

# Feed Line



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## ARRL Field Day Sharpens Skills Of Local Amateurs

### *Special to the Feed Line*

*Editor's Note: This story was reprinted by written permission from the News & Record. It was requested that the text not be edited.*

**By Ellica Church, Staff Writer  
News & Record**

PLEASANT GARDEN -- "CQ field day. CQ field day," Matt Towe said into the microphone, searching for other amateur radio operators.

"This is November Alpha 4 Golf Charlie: NA4GC," he continued. "CQ field day."

A voice crackled back through the radio, then another and another. People from places such as Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Texas -- even a few from Ontario and Quebec.

The transmissions took only about 15 to 20 seconds each, just long enough for users to exchange their call names, power source and location.

"Seventy-three and good luck," Towe said, signing off at the end of each transmission.

Towe and other members of the Guilford County Amateur Radio Emergency Service are trying to squeeze as many transmissions as they can into a 24-hour stretch between 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. today.

The group, which is set up at Hagan-Stone Park, is participating in a nationwide field-day contest that concludes amateur radio week.

More than 30,000 amateur radio operators took part in the event last year, and several contests are taking place in the Triad this year.

The event tests speed and skill, both invaluable during an emergency situation.

People often think of amateur radio as an outdated form of communication, said David Collins, emergency coordinator for Guilford County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. But he said the communication relies heavily on the latest technology.

Amateur radio operators are frequently called to help in situations when power outages knock out traditional lines of communication, such as telephones.

Collins hopes the public will learn more about these uses of amateur radios when they visit the field day at Hagan-Stone Park.

"There's always something to keep you interested," Collins said. "And there's the public-service side of things. I like giving back

something to the community. This is what hits me in the heart."

He and other amateur radio operators -- including many from the 85-member Guilford County group -- helped establish emergency communications after hurricanes hit the North Carolina coast and ice storms hit the Triad several years ago.

The fast-paced field-day event simulates those emergency conditions.

No commercial power can be used, so amateur radio operators have to rely on generators or solar power to run their radios and equipment.

They've set up radios,  
**Please turn to page 4**

## Next Meeting July 25

*The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover. If you'd like to eat be there at 6:30 PM with the meeting beginning at about 7:15 PM.*

*The program will be presented by Dub Bridges, KG4UFB, on the new VIPER radio system.*

## Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

### GARA Members Save Woman At Beach

*Editor's Note: The author is 15 year old Lexie Doggett, daughter of John Doggett, KI4BMS. The incident occurred at Carolina Beach on the afternoon of July 25. The person survived the near drowning. The story is unedited.*

**By Lexie Doggett**

During a recent vacation trip to the beach, Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, and John Doggett, KI4BMS, went from ordinary vacationers to heroes in only a matter of seconds.

It all started when Clark's wife Jane, KG4ZQK, was on the porch relaxing, when she suddenly heard a girl screaming for help. At first she ignored the screams, brushing them off as a child merely enjoying herself in the ocean, but as the cries became more persistent Jane realized that this was no joke, but a very serious matter. She stood up to see if she could find out what was going on, and then she saw it.

Out in the ocean, she could make out the figure of a young woman swimming frantically trying to get back to shore. Reacting almost immediately, Jane ran into the house and told John and Clark what she had witnessed.

Realizing just how serious the situation actually was, both John and Clark ran down the stairs to get to the beach access. As they

ran past his truck, Clark thought to grab a rope from the front seat.

Meanwhile, as soon as John and Clark had left the house, Jane had picked up the phone and dialed 911 to report the situation. As they neared the water's edge, John began to tie the rope around his waist so that his father could hold onto him as he went into the frigid and choppy water. But before John ventured into the water, a bystander came up to Clark and took the rope from him in order to be able to hold John better, since he said Clark was "too old".

As John raced into the water, he couldn't help but notice how cold the water was, but he kept on going. When he finally reached the girl, he managed to grab her securely and then began the painstaking swim back to shore.

The rip current was terribly strong, but luckily the man on shore helped pull both John and the young woman back to shore.

When he got back to shore, John made sure the girl was okay before returning to the house just as the EMS crew arrived. Clark got his rope back and wrapped it up and laid it back in his truck for the next time it was needed.

The ironic thing about the whole situation is that Clark only bought the rope because his daughter Mary, KG4ZQL, told him

to buy it because she thought it was pretty. This story goes to show that even ordinary people can become heroes, and teaches you that it never hurts to be prepared, even if you don't really realize that you are prepared.

### Family Loss

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Jim Williamson, W4VEC/NQ4T, High Point, who became a silent key June 25. Jim was head of the Volunteer Examiners Club of America

### Screenwriter Ernest Lehman, K6DXK, Silent Key

Noted screenwriter Ernest Lehman, K6DXK, died July 2 after a lengthy illness. He was 89. The six-time Oscar nominee's film credits include North by Northwest,



Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? and The Sound of Music. Some of his other screenwriting credits include The King and I, Hello, Dolly! and

Portnoy's Complaint--which he also directed and produced. In 2001, Lehman received a honorary Oscar--a lifetime achievement award--from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences "in appreciation of a body of varied and enduring work." Presenting the Oscar to Lehman was famed actress Julie Andrews (photo).

via ARRL

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## A Note from the President

*Lee, W1MBS*

## Thank You.

A family member and I agree on a lot of things. In fact, we agree on most items. But there are a few issues we are at totally different ends. One of those is the use of the term 'Thank you'.

My relative feels just using the term is all that is needed. He says all you need to do is to say 'Thank you', and that is the end of the conversation. I feel you should go more into detail. To use his method, the term is just a generic statement to end that train of thought and move to the next topic.

I feel another statement on the same topic is needed.

Suppose, for example, you are in

a restaurant and the waitress asks 'Would you like something to drink?'. According to my relative you should reply, 'Yes', and that's all that is needed. I feel you should answer her question, and then tell her what you would like to drink.

Now to be more to the point, as President of GARA I would like to say 'Thank you' to everyone who participated in Field Day. So, according to the terms my relative has set, I have met the requirements by simply saying 'Thank you'. But that is not how I feel about this event.

During the weekend of June 25th and 26th, a number of local hams gathered at Hagan Stone for the annual Field Day 2005. This year it was sponsored by ARES, and it proved to be another success. It was a success because everyone worked together. Who says you can not have fun and still work together?

But what is Field Day? We know every year hams get together and operate from remote locations. We

know there are contests between hams, and ham organizations. But the real reason for Field Day is 'just in case'. What happens if we have an emergency such as 9/11?

What happens if we have an emergency caused by extreme weather? Or what happens if all normal communications are not possible? Enter the air ways with local hams working together with the knowledge learned by Field Day.

So to all the hams who participated, thank you. To all those who helped set up the equipment, thank you. To those who provided food, thank you. To those who donated the equipment, thank you. And to those hams who wondered why they were sitting there making those contacts late in the evening, thank you.

Because in the event this Field Day activity is needed for an actual emergency, thank you. And in the event that relative will use your services during that emergency, he will tell you thank you for all your efforts.

## Meet Our Members...this month Bob Davet, W8JFQ



**Bob Davet, W8JFQ**

GARA member and veteran operator Robert E. "Bob" Davet, W8JFQ, hails from Twinsburg, Ohio. That's just outside of Cleveland. Bob and his bride of 46 years, Marianne, settled in Greensboro in 1982, and they believe they're most likely here to stay.

Bob developed an interest in amateur radio while in high school. "A good friend and ham, K8NJG, and I would get together to listen and talk on 10 meters. That got me hooked. That was in 1955/56," Bob says. He waited several years before deciding to go

after his novice license in 1977. His first rig was a Heath Kit 2-Meter lunch box transceiver with a half wave home-brew vertical antenna on the roof of his garage.

Since receiving his first license, Bob's rigs include a Kenwood TS-50 with AT-50 Auto antenna tuner, coupled with a Hustler 4-BTV Vertical; a Kenwood TM-721A 2-meter/440, coupled with an AR-270 Cushcraft Vertical; and a Yaesu FT-212RN 2-meter for APRS with a 2-meter Ringo Range Vertical antenna. He also uses a Yaesu 1500M 2-meter

*See Member page 6*



# Field Day '05 In Photos

Photographed by Tom Forrest, N4GVK

Sponsored by Guilford County ARES/NA4GC, the group made 1011 contacts - 441 CW and 570 phone.



## Field Day from page 1

antennas and tents in an open field at the park, and group members will take turns staffing the radios during the 24-hour contest.

Last year, they talked to 900 people; this year, they hope to reach 1,000.

The event also boasts demonstrations, giving people a chance to watch amateur television or try their hand at amateur radio at the "Get on the Air" tent.

Many who decide to give it a try quickly get hooked.

Towe got into amateur radio as a hobby. But the more time he invested, the more he wanted to learn about the different ways to use it.

Many of the amateur radio groups he joined focused on the importance of using that skill to help the community.

So he got involved, as did his wife, Susan, who is also an amateur radio operator.

They have helped with emergency efforts and have been part of the field-day contest for several years.

"This is a blast," Towe said about the field-day competition. "This is like you've prepared, you've worked, and now you get to come out and blow off steam."



Al Allred, K4ZKQ at the information tent



↑ Smile! You're on ATV



Ernie Wall, NC4EW, helps new-comer, twelve-year-old Kelli Joyce, make contacts



Chris Thompson, K4HC and Duane Blevens, N4PDV give a demonstration of ATV. Equipment provided by John Jardins, W2ATV.



Fun & fellowship .....



TV coverage ...



Susan Towe, KG4NRI & Matt Towe, KF4ZGZ, get the computer logging ready as Susan Kirkman, K14EZY looks on.





Night falls on the field day site at Hagan-Stone Park....



Dub Bridges, KG4UFB checks the 160 meter antenna



T.J. James, of UPN Channel 48 interviews Dave Collins, KE4IAF, ARES Coordinator for Guilford County.



Mike Eagen, K0RRP and Matt Towe, KF4ZGZ make contacts.



Chief Mac Morgan, of the NC Canie Emergency Response Team, of Apex, sits at the control of the unit's communications van. This mobile communications unit is complete with public service and Ham, including a telescopic mast. The units were on display at Field Day.



Food time, fried chicken and all the fixins'



John Covington, W4CC, ARRL Section Manager, far right, takes a look at one of the operating stations.

## Engineering Update

By Arch, KT4AT  
Engineering chairman

**VHF Update:** Except for the continued kerchunking (same being present also in 145.25), nothing to report this month on the 145.15 machine, which is working fine. Work continues on the characterization of the Phelps-Dodge duplexer for the source of intermod. A methodology has been devised to measure each cavity separately. This methodology requires building three different filters to do the measurements. Two of those filters require notches over

110 dB deep, and this in turn has slowed down the progress. Serious shielding is necessary to achieve those attenuations, and this has required more mechanical machining than originally planned. Two out of the three filters have been built and are working, the last will be finished this week. Then the measurements on the duplexer cavities can proceed.

**UHF Update:** The new machine is working fine. Thanks

to KI4BMS and KG4HOM who have volunteered to go get the cabinet at Guilford College. As soon as available, both Machine 1 and Machine 2 will be refitted in the Guilford cabinet.

**Infrastructure:** As soon as the UHF cabinet is completed, we will also finish the infrastructure issues left open in the shack. Like various feedline clean-up, tie down, etc...

## FCC Issues Revised Form 605

A revised FCC Form 605, "Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services," has gone into effect.



The new form must be used for all receipts as of July 18. The revised form includes a new Question 13 (subsequent questions have been appropriately renumbered) that will affect amateurs applying for an administrative update (AU) to reflect a change in licensee name.

Question 13 now asks: "If the licensee name is being updated, is the update a result from the sale (or transfer of control) of the license(s) to another party and for which proper Commission approval has not been received or proper notification not provided?" Amateur Radio Service applicants should always answer "no" to Question 13. Not answering the

question--which has nothing to do with the Amateur Radio Service--could result in dismissal of an application.

Starting with receipts of Monday, July 18, 2005, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau no longer will accept an FCC Form 605 bearing an edition date prior to July 2005.

### **Member from page 3**

as a Mobile rig with quarter-wave vertical antenna; a Yeasu FT-50R HT2 for 2-Meters and 440; a Tiny-Track 2 APRS/GPS mobile tracking unit; ADIAR 146 2-Meter Mobile unit with quarter-wave vertical antenna; 2 Kantronics KPC-3 for APRS. He also runs two computers – one for APRS and 1 for everyday work.

Bob enjoys just about every activity the club takes on. His eight-year track record as Treasurer of GARA (1987 – 1995) truly sets him apart as a dedicated, service oriented club leader. He

Applicants can avoid filing outdated editions by submitting applications electronically via the Universal Licensing System (ULS)

For additional information or assistance, visit the FCC Help and Support Web page. This change will not affect usage of NCVEC Form 605 by VECs and VE teams.

*Via ARRL Web Site*

also enjoys getting on Echolink, and has a standing contact schedule with his son – also called Bob (W8RID) – in Ohio on Sunday evenings.

Bob retired in 1994 from Volvo Heavy Truck Corp after 29 years, where he served as a Test and Development Technician, and also as a Supervisor of the Engineering Department.

Bob and Marianne have a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren. The two of them share an enthusiasm for camping, using their 31-ft. motor home.





# GARA Meeting Minutes

## REGULAR MEETING 6/27/05

The regular monthly meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant Monday evening June 27 at 7:15 PM with 18 members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wimbs, W1MBS. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the "Feed Line."

There was no old business reported. Committee reports were presented. President Wimbs reminded everyone to plan for the picnic September 17 and make plans for the Mt. Mitchell trip in October. Also a "tail-gate" day is being planned at Hagan-Stone Park sometime in August. Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW, reported all was fine. Al Allred, K4ZKQ, reported on the financial status, saying everything was on forecast track. Secretary Tom Forrest, N4GVK, had no report.

Engineering Committee report was given by Arch, KT4AT. Arch said he was still working on the duplexers and can not make a good assessment yet. On the UHF side, machine two is ready for installation. The new UHF machine was performing very well with the range slightly exceeding the 145.15 machine and good reports from mobiles. A coverage map was provided to members in the current issue of the "Feed Line" along with a detailed write up. There had been a number of "kerchunks" on the

local repeaters. Arch said these were "man-made" and apparently someone was playing with the local repeaters. He advised members to be on alert and listen on reverse for evidence. If caught, the offender would be reported to the FCC along with proof.



**Don Campbell, KG4IYH, of the Guilford County Department of Emergency Management gives the program.**

Operations Chairman and Repeater Trustee Roy Smith, N4BYU, had no report. Members-at-large, Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, said he need operators for soccer tournaments on September 3-4 and November 19-20. If interested you can e-mail Allen at [kd4iun@arrl.net](mailto:kd4iun@arrl.net). Jon Matlock said he need operators for the Triad Highland Games August 19-20 at Bryan Park. Contact Jon at [ke4iam@bellsouth.net](mailto:ke4iam@bellsouth.net) if you can help. President Wimbs also noted that net control operators were needed for the Sunday night News Net on the 15 repeater. See Roy Smith, N4BYU, if you're interested.

The program for the evening was given by Don Campbell, KG4IYH, of the

Guilford County Department of Emergency Management. Don presented a program on the updates of Emergency Management, the incident command system and the involvement and future of Amateur Radio Operators during time of emergency. He noted that a lot of emphasis was being placed on plain talk communications. He also explained the newer communications systems and their role in Emergency Management - 800 Mhz., UHF Med. Radio system, Sat. phones, cellular phones, NC Emergency Management-VIPER system. Everyone enjoyed the presentation.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted by  
Tom Forrest, N4GVK, Secretary

There was no regular Board Meeting for July

## **NEW ITEM ADDED TO W4GSO WEB SITE**

A new feature has been added to the W4GSO web site.

A section "Become a "Ham" radio operator, has been added to the home page. The graphic is located on the right side of the page under the club logo.

The separate page offers informative links, study guide and the local testing schedule. Check it out at <http://www.w4gso.org>

# Area Activities

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30 PM, the **Greensboro Amateur Radio Association** has 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 PM **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Dinner at 6:30 PM and the business meeting is slated to begin and 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.

**MONDAYS & FRIDAYS** – at 11 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. On Monday they meet at various locations and on Friday lunch is at the K&W Cafeteria off South Holden Road. Talk-in is on the 145. 150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone. On Mondays, give a call to see where everyone is meeting.

**EVERY FRIDAY** – at 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks on Battleground Ave. (summer location till Daylight Savings time changes)

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

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Web:  
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## GARA OFFICERS

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