

Feed Line

GARA - We're putting the "Spark" back in Amateur Radio®



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FCC Begins Rulemaking... Proceeding Initiated For A New MedRadio Service

July 14, 2006 -Washington, D.C. – The FCC today initiated a proceeding to establish a new service for advanced medical radio communication ("MedRadio") devices in the 401-406 MHz band. The FCC noted that an ever-increasing number of medical devices are coming to rely upon radio transmissions for critical aspects of their functionality. These devices are improving the health care of all Americans by providing relief and recovery of function from many types of illness and injury.

In today's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, the FCC proposed designating an additional two-megahertz of spectrum for these devices, at 401-402 MHz and 405-406 MHz, adjacent to the existing Medical Implant Communications Service (MICS) band at 402-405 MHz, for a total of 5 megahertz specifically designated for medical device radiocommunications. Underscoring the flexibility and scope of potential uses under this new service, the FCC proposed to revise its nomenclature

and designate the entire 401-406 MHz band as MedRadio service.

To accommodate a wider variety of devices than the current MICS service, which is limited to use of implant devices, the FCC proposed allowing the use of body-worn transmitting devices in the MedRadio service. The FCC also proposed increased flexibility for the newly designated 401-402 MHz and 405-406 MHz bands to allow the use of low power, low duty cycle MedRadio devices without requiring the frequency agility capability required by the current MICS rules. The FCC proposed that frequency agility would continue to be required of devices in the core 402-405 MHz band to accommodate devices that might be used for more critical purposes and which might be less compatible with non-frequency-agile devices, and sought comment on this point.

Additionally, in the Notice of Inquiry, the FCC sought comment on information

concerning developments that are anticipated in the medical devices field and their likely spectrum requirements. Among other matters, the inquiry sought comment on:

- New implant and body-worn medical radiocommunication technologies and how the Commission could anticipate and proactively address the challenging array of RF spectrum issues.
- The relative benefits and tradeoffs that should be considered with respect to both licensed and unlicensed approaches to authorizing the operation of these devices.
- Collaborative efforts between this Commission (FCC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding options for better educating device manufacturing industry leaders about medical radio device electromagnetic immunity issues in an RF environment.

From an official FCC Press Release dated 7/13/06

Montenegro Now Number 336 On Current DXCC List

A new ARRL DXCC entity came into being recently! As expected, the United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member June 28, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity.

"According to the ARRL DXCC List criteria, entities on the UN list of member-states qualify as political entities," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "Therefore, effective June 28, 2006 (UTC), ARRL has added The Republic of Montenegro to the DXCC List. Claims for DXCC credit will be

accepted immediately."

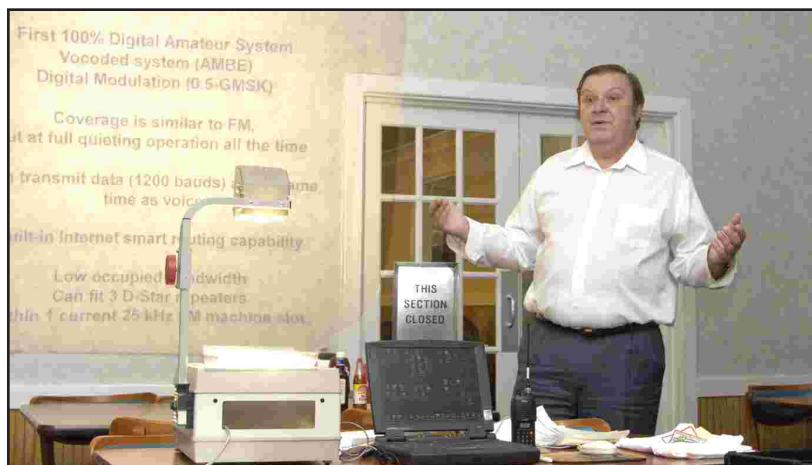
The Daily DX www.dailydx.com this week quoted Ranko Boca, YT6A, that current Montenegrin radio amateurs may use their current Serbia-Montenegro call signs until the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) designates a call sign block for the new country.

In anticipation of Montenegro's new nation status, the International DX Festival Montenegro www.yu6scg.cg.yu/international-dx-festival.html has been set for July 20 until August 12. That's when several

international operators — with Boca as DXpedition leader and well-known DXer Martti Laine, OH2BH, as radio operations leader — will join forces with Montenegrin Amateur Radio operators from at least three different stations using a common call sign in an effort to meet the DX community's need to work the newest DXCC Entity. Festival organizers have set the ambitious goal of 200,000 contacts for the event, which will use all HF bands.

Montenegro declared its independence on June 3, following a national referendum May 21. *From the ARRL Letter*

The Next Frontier for Ham Radio - Digital Voice & Data



At the June meeting of GARA, Engineering Chairman Arch, KT4AT (left), made an interesting presentation about the future of digital communications in Ham Radio. This also included the future participation of GARA. A summary of the presentation can be found in the minutes on page three and a PDF file containing the visuals can be found on the GARA web site: www.w4gso.org. The system name is D-Star, by Icom and uses narrow bandwidth digital modulation (GMSK). During the meeting a demonstration was made using two digital Icom HT's and computers. Voice and data can be transmitted simultaneously.

Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

Mother of Arch, KT4AT Passes Away

Our sympathy to Arch, KT4AT, in the recent loss of his mother, Simone Archinard, 86, of Hauteville, France, who passed away June 19 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

She retired in 1983 as Chief Accounting Officer for Chateau d'Angeville, a Red Cross hospital in Hauteville, France, created in 1915 for treating WWI wounded military personnel, then converted to tuberculosis sanatorium in the 1930's.

In addition to Arch, she is survived by her husband, Charles Archinard.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be July 24, 2006 at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover Ave. Please join us and bring a friend.

....FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John Doggett, KI4BMS, GARA President

The other night, I was sitting thinking about the benefits and joys of ham radio. I then realized that there is one aspect of the ham radio community that is largely overlooked: volunteering.

Now, as you read this you may not necessarily agree with me, but take time to consider the many advantages of volunteering to help out members of the community. First and foremost, volunteering gives you an opportunity to give back to a community that you take so much from on a daily basis.

Each day, you and I both use a number of public services provided to us without thinking twice. If you volunteer, you get a chance to return some of what you received.

Volunteering also provides you with

multiple occasions to interact with members of society whom you may not necessarily talk to or picture yourself talking to on a daily basis. It allows you to venture out and meet new people, perhaps permitting you to acquire more acquaintances as well.

Volunteering also gives you an amazing sense of accomplishment that cannot be attained any other way. It allows you to feel good about yourself and even permits you to spread the idea of amateur radio, possibly even attracting more potential hammers; something which is desperately needed.

Therefore, I urge you to go out and volunteer to participate in communications for an event in your community. There are certainly more pros than cons when it comes to giving back to the public.

Getting You The Alerts

According to news reports, by the end of 2007 Homeland Security expects to be able to send emergency alerts to cellular telephones, portable data assistants, wireless hand held computers and Internet sites.

This, as a means of reaching as many Americans as possible before a catastrophe strikes.

Agency spokesman Aaron Walker said on Tuesday, July 11th that they will also seek to transmit warnings on cable television, satellite television and satellite radio. [This, to supplement the government's national alerts sent on network and local broadcast television channels as well as AM and FM stations]

"The Feed Line" is ©2006 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.

GARA Meeting Minutes



REGULAR MEETING

June 26, 2006

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held Monday evening June 26, at 7:15 PM at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover Avenue.

The meeting was called to order by Operations Chairman/Trustee Roy Smith, N4BYU. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the "Feed Line." One visitor was present, Larry Pike, KI4PRT (he was a member by the end of the meeting).

There was no old business reported. Committee reports were presented.

Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasurer's report and Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave his financial forecast.

The Engineering Committee report was given by Arch, KT4AT. A new larger generator had been installed at the repeater site by the city and the batteries on the UPS units in the repeater racks had been replaced.

Secretary/web master/news letter editor Tom Forrest, N4GVK, said all was fine. The web site was receiving a lot of traffic and messages and questions coming in frequently.

Operations Chairman and Repeater Trustee Roy Smith, N4BYU, had no report.

In other business Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, presented the club with a grant from GYSA and Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA donated an older version of the Radio Amateur Handbook book to give away. The GARA newest member Larry Pike was presented with the book.

The program for the evening was presented by Arch, KT4AT, entitled "Digital Has Landed". The visuals of this presentation are available as a PDF on the GARA Website www.w4gso.org. After a quick review of various digital two-way radio standards in use throughout the world, the subject matter, D-Star, was introduced. Being vocoded, and using

Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying as a modulation, D-Star is the first 100% digital amateur system available. All radios available from Icom have received Type Acceptance from the FCC, for use under Part 97. Contrary to FM systems, whose quieting decreases as a function of distance, digital systems remain full quieting until the quitting point, which in this case is equivalent to 50% noise in FM.

A voice quality demonstration was performed between two digital HT's across the room. D-Star can also transmit data at the same time as voice, and this was demonstrated also. A comparison of the occupied bandwidths of D-Star versus 3 local repeaters was introduced, which showed that three D-Star repeaters could fit within the 25 kHz channel spacing of one current FM repeater.

A list of current user equipment proposed by Icom was presented next, along with a list of D-Star repeaters in the US, and some coming soon to the South-East. Club options were presented next, and among those, Arch recommended running 442.875 in dual-mode FM/Digital. The machine could be used in FM only, in Digital only, or both (machine answers in correct mode depending on user's transmission).

Arch said that he would have a UHF D-Star RP4000/RP2C repeater available by the fall, and he proposed to use it, free of charge to the Club, to put together a dual-mode machine, along with the existing Mastr2, at 442.875. SERA would approve coordination, as indicated in a note from Frank Lynch. This would put the Club on the digital map quickly, allowing testing of this system for some time, at no cost to the Club, and without taking away any current FM capability. Arch concluded saying that he would make a more detailed proposal, probably in September, after completion of a detailed benchtop investigation of the Icom machine, and a feasibility study and/or preliminary design of the required dual-mode controller.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:20 pm.

Board Meeting June 12, 2006

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
June 12, 2006

The following Board members were present: John Doggett, KI4BMS; Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Arch, KT4AT; "Al" Allred, K4ZKQ; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Rudy Langley, KG4HCT; Tom Forrest, N4GVK and visitor Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA

Reports:

Ernie, NC4EW, gave the treasurer's report saying there had been a few new members joined and the phone bill was up slightly. Roy said the phone had been changed to a block of minutes and this would drop the bill some.

Al, K4ZKQ, gave his report stating all was OK.

The secretary's report was given by Tom, N4GVK. All was well. John suggested labels to be made to place on the brochures for the web site and e-mail address. We still have a lot of these left. Tom said he would take care of this project and make them available to those who still have brochures.

John, KI4BMS, discussed the news line procedures and calling methods.

Rudy, KG4HCT gave the vice president's reporting on possibility of a non-profit status for the club. The idea was tabled for now.

Arch, KT4AT, gave a great presentation to the Board "Digital Has Landed" The report was about the new mode of operating and the future of amateur radio repeaters using digital communications. He also discussed the possibilities of GARA becoming involved with this leading edge technology. The presentation left everyone excited and Arch was asked to make the presentation at the upcoming GARA monthly meeting.

Roy moved for adjournment, it was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm

Field Day 2006

by Dave Collins, KE4IAF
Guilford County ARES EC

Photos by Tom Forrest, N4GVK

Well it was June the 23rd, just a few minutes before 2pm and the annual Field Day set up was about to begin. Guilford County ARES once again participated in Field Day at Hagan Stone Park in Pleasant Garden. I arrived at the Field Day site just a few minutes before two and was greeted by no one. Two o'clock came and went and I started to get a little worried that with thunder storms in the forecast for later in the afternoon the turn out for set up would be light. I couldn't have been more wrong. One after another, hams from both groups, GARA and GAS showed up in force.

Antennas, shelters, extension cords, ground rods, rigs, laptops and all the accessories were put together in just a couple of hours. By five pm we were on the air and testing our setup. As usual there were some problems we ran into but everything was taken care of in short order. Soon after getting all set up the forecasted storms blew up above us and the deluge of rain began. After dinner out, myself, Matt Towe KF4ZGZ and Susan Towe KG4NRI broke all of the rigs back down at 8:30pm and stored everything safely in my truck for the night.

Saturday morning came and once again we set all the equipment back up and had it on the air a couple of hours before the official start of field day.

Everything tested fine with the exception of one piece of coax and we were on the air calling CQ Field Day from NA4GC promptly at 2pm.

This year for we had some vintage gear set up at the GOTA station and also some modern equipment. Many different types of antennas were installed at the GOTA station, a 160 meter wire, ladder mounted beam and a ground mounted screwdriver. All of the participants had a great time. There were approximately 35 to 40 area hams that participated in Field Day this year and over 650 contacts were made on the 2A station and more than 100 were made on the GOTA station. The American Red Cross provided dinner this year and it was well attended.



Jim Highower, W4JLH, Dave Collins, KE4IAF and Roy Smith, N4BYU man one of the stations.



Bob Schwer, K3ZGA and Frank Boyd, N4AMP (in rear) as the sun sets.

I would like to thank both groups GARA and GAS which make up ARES for their participation. As my memory begins to fade, as it always does after Field Day, I will start looking forward to doing it all again next year. It is a total group effort and the group really shined again this year as it has in the past.

Once again thanks for everything.



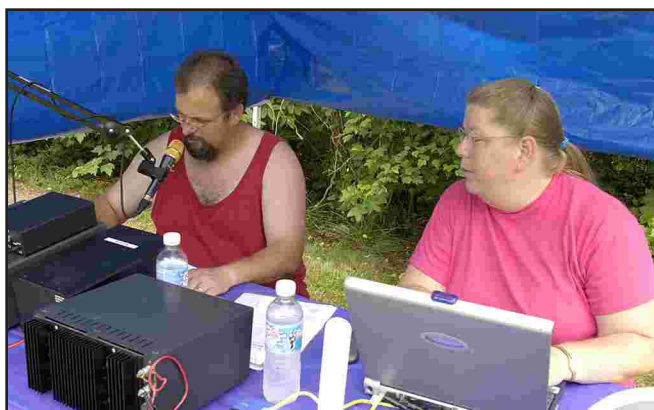
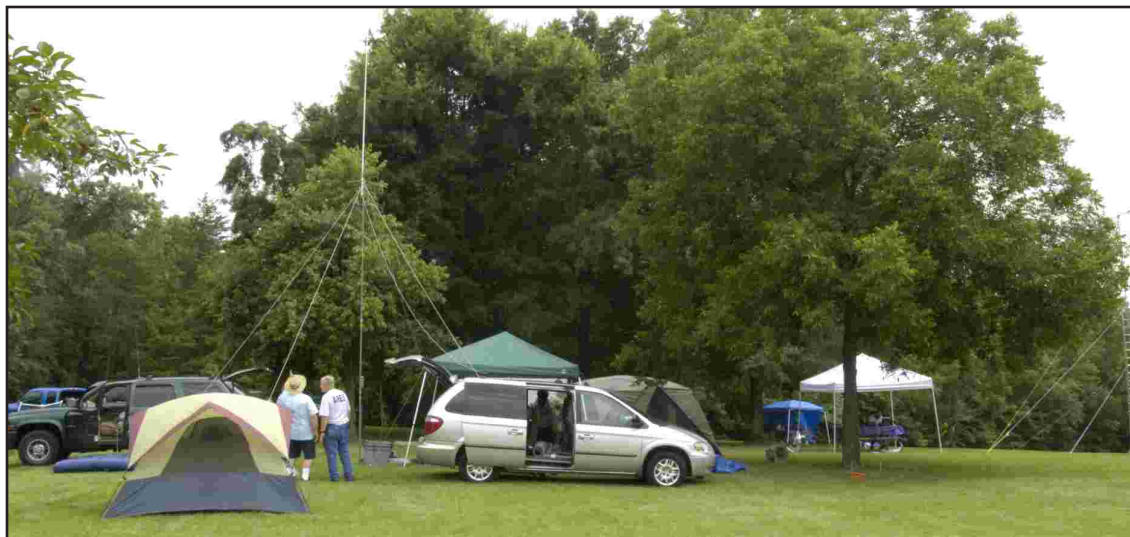
Proud Dad Ernie Wall, NC4EW, watches as his son Jason, N4JKW, make contact for the first time. Jason received his license two weeks prior to field day with the call of KI4PRV, and just received a vanity call.



Larry King, WA4VEN, Frank Boyd, N4AMP and Ernie Wall, NC4EW work on an antenna.



Mike Everette, WA4DLF, of Raleigh sets up vintage Ham gear.



Highlights in pictures ... top photo is the field day site; second row left, Matt Towe, KF4ZGZ and Susan Towe, KG4NRI work phone at a station; above, the Red Cross served the Saturday evening meal of hamburgers and hotdogs; second row left, visitors John Fulough and his son Matt, 9, of Pleasant Garden get a tour by GARA member Bob Schwer, K3ZGA; at the left, Roy Smith, N4BYU lets Lucy take a turn at the key; bottom left, just relaxing under the shade trees and below, members hoist the "ladder antenna support" constructed by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.



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 6:30 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.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS – at 11 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. On Monday they meet at various locations. Check on the 145.15 repeater for current location 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.

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

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Web:
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