was the first ham in the family, N2LGH. He was in the signal corps while in the Army. Betty took a technician class with her youngest son David, NX2N. He has progressed to extra like his father but Betty has chosen to stay a tech. She was first licensed in 1997.

Betty has two HTs, both Kenwoods (TH-22at and a dual bander, TH-G71) but doesn't get on the air much. She much prefers the behind-the-scenes and organizational aspects of the hobby. While in NJ, she was active in RACES and ARES, and was both the Township Radio Officer and a liaison with the Emergency Management Group. She was also instrumental in getting ham radio equipment on the communications vehicle, and the coordination with the police department.

Betty enjoys the club

meetings and has participated in Field Day in the past, while still in NJ, but not as an operator. She was the Food Coordinator. She was responsible to ensure that everyone stayed well hydrated and fed.

Betty is an office manager for an executive recruiter. She followed her son, Dan, Jr. here to Greensboro to be close to him, his wife, Lori, and her granddaughter, Alex. Dan, Jr. has his PhD in molecular biology and is a professor at Winston Salem State University. Betty still has one son, John, living in NJ, but she is hoping he will move down one day soon.

When not caring for her family or the ham community, Betty likes to write, mostly romance novels, play the piano, read, work crossword puzzles and walk.

see **Meet**, page 7

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 May, there was a special testing session at the end of the Tech Class. When both testing session are combined, we had 15 individuals who

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

One ham escaped without having a picture taken, so Logan Heirs, KJ4UPU, is not pictured below.



***Carlie Luck - KJ4UPW
Passed Technician***



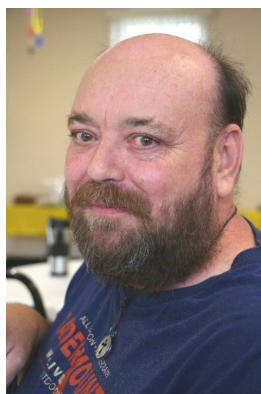
***Debbie Inman - KJ4UPV
Passed Technician***



***Gale Vitamvas - KJ4UPZ
Passed Technician***



***Paul Burks - AJ4YY
Passed Technician,
General and Extra***



***Jack Hicks - KJ4URD
Passed Technician***



***Larry Bowen - KJ4UPQ
Passed Technician***



***Kelli Staples - KJ4UPY
Passed Technician***



***Steve Paschall -
KJ4UPX
Passed Technician***



***Jennifer Williams-
Hickey - KJ4UPT
Passed Technician***



***Katie Frederick -
KJ4UPS
Passed Technician***



***Kimberly Crampton -
KJ4UPR
Passed Technician***



**Walter E. Gaither -
KC4KZR, Passed General**



**Gaither, C. Frye, Jr.-
KJ4UVB
Passed Technician**



**Susan G. Magas-
KJ4UVC
Passed Technician**



**Willfred W. Gray, III-
KJ4UVD
Passed Technician**

Meet

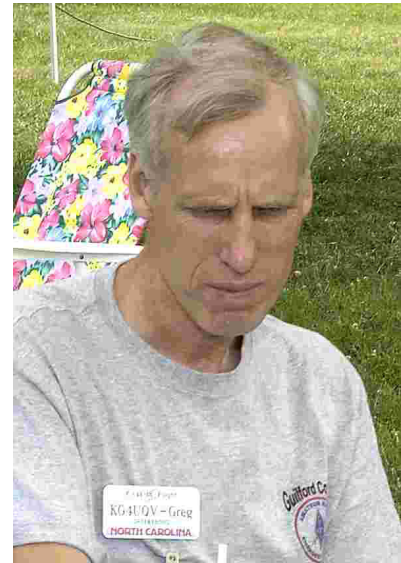
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Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, has served as GARA secretary for the past four (4) years. He faithfully records the minutes of both the regular club meetings, as well as, the board meetings. He then types them up and submits them to be printed each month in the Feed Line.

Greg was featured in the November, 2005, issue of the Feed Line, which had the following to say about him:

“Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, became licensed in August of 2002 when a close friend and fellow ham shared a copy of The Gordon West technician’s audio tape set with him. Greg and his friend Scott Fields, KG4ULX, were licensed only two weeks apart.” Greg said he had been interested in amateur radio back in the 70s but didn’t pursue it. It took Greg about two weeks to study and pass his Technician exam.

Greg was born in Greensboro, and grew up here. He is a 1978 graduate of Smith High School, and attended the Nashville Auto Diesel College. Greg has been employed by Southeastern Foundries as a maintenance technician for the past fifteen years. Greg states he has been married to his wonderful wife Kim for the past 20 years, and they are proud to be the parents of their daughter,



Jessica Bea, who is 9 years old and attends Archer Elementary School. When not participating in amateur radio, Greg enjoys boating and four-wheeling.

Greg’s favorite parts of the hobby are tinkering and building antennas, participating in ARES, and he now and then enjoys PSK31. He currently operates an Alinco DR-600 dual band radio in the shack with a homemade collinear antenna, an Icom 207H in both his car and his truck, a portable “go” box with an Icom IC-V8000. He has a Yaesu FT-840 on a 160 meter dipole at home, for which he is building a remote tuner.

He enjoys the club meetings, ARES, Field Day and every opportunity to learn new things about ham radio. Greg states, “I think ham radio is a great hobby with lots of opportunities, and we need to get more people interested in the hobby.”

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

June, 2010 to Sept. 2010

June 12, 2010

July 10, 2010

August 14, 2010

September 11, 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

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Greensboro, NC 27417

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA