



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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## GARA Announcements



Photos courtesy of Byron Shore, N4CTT

### GARA Picnic and Field Day Were Successful!!

Wow, where has the summer gone? It is almost the end of July and GARA has had several successful events already with more planned for the late summer and fall. The GARA Picnic that occurred over the Memorial Day weekend was a success. Thank you, Donna, Tom and others who prepared food and were kind to serve the other members and guests who came. A great time was had by all.

A month later, on the forth Saturday in June, GARA participated in the annual Field Day activities. In place of an article in *The Feed Line*, Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, who headed up the activities, will spend the July meeting providing a detailed presentation on the success of the event. Be sure not to miss the meeting.

As is the case in each event that GARA plans and executes, there are many, many behind the scene people who make these events successful. We are always looking for those who are willing to help. Unfortunately, we are unable to name each person for each event, so please forgive the absence of each name who made these events great!

For more pictures of these events, see page 9.

## This Month's Program

Our July Meeting will be held on Monday, July 22nd at 7:00 pm in Captain Bills Seafood & Steakhouse located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. Come early have dinner and catch up on the latest club info and gossip.

The presentation topic is 2013 Field Day Report. The presenter will be Greg Spencer. Greg will highlight events from this year's Field Day. So come to the meeting and find out how we did.

In addition, February was the start of our Join/Renew ARRL membership through GARA campaign. If you chose to join/renew your ARRL membership through GARA, you can do it at this meeting Craig Bondy, N8STA, GARA's treasurer will have the forms with him. See you at the meeting.



## NEXT MEETING

### Monday, July 22

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, July 22nd, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. This program for this month's meeting will be "A Recap of Field Day 2013." Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, will provide a presentation which provides a recap of Field Day 2013.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes June 10, 2013

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting on June 10th, 2013, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. GARA president, Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK, called the meeting to order at 19:15.

The meeting started with each person giving their name and call sign.

#### Officer reports

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, had nothing to report.

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, said that he had spoken with Bill Morine, N2COP, who is the ARRL NC section manager at the recent AUXCOMM training class. Bill said that he would like Greg to pass along his gratitude for a job well done concerning the recent ARISS contact with the Guilford county schools.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, spoke about the ham station K4NSC at the Greensboro Science Center needing operators to keep it staffed and to answer questions from visitors.

Chan White, KJ4ADX, had nothing to report.

Donna said that we have two events coming up which are Field Day and W4VE monthly testing.

There is a Swap fest coming up on July 27th sponsored by the Cary Amateur Radio Club.

Donna asked every one to identify themselves.

Tom gave a presentation on the History of Field Day.

Greg gave an update on the 2013 Field Day coming up on June 22-23.

Roy made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded.

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



#### The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK  
Vice-President Thomas Bertolino, KB1P  
Treasurer Craig Bondy, N8STA  
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV  
Financial Todd Smith, AK4TS  
Engineering Chair David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF  
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU  
Member-at-Large Gaither Frye, W4GCF  
Member-at-Large Chan White, KJ4ADX

*Appointed Position:*  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor  
Brian Wilson, NX4U

The Feed Line is ©2012 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.

## For Sale

#### Test Equipment Sale - it all works

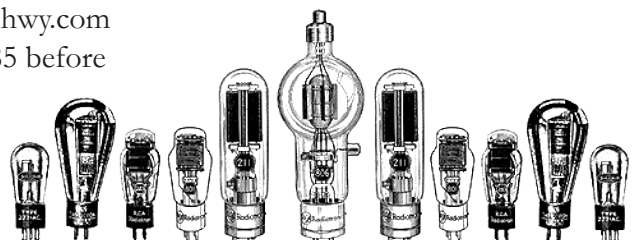
HP 34201D Oscilloscope 300MHz 2 channel with logic trigger pods - \$125; HP 8165A 50MHz Function Generator - \$75  
HP 5327B 550MHz Universal Counter / Timer / DMM (Nixie Tubes) - \$75; HP 8904A Multifunction Synthesizer (600KHz) - \$50  
Tektronix 338 Logic Analyzer with pods and ends - \$40

Please contact me for more information.

Email: antolick@infohwy.com

Phone: (336) 855-9985 before  
8PM

Rich Antolick -  
WA3WSB



## List Public Service Events Here

By Tom Bertolino, KB1P

In an effort to support area public service events and assist ham coordinators with their recruitment efforts the Feed Line will publish a list of Public Service Events held in the Triad area. The event will appear in Feed Line until the event's date has passed. It will contain the event name, date, where the event will take place, and the ham coordinator's contact information. If you want to list your event in the Feed Line please contact Tom Bertolino at kb1p@arrl.net with the following information: name of event, date of event, where the event take place, and your contact information and any special radio equipment required.

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	POC
Sep 14, 2013	Carolina Wine Festival	Triad Farmers Market	thomas@wfeci.com
Oct 12, 2013	Grand Fondo 100 mile bike ride	start/end Oak Ridge	kb1p@arrl.net

[In order to make this column a success I need the help of the GARA membership. If you have volunteered for a Public Service Events in the past or are currently scheduled to help out in an upcoming event please let the person who recruited you know about this column (or send me their contact information and I will let him know about this service). Publishing their event in the "Feed Line" might stop their last minute requests for help over the local nets.

If you are a Public Service Event Ham coordinator list your event here, you cannot always depend on Ham's who worked your event in the past. There will always be scheduling problems that will prevent those who volunteered in the past to volunteer again or those last minute family or work problems that will leave you shorthanded. By advertising your event early an often you will increase your volunteer base. The "Feed Line" will give you a way to advertise your event to over 100 club members not to mention the non-member who read the club's newsletter.]



## Board Meeting Minutes June 8, 2012

The GARA board of directors did not meet in June or July.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



## From the President's Shack

*From Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK*

My ham radio activities lately have centered around motorcycles. For my husband, that is status quo. For me, I tend to separate them, but earlier this month, they went hand-in-hand.

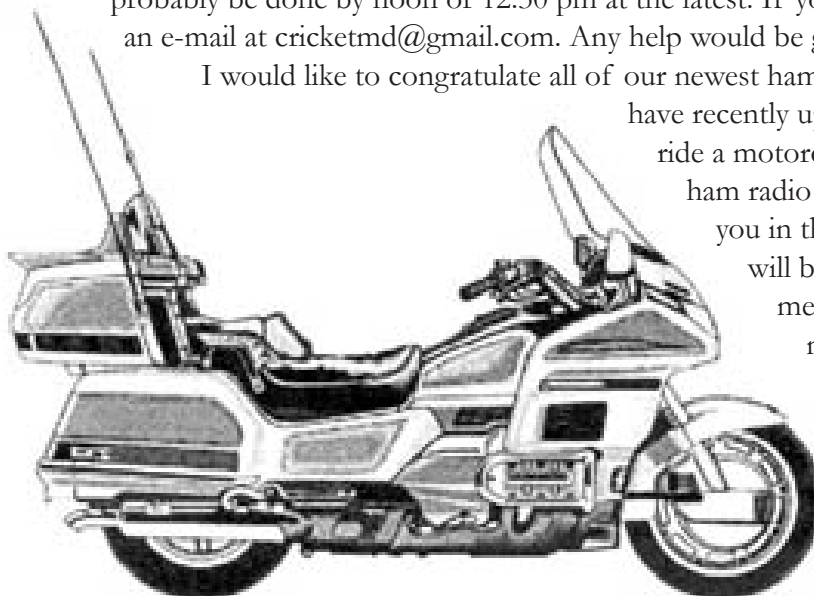
Robert and I attended the International Goldwing Convention in Greenville, SC and found there are more hams out there that have radios on their motorcycles than we thought there were. I also had the pleasure of meeting some lady hams. At the convention, we attended a ham radio seminar. There were about 15 people in attendance. Mostly the conversation circled around the different types of radios that are good for mounting on the motorcycle, installation issues, and what kinds of activities we are involved in where we make use of the ham radio on the motorcycle. At a time when we were beginning to feel like we were the only ones trying to combine ham radio with motorcycling, it was nice to know that there were others out there with the same interest.

Robert and I have also been busy organizing a memorial ride. A lot of you don't know but our 4 year old granddaughter, Aurora Leigh Barefoot, was killed in a freak car accident on February 28th of this year. On August 14th, she would have celebrated her 5th birthday. Since we are a family of motorcycling enthusiasts, instead of a birthday party, we are doing a memorial ride. It will be held on August 17th; the Saturday after her birthday.

If anyone is available to help with communications that day, your help would be greatly appreciated. Unlike the bicycle rides that we help with, this will be a ride from point A to point B. Basically what we need is some operators posted at a couple of check points who can let us know when the last bike has passed and be available to help in case of an accident. The ride is supposed to start at 11 am and will probably be done by noon or 12:30 pm at the latest. If you would like to help, please send me an e-mail at [cricketmd@gmail.com](mailto:cricketmd@gmail.com). Any help would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to congratulate all of our newest hams as well as congratulate those who have recently upgraded. As always, if you happen to ride a motorcycle and want to know how to put a ham radio on your bike, I will be happy to point you in the right direction. Robert, KD4TVE, will be doing a presentation at our August meeting about how ham radio and motorcycles go together. Hope to see you there.

Until next month,  
73s,  
Donna, KD4WIK (Wild  
Independent Kid)



## Info from Around NC

From North Carolina Section News by Bill N2COP

**FIELD DAY** – 57 clubs and individuals listed North Carolina sites on ARRL's national Field Day Locator webpage, and many more were on the air this past weekend. This year had unusually pleasant weather across the state, and those who operated Saturday night saw a rare "Super" full moon as a treat. Of the four states in the Roanoke Division, North Carolina had almost as many Field Day stations as the other three states of Virginia, West Virginia and South Carolina combined. Log submission deadline is July 23rd.



**HAM RADIO FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES IN JULY** – Want to show kids or grandkids the magic of Ham Radio this summer? Two July events will spark their interest. From July 1 to July 6 will run the annual "Thirteen Colonies" series of special event stations. Each of the original 13 colonies will have at least two stations, and North Carolina has seven this year, all of which will operate as K2J/NC. The seven NC participating stations are W4MPS and KI4VBA in Clayton, N4MIO in Graham, W4MY in Zebulon, K4WES in Pittsboro, and N4YDU and W0UCE, both from Youngsville. Each state has a scenic QSL card depicting a unique colonial event. North Carolina's shows the Battle of Guilford Courthouse which took place in Greensboro. A fun activity for Independence Week. To find out more, visit: <http://www.13colonies.info> Then on July 15th kicks off the ten day quadrennial Boy Scout National Jamboree, now in its new permanent home at Bechtel Summit outside Prince, West Virginia. About 500 North Carolina Boy Scouts will be part of the 40,000 contingent, and Jamboree station K2BSA will have about 10,000 Scouts visitors. K2BSA will be on the air almost 24 hours each day. Not only will it be on almost all HF bands, but it can be reached on EchoLink: K2BSA-R Demonstration Station (node 4566), WV8BSA-R VHF Repeater (node 6544), W6BSA-R UHF Repeater (node 9877), Conference \*JOTA-365\* (node 480809) and on D-Star: WV8BSA and Reflector 033A. Details on working K2BSA July 15-24 can be found at <http://www.k2bsa.net/jamboree-live> Most of the K2BSA on air operators will be scouts so young people can talk to other young people.

**ARES** – Thirty NC ARES and MARS leaders completed a Dept. of Homeland Security's Auxiliary Emergency Communications (AEC) class offered in North Carolina the first weekend in June in Raleigh. The two day AEC course was rolled out last year by DHS's Office of Emergency Communications/ Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (OEC/ICTAP). Currently there are not enough certified instructors to teach the AEC course, but as more become qualified, more classes will become available. AEC training is a complement to NC AUXCOMM, which consists of ARES, MARS and unaffiliated Hams who have completed NIMS/ICS courses 100, 200, 700 and 800 (National Incident Management System/Incident Command Structure). In July, 2010, NC ARES formally endorsed North Carolina's 2005 proclamation that volunteers who work on state and county government assignments must have completed NIMS/ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800. All 60 NC county ARES ECs are ICS trained and are AUXCOMM members, and an additional 500 ARES members and unaffiliated Hams have completed NIMS/ICS training and similarly are in NC AUXCOMM. NIMS/ICS trained volunteers improve the professionalism of disaster response, are recognized and accepted by government agencies, and are a key component agencies use in determining eligibility for disaster grants.

## Congratulations! You Passed!

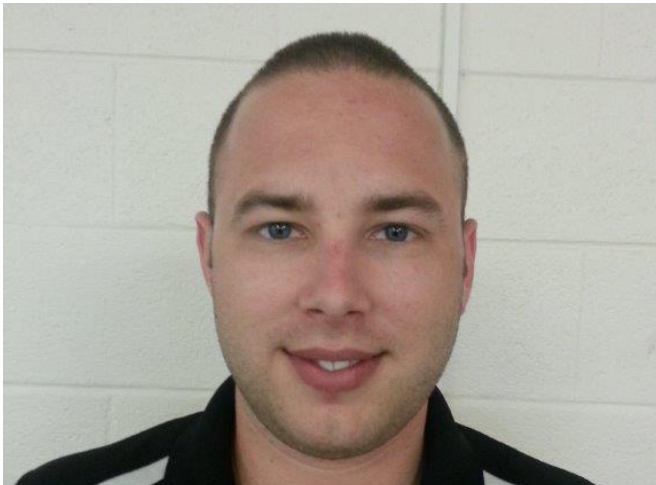
Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to Roy Smith, N4BYU, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

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

Next month's testing session will be on August 10th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, 27407, at 9am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Roy Smith at (336) 312-0647 or by email at [n4byu@arrl.net](mailto:n4byu@arrl.net)

If you cannot make it to this test session, W4VEC holds a second test every month in this area. Test sessions are held at 10am on the last Saturday of each month at the Red Cross High Point Chapter, 815 Phillips Ave., High Point, NC 277262. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact information is Bob Williams, KB4TWG, email [robwilliams@northstate.net](mailto:robwilliams@northstate.net), phone (cell), 336-812-5500.

**All Photos Courtesy of Roy Smith, N4BYU**



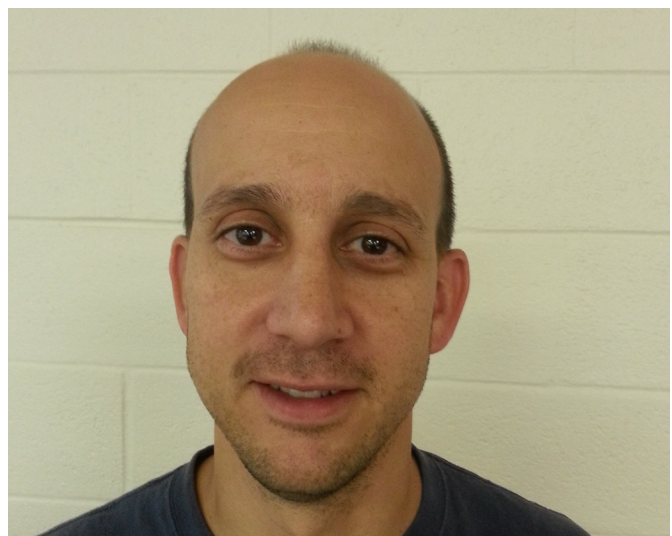
***Grayson Black, KK4SOK - Passed Tech***



***Jason Stinson, KK4SOL- Passed Tech***



***Brian Shore, KK4SOM - Passed Tech***



***Fred Lomax, KV4PI - Passed Extra***



## Engineering Update for July, 2013

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

Although I had some time off from my west coast job for the week of July 4th, starting on July 8th I will be back out there for a while, working on a project there, so I won't be able to get back to my repeater projects for a while. However, it was good to talk to many of you on the air over the past week.

### VHF Repeater:

Previously I reported that the RX sensitivity of the VHF repeater seems to be lower than normal, but in the last month or so, it seems closer to normal. However, I am now convinced that we are getting interference again. Based on a report from Arch, who could hear something on the repeater input frequency a couple of weeks ago, I also listened in the area on Saturday July 6th, using my IC-92 HT, and there is something there. It will take some additional investigation to determine the source, but the last time this occurred, AK4TS and myself narrowed it down to a nearby church... then it went away! Maybe it will go away this time too. If anyone would like to do a 'foxhunt' on your own, contact me (by email) and I will let you know what to do.

### UHF D-Star Repeater:

Not much change in this machine, it is running normally. I performed a full backup of the gateway computer on July 6th.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your club repeaters, either VHF or D-Star, or any other technical topic, please contact me at [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net)



## A Go Box for ARES Deployment

By Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ

This project is a To-Go-Box for your mobile radio and power supply, for use at public service events and ARES deployment. This project starts with a Task Force 6" x 13" Classic Tool Case (Item #: 24981), I got mine from Lowe's for about \$25. (18" x 13" x 6")



The picture above shows the finished project. It has a RJ45 connector for the microphone, this way there are no cables coming out of the box that could be damaged if the lid were to be closed during operation.

The SO-239 connector was originally located where the AC Power Socket is located. This was moved to the current location next to the handle to better protect the connector during transportation.

The AC Power Socket was recycled from an old PC this allows using a standard PC power cable to power the unit and keeps the cable from being damaged if the lid is closed during operation.

Inside the Tool Case is an Alinco DM-330MV power supply. An Icom 2720 with remote mounted head and an MFJ-281 speaker

see Go Box, page 8

## Go BOX (continued from page 7)

are mounted in the top of the case. Also in the lid is a clip board, for holding paperwork, and a pen holder.

To support all this equipment I added 16-1/2" x 11-1/2" x 1/4" thick plywood backer boards to the inside of the top and bottom of the case. To allow for future modifications, I used #8 Tee-Nuts with prongs in the plywood rather than using wood screws to attach the backer boards to the case and mount the equipment.

To mount the power supply I used 2 pieces of extruded aluminum angle 1/2" x 1/2" x 5" long. These were attached to the plywood using the Tee-Nuts and #8 screws. I drilled two 1/4" holes in the vertical part of the extruded angle, which I ran tie wrap thorough to secure the power supply in place.

To allow the use of different radios in the To-Go-Box, I mounted the radio to a daughter board. For the daughter board I used a 6" x 8-1/2" x 1/4" thick piece of Lexan plastic. I made extras to mount other radios. I mounted the mobile mounting bracket and ICOM radio to the Lexan daughter boards. On the backer board I installed two 1-1/4" #8 screws from the backside of the plywood, creating a 1" studs.

The daughter board mounts over the studs and is held in place using two wing nuts. This allows the radio to be quickly removed and exchanged for another radio, mounted on one of the extra daughter boards.

To bring in AC power for the Power Supply I used an AC power socket from an old PC. To this I soldered a 1-1/2 foot piece of 3-conductor wire which was from an old PC power cable. To protect the solder joints I used shrink wrap over each of the 3 wires and one larger piece of shrink wrap over the three wires. On the other end of the cable is a female 3 Wire Rubber Plug, which the Power Supply is plugged into.

To power the radio and other accessories, three 2 wire DC power cables with Powerpole connectors are connected to the output terminals on the back of the power supply. One cable is fused with 15 amp fuses on both leads. The other 2 cables are installed in a Powerpole Chassis Mount for powering accessories.

The ICOM 2720 head is installed in the lid of the Tool Case along with an external speaker.

**Clipboard A**



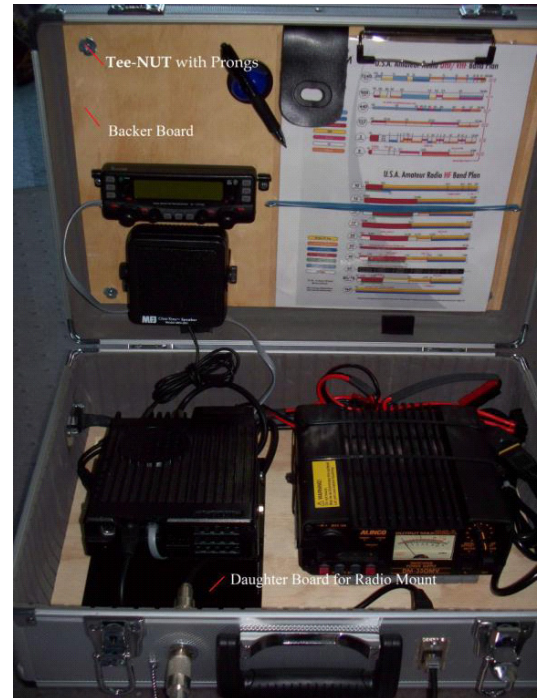
**Clipboard B**



screws were installed about 5" below the clip, space about 12" a part. This allow a rubber band to be stretched across to the two eye bolts and holds papers in place.

That is the basics of my To-Go-Box; let me know if you have any suggestions to improve on this. Do you have a different concept for a To-Go-Box and want to share it with us, e-mail a picture and we will include in a future The Feed Line. Send Comments or Pictures to nx4u@nx4u.net.

*This article originally appeared in the February, 2010 SPARC. It has been reprinted with some minor changes with permission of the original author, Jim Bradley, KB1JKJ.*



Also in the Lid is the clip from a clipboard for holding papers. Originally I used the clip from clipboard A but found that it did not hold the papers very well. I replace it with the clip from clipboard B, this one works much better. 2 small eye



## 2013 Field Day and GARA Picnic 2013

Photo courtesy of Byron Shore, N4CTT



## Calendar of Events

- July 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- July 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- July 27 WCARS Hamfest (Waynesville, NC)
- Aug 3 15th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC <http://www.cfarsnc.org>)
- Aug 10 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Aug 24 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Aug 26 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Aug 31 Shelby Hamfest (Shelby, NC <http://www.shelbyhamfest.com>)
- Sep 9 GARA Board Meeting
- Sep 14 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Sep 14 Carolina Wine festival (Triad Farmers Market, contact [thomas@wfeci.com](mailto:thomas@wfeci.com))
- Sep 23 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Sep 28 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Oct 12 Gran Fondo Bike Ride (need ham volunteers, contact KB1P at [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net))
- Oct 12 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 14 GARA Board Meeting
- Oct 26 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Oct 28 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Nov 9 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Nov 11 GARA Board Meeting
- Nov 23 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Nov 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Dec 9 GARA Board Meeting
- Dec 14 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Dec ? Christmas Party

This purpose of this calendar to provide information on events in and around our area that might be of interest to our readers. As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place in North Carolina and around the Greater Greensboro Area. If you know of an event that would be of interest to our readers, please contact Tom, KB1P at [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net).

# Area Happenings

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409. 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 Aug. to Dec. 2013

**August 10, 2013**  
**September 14, 2013**  
**October 12, 2013**  
**November 9, 2013**  
**December 14, 2013**

**Location:** Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407,

**Time:** 9:00am

**Contact:** Roy Smith

**Phone:** (336) 312-0647

**E-mail:** n4byu@arrl.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](http://www.w4gso.org)

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*The Official Publication of GARA*