



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



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Eight Test for Their First License or Upgrade

by Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

Having only been a Ham for a little under four months I have not heard as many stories as some of you, but I still have heard stories of the way it used to be. People wanting to take their test for an amateur radio license would have to make their way to a city where testing was offered only once or twice a year. Their was "code" back then and it added a measure of nervousness not really seen today. Also, the examiners were members of the FCC and were often strict and lacked personality.

Well, all that has changed now, but most of you already know that, so why bring it up? Because testing still goes on each month in Greensboro, albeit not like it was in the "old days." On Saturday, August 8, 2009, our local W4VEC hosted their monthly testing for amateur radio license and upgrades. Organized by Glenda Nicholson, AG4NC, and administered by Chris Thompson,

K4HC with six (6) other VEs present, their were eight (8) individuals ready to put on paper what they had studied. Some were nervous and others very confident, but in the end all passed. Six (6) earned their initial "ticket" - Technician license. They were Burt "Ricky" Edwards, KJ4ODO; John "Kevin" Lockemy, KJ4ODP; Jason Lyons, KJ4ODQ; Aubrey Ravenel, KJ4ODR; Daniel Schipman III, KJ4ODS and David Williams, KJ4ODT. Two (2) earned an upgrade to a General license. They were Gary Grant, N5ODE and Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY.

Congratulations to each of these who worked hard and passed. Even though it isn't as "hard" as it used to be, many of these will be responsible for seeing that this great hobby doesn't die. Listen for them on the repeaters and some of you who remember how it "used to be" share the knowledge that comes with those memories and help these guys learn

to enjoy a
GREAT
hobby!

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NEXT MEETING August 24

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be August 24, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club.

D-STAR Gateway Installed

Engineer Arch, K4AT, D-Controller designer, begins to load parameters into the D-Controller computer and the gateway server, as GARA Engineering Chairman Jesse Lindley, N4BFD, looks on. Will, AI4VE, who is on the D-Star committee is in the background assisting.



D-STAR Seminar

As the *Feed Line* is being prepared for publication, the announcement has been made that a D-STAR Seminar is being held on Tuesday night, August 18 at the EMS facility on Meadowood Street.

This seminar was offered to help all those interested find out more about this new technology for ham radio.

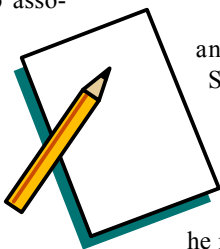
Participants were asked to bring a flash drive and their radio.

If you missed it, watch your email, and later publications of *Feed Line* or the GARA website for announcements of other D-STAR Seminars or contact a member of the D-STAR committee.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes July 27, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio association was held on July 27, 2009, at the Golden Corral restaurant near Wendover Ave. and I 40. This month's meeting was held in the main dining room as there was another group using the meeting rooms.



The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM by Will Ravenell, AI4VE. The meeting started with a round of Id's. There were 25 members and 3 visitors in attendance including Charles Lyons, NT1J, who is recovering from a stroke, it was very good to see Charles at a meeting again.

Business

Tom Forrest is stepping down as feed line editor, a position that he has held for approximately 8 years. The minutes were approved as published.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, said that the bills are paid, checkbook is balanced and there is money in the bank.

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, said that expenses

are behind forecast.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, discussed the open house. We are still working out the details of the location and date.

Volunteers will be needed for setup and tear down contact John Strandberg, AJ4BT. Roy made a motion to allot up to \$400.00 to pay for renting a location for the open house. Chan seconded the motion.

Alan Bradley, KD4IUN, said that he needs volunteers for the soccer tournament that is coming up on Labor Day weekend September 5th & 6th, contact Allen at kd4iun@arrl.net.

New Business

Roy said there is a testing session held on the second Saturday of each month.

Will discussed the D-STAR repeater and said that the Gateway should be installed around the first weekend of August. GARA will be the first club to have a non Icom D-Star and D-Star repeater controller and could be the first club in the world to have a complete non Icom D-Star repeater.

There was no presentation at this meeting. The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Board Meeting Minutes July 22, 2009

The GARA board of directors meeting was held on July 22nd at the home of Will Ravenell, AI4VE.

The meeting started at 7:05 PM with Chris Thompson K4HC, Will Ravenell AI4VE, Ernie Wall, NC4EW;

Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Jesse Lindley, N4BFD and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, present.

Chris spoke about his dad Walt's condition after he had a mini stroke. Chris said Walt is doing well.

Chris Thanked Will and Greg Cohoon, KJ4AED, our D-STAR co-administrators for their work in getting the D-STAR Gateway set up for final testing. We discussed the requirements for a router to connect the gateway to the DSL modem that Roy has ordered and the router will be purchased next week. The D-STAR gateway is tentatively scheduled for installation on August 1st pending final testing. We discussed the registration process and who should approve a registration request.

Jesse said that he went out to the repeater site and swapped the two meter machines to keep the use on them even, he will swap them back in about six months. Jesse also said that the weather radio should be back in about two weeks.

Al made a motion to have the club

present Tom Forrest, N4GVK, a plaque for his work as *Feedline* editor.

Chris made a motion to give a complimentary membership to Brian Wilson KJ4LKY for his time as feedline editor. Al seconded and the motion was approved.

Ernie said all bills are paid. Al said that we are ahead of forecast.

Ernie has gone through old club records and destroyed those that were of no use to the club. He said that he did save some things of interest about the beginnings of GARA and those items were given to the club secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, to archive with the other club records.

We discussed changing the club status to a non profit organization. Al will investigate the process and get back to the board with his findings.

Will said that Dan Yemiola, AI8O, has donated an old Icom 26 2 meter base station to the club. This radio needs some minor repairs and can be used as a loaner to a new ham to get them on the air.

Open House update: John Strandberg, AJ4BT, has tentatively scheduled the open house for October 22 and we are still trying to find a good location.

Roy made a motion to close the meeting and Jesse seconded. The meeting closed at 8:45 PM.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Chris Thompson, K4HC
Vice-President Will Ravenell, AI4VE
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ

Engineering Chairman Jesse Lindley, N4BFD
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU
Member at Large Clark Doggett, KG4HOM
Member at Large Dave Touvell, KN4ZO

Appointed Positions:

Webmaster Tom Forrest, N4GVK

Newsletter Editor Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

"The Feed Line" is ©2009 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.

News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10

ARRL - On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40.

Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>.

MFJ Purchases Cushcraft

From the in-case-you-missed-it department, MFJ Enterprises, mfjenterprises.com, announced on August 7 that it had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies, www.lairdtech.com, effective July 31.

According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam

FCC Begins Follow-Up on BPL Rules

Posted: Jul 27, 2009 at <http://newsvc.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

The FCC is offering to "split the difference" with ARRL over the question of measurements taken to determine the strength of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) signals radiated into the air.

In a Request for Further Comment and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making released on July 17, the Commission finally began taking the action ordered by the U.S. Court of Appeals in 2008 after the ARRL had sued over its original

BPL decision in 2004. One of the main points of contention had been the signal attenuation formula to use in extrapolating signal strength at certain distances from the radiation point. The FCC adopted a standard of 40 dB per decade, while the ARRL argued that it should be 20 dB/decade and the Court of Appeals agreed that the FCC had not provided reasoning for its 40 dB standard.

In this new proceeding, the FCC

and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- (662) 323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

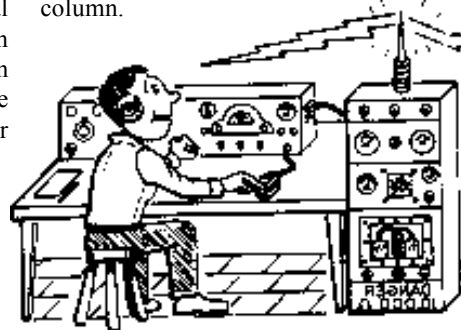
Reportedly, the new website for Cushcraft is www.mfjenterprises.com/cushcraft/.

Radio Operators Needed for Bike Ride

Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, needs volunteers to man radio positions for the Tour To Tanglewood, September 26-27. If you can assist, please contact Tom at kf4jzd@bellsouth.net or you can call him at 336-508-2232.

does explain its original decision and claims that the data continue to support it, but also offers to change the standard from 40 dB to 30 dB/decade. It also proposes an alternate standard for making actual measurements as opposed to extrapolating them.

For those interested in the technical details, the entire document is on the FCC's website. Scan the news releases or do a search in the Electronic Comment Filing System for ET Docket 04-37 or 03-104. W5YI will summarize the proposal in October's "Washington Readout" column.



Items For Sale

Kenwood TR 7950 - 2 meter rig, 50 watts output - no tone board - Kenwood original fixed station speaker and original Kenwood 12 Amp. pwr. supply - \$90 OBO - contact Tom Forrest, N4GVK, n4gvk@bellsouth.net or 336-202-8650

Yaesu FT-470 dual band hand held, with extras, good battery, manual and in good working order. \$100 OBO - contact Tom Forrest, N4GVK, n4gvk@bellsouth.net or 336-202-8650

Two Icom 207H dual band mobile radios and two Icom V8000 2 meter mobile radios that are in excellent condition. \$200.00 each for them. Selling for a Ham friend. Contact Greg Spencer at kg4uqv@arrl.net

Area Happenings

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 PM, 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 6:30 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. (Not operational present time)

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 6:15 PM **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at Tex & Shirley's Restaurant in Friendly Shopping Center. Eat at 6:15 PM and the business meeting begins at 7 PM.

THURSDAY – at 11:15 AM, 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 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee.

Save The Date

The annual Doggett cookout will be Sept. 26, 2009. Save the date and plan to attend for some yummy BBQ. More information to come.

The W4VEC Testing Schedule

Sept. to Dec. 2009

September 12, 2009

October 10, 2009

November 14, 2009

December 12, 2009

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 - minus 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