

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



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New GARA VHF Duplexers Arrive

The new VHF Duplexers have arrived according to engineering Chairman Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA. Carlton received the new set from Telewave by UPS on Thursday June 7th. The present set of Phelps-Dodge duplexers, are about 32 years, show signs of aging and were in need of replacement.

"It will take a little time to have it checked out to make sure it was not jarred off frequency in transit and to adjust it for minimum insertion loss," Carlton comments in his monthly report.

"That will be done when I go to pick up the Master 2 which did, in fact, have a bad final and some burned control circuit items."

A problem of low power output occurred a few weeks ago and it was traced to the finals in the transmitter power amplifier. Since GARA has a complete back-up repeater, it was placed in service until repairs can be made.

"After the duplexer adjustments, I will bring both it and the Mstr. II home and schedule a date to go to the site to install them. This may take two trips as it may take a little changing of the wood frame box we keep around our duplexer." Carlton added.

"Things are moving in the right direction and it will take some time for the Mstr. II repair and duplexer adjustment and of course to reinstall them, but substantial progress has been made," he concluded.



Photos by Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA

STILL IN THE PACKING - new duplexers from Telewave were received June 7th. The present set of VHF Phelps-Dodge duplexers in use by GARA are about 32 years old and showed signs of aging and were in need of replacement. Thanks to Carlton, Engineering Chairman for the information used here.



Dell Customers Demand And Get Windows XP On New Computers

There is trouble in Microsoft Vista Paradise. Dell has had so many requests for new computers to be shipped with Windows XP Home, or Pro, that they are now shipping several models with these operating systems installed instead of Vista.

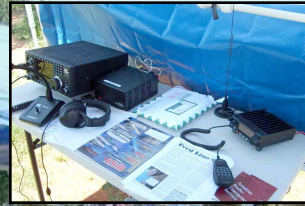
A lot of popular user software will not run under Vista and users are mad! If you are not ready for Vista and need a new

computer, remember that XP Home will be supported for only 2 years after Jan. 31, 2007.

Windows XP Pro will be supported for 7 years from Jan. 31, 2007. Therefore, it would be better to go for XP Pro, if you want to stay with XP for the longest possible time. - Via Don Harris, W4BUZ

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Assoc. will be May 28, at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover Ave, near Sam's Club.



Founder's Day Celebration For Summerfield

GARA President John Doggett, KI4BMS, sits at the communications tent during the annual event held in downtown Summerfield. John worked HF and as well as VHF & UHF during the event.



Photos by John Doggett, KI4BMS

Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

Mickey Fields, W4HVZ, SK

GREENSBORO - Lily McLees "Mickey" Fields, W4HVZ, passed away, Wednesday, May 30, 2007. She was the wife of Weldon Fields, W4AJT.

Mickey was also a gifted artist, leaving behind numerous paintings and handpainted china pieces.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Weldon Fields; son, Charles W. "Buddy" Fields, Jr.; daughter, Charlanne Fields Tippett; sisters, Carolyn Edwards, Mollie Lind; two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

The amateur radio community extends our prayers and sympathy to the Fields family.

New domain name for ARES

Guilford County ARES now has a new Domain name: www.guilfordares.org. The ".com" will address be retained and will automatically forward, but it may be inactive for the next week while the transfer is taking place. Check the site for local ARES information.

GARA Meeting Minutes



Regular Meeting Minutes May 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Alan Bradley KD4IUN gave a report on the Wrangler/McDonalds soccer Tournament last weekend. He spoke about the new scoring program that GYSA decided to use just three days before the tournament started and the problems that it caused.

Ernie Wall NC4EW gave the treasury report stating that we are doing OK.

Al Allred K4ZKQ gave the financial report stating that we are on track.

Clark Doggett KG4HOM said that the BBQ / picnic will be September 22nd and "all are invited."

Carlton 'O'Rork Gave the Engineering report and stated that the duplexers have been ordered and that Telawave's founder, who still comes to work every day even though he is 75 years old, has instructed his salesman to give amateur radio clubs the same discount that they give to government accounts. We should have the duplexer in about 10 business days or so.

Chris Thompson K4HC gave the program, which was on electronic logging programs, and he showed a power point presentation, which demonstrated Ham radio Deluxe, and Logger 32.

The meeting closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer KG4UQV, Secretary

There was no Board meeting for May.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

- President: John Doggett, KI4BMS
- Vice-President: Chris Thompson, K4HC
- Treasurer: Ernie Wall, NC4EW
- Secretary: Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
- Financial: Al Allred, K4ZKQ
- Engineering Chairman: Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA
- Operations: Roy Smith, N4BYU
- Members at Large: Clark Doggett, KG4HOM
Tom Forrest, N4GVK
- Appointed Positions:
News letter editor and Webmaster:
Tom Forrest, N4GVK

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Triad Designs exhibited at Dayton Hamvention

By Arch, KT4AT

The Dayton Hamvention took place this year on May 18th, 19th and 20th. With an attendance of over 25,000, this is the largest hamfest worldwide.

This year, N5MIJ, Jim McLellan, the chairman of the Texas Interconnect Team (K5TIT), from Rockwall, TX, decided to open a booth dedicated to D-Star hardware and software, designed by individuals from all over the country. The booth was located across the aisle from the Icom D-Star booth. The Texas Interconnect Team has been involved with D-Star since 2003.

Robin, AA4RC, from Atlanta, and Arch, KT4AT, from High-Point were chosen to man this D-Star Projects booth, and to conduct demonstrations of the equipment



The D-Star Projects Booth

and software on display. Among the items exhibited were, from left to right on photo above:

- * D-Star controller and Gateway (AA4RC, Atlanta, GA)
- * D-Star QRP transceiver (AE4JY, Duluth, GA)

- * RP4000 repeater programming software (KT4AT, High-Point)
- * RP4000/2000 repeater control and delay module (KT4AT)
- * D-Star link Bit Error Rate (BER) measurement software (KT4AT)
- * D-Star Benchtop Service Monitor (KT4AT).



Robin, AA4RC (left), and Arch, KT4AT (right)

K5TIT had provided the computers, and Icom had provided one RP4000/RP2C D-Star repeater, which was operated on 443.340+. Several hundred people stopped by the booth, and attended the demonstrations. This was also a good opportunity to open lines of communications with Icom people, both stateside, and from Japan. Finally, Arch went to Dayton with the Bill Lundy NC4BL Express.

Photos courtesy of W4DLH, Dean Hallberg, from Raleigh

NC "Antenna Bill" Passes Full Senate Vote June 19th

The vote was 49-0 in favor

by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, ARRL
NC Public Information Officer
RALEIGH NC, June 14, 2007

The North Carolina "Amateur Radio Antenna Bill" - officially House Bill 1340 - cleared another hurdle today as the state Senate Committee on Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship unanimously recommended its passage by the full Senate. The Senate could vote on it as early as next week. If it passes as expected, it must stop by the House one more time for approval of a minor change in the text. Then it's on to the Governor for his signature. It's possible the bill will become law before the end of the month, and would take effect in October.

H1340 is essentially a North Carolina version of FCC rule PRB-1 which requires states and municipalities to provide "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio antennas (complete H1340 text below). H1340 adds specific language about permitting antennas up to 90 feet, though zoning boards would have some latitude based on health, safety and aesthetic concerns. However, the bill's primary value is that zoning boards, county and city councils will pay attention to a state statute, while they might have trouble recognizing an obscure FCC rule (PRB-1 is an FCC rule).

The bill slid through the Senate committee as quickly as it did the House Ways and Means Committee on May 2. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Daniel McComas (R, New Hanover County), introduced the bill to the committee, and former Wilmington Mayor Hamilton Hicks, KB4BR, spoke briefly about the need for this legislation following experience with Hurricane Katrina and others, and the difficulty some hams have had getting permission to erect effective antennas. Hicks is well known by many House and Senate leaders.

One committee member asked if the bill would override CC&R's (deed restrictions and Homeowner Association rules). He was assured it would not, although Hicks did say that the statute would give ham radio operators something to use to open discussions with Homeowner

Associations. Another member asked if

the The North Carolina League of Municipalities had any objections. Hicks said he had discussed the bill with their leadership and asked them to present any objections - they had none. The bill passed the Senate committee unanimously on a voice vote.

Also attending the meeting were ARRL NC Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, and PIO Gary Pearce, KN4AQ.

Hicks and Slay learned that the bill was actually written by Gerry Cohen, Director of the Bill Drafting Division for the General Assembly, who introduced himself outside the meeting room. Cohen is also N4GC, a ham since 1964 who grew up in the shadow of the ARRL's old headquarters in Hartford CT. Cohen said that he saw an early draft of the bill being prepared by one of his staff lawyers who didn't have experience with Amateur Radio. He took up the project himself.

Hicks and Slay were also interviewed outside the conference room by WUNC Radio legislative reporter Laura Leslie. Leslie said that she became interested in the bill when it was first introduced.

While full Senate passage is more than a formality, no resistance is expected, and Ham Hicks said that no additional lobbying of state legislators is needed.

When hearing about this bill, may hams ask if the General Assembly will ever receive a bill that would override CC&R's. No such bill is planned, and the immediate questions asked about that by members of both the House and Senate committees shows that such a bill would be more controversial. The FCC has declined to

extend PRB-1 coverage to CC&R's on a federal level. ARRL supported bills in Congress that would do that have been introduced in each of the past several sessions, but have died without action. The ARRL continues to list that as a legislative priority.

FULL TEXT OF H1340:

AN ACT TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BY REQUIRING CITY AND COUNTY ORDINANCES REGULATING ANTENNAS TO REASONABLY ACCOMMODATE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

A city ordinance based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations that regulates the placement, screening, or height of the antennas or support structures of Amateur Radio operators must reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communications and must represent the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the purpose of the city. A city may not restrict antennas or antenna support structures of Amateur Radio operators to heights of 90 feet or lower unless the restriction is necessary to achieve a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic objective of the city.

This act is effective when it becomes law. (The Senate version changes this to a specific date in October, 2007. This change must be approved by the House before it can be signed by Governor Easley).



Rep. Daniel McComas (R, New Hanover County) introduces H1340 to Senate committee. Former Wilmington mayor Hamilton Hicks, KB4BR, also spoke briefly.

Photo by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

Interesting Trend With Some Large Radio Manufacturers?

Is Kenwood's market softening for Amateur Radio gear?

by Michael S. Higgins, K6AER
Via E-ham.net

Many years ago we watched with some ambivalence the slow decline of the Drake Company from the amateur ranks. W.R. Drake had died and his non ham son was at the helm wanting to take the company in a different direction.

At the time the excitement was high with new radios coming out from Kenwood, Yaesu and ICOM. We are at a similar fork in the road with Kenwood. Looking at the excitement almost every manufacture experienced at Dayton, Kenwood was one of the loan exceptions.

I talked with their North American sales Manager, Phil and he said they have no high performance HF radio in the pipeline. The sales crew looked haggard and tired and when I visited their booth on Friday and Saturday at Dayton, no one was smiling. No give aways, no fluff and the booth was looking old. The booth was for the most part vacant and best served as a short cut to the MFJ booths further into the arena. They had an empty Plexiglas covered box on Thursday during set up and many hoped a new high HF radio was to appear on Friday. Come Friday morning.....just a VHF mobile.

At the Visalia DX Convention a month earlier, the Kenwood Factory representative left on Saturday at noon while the convention show lasted for 5 more hours. Just some brochures were left on the table. They had a TS-2000 but no one stopped to talk. I would have to say

the morale at Kenwood must be very low.

Their two-way radio division is doing very well but not having a licensed ham at the helm of the amateur radio division is taking its toll. I feel Kenwood has suffered greatly in the HF community since



An operational Drake Twins station - a piece of history.
Photo courtesy, Giorgio Fontana, IN3IEK

lack of a flagship radio does transcend your buying decision for other radio purchases.

I saw this downward spiral of esteem with the Drake line after the old man died and his non ham son took over. The rest was history. I hope Kenwood is not on the same path.

If 3 guys at Elecraft can bring out a high perform HF transceiver, the K3 in a year's time it makes you think there is no one left in engineering at Kenwood other than the two way radio division. The crowd at Elecraft booth were two or three deep for much of the show and with every new buyer of a K3 sprouting a proud K3 button his shirt. By the end of the show they must have taken hundreds of orders

Kenwood TS-2000

the TS-870 was pulled from production with out a replacement. The last high performance design was the TS-2000 which started designed in late 1999. The technology is over 7 years old and getting long in the tooth.

I have been a Kenwood man for 35 years. My first

Kenwood radios were the 599 twins. I own a TS-2000 as a backup radio and it is a very fine \$1500 radio but it is not cutting edge performer. I finally went to an IC-756 Pro III when I upgraded my HF radio and as a result also bought several ICOM VHF radios. The



Elecraft K3 Transcievier

for I saw K3 buttons every time I looked at the crowd.

I hope this is not the case for Kenwood but as a wise man once said watch what a person does not what they say. Kenwood's actions are speaking very loud.

Area Activities

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 PM, the **Greensboro Amateur Radio Association** have their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Please plan to gather at 6:30 PM for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 PM

CLUB NETS:

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

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

TUESDAYS – at 8 PM, the **2 Meter SSB Net** meets on 144.225 Mhz. USB. Chris Thompson, K4HC is the net control station.

WEDNESDAYS – **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES :

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

THIRD MONDAY – at 6:30 PM **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Greensboro Police Western Sub Station at 300 Swing Rd in the community room. Refreshments at 6:30 PM and the business meeting begins at 7 PM.

SATURDAYS – at the K&W Cafeteria on Big Tree Way, hams get together for **Saturday Breakfast** at 7:30 AM. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater, with 100 Hz. tone.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY – at 11 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria off Big Tree Way and a Friday lunch bunch is at the K&W Cafeteria off South Holden Road. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone.

EVERY FRIDAY – at 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Guilford College (summer location till Daylight Savings time changes)

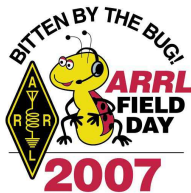
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Field Day is June 23 & 24th at Hagan-Stone Park in Pleasant Garden. Set-up will begin Friday afternoon at 2 pm. The location is all the way to end of the paved road in the park. For more information, contact Dave Collins, KE4IAF at ke4iaf@arrl.net



The Official Publication of GARA