



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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Public Service Events Listed 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 is to take place, and your contact information, as well as, any special radio equipment required.



Five Great Riddles

By Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK

These are five of the best riddles I have seen. **The answers are at the bottom of page 8.** Riddle five (5) is amazing. Riddles sharpen your brain and stall Alzheimer's for years.



they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?

3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?

4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?

5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?

2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But five minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 27

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, August 27th, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. This month's meeting will be a surprise for all.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes July 23, 2011

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting on July 23rd, 2012, 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 7:15pm.

Officer Reports

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, gave the engineering report stating that the air conditioner in the equipment building failed and the gateway for the D-Star repeater failed apparently due to a failed hard drive. The repeaters are both still on the air but the D-Star repeater can not be linked until the gateway is repaired. The owner of the site has advised David that they are working on the AC problem.

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, said that the W4S special event station held in conjunction with the operation Red Sleigh bike ride was a success with a lot of contacts both on HF and VHF. The location and propagation permitted VHF contacts from across the state.

Craig Bondy, N8STA, gave the treasury report and stated that we have a total of 122 members.

Fred Lomax, KK4BAW, said that he would like to thank David for his hard work in keeping up the repeater.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that Cycles de Oro had contacted him about helping with a bike ride on September 22nd. The ride will be from Oak Ridge to Hanging Rock State Park and back. Roy told him he would check with the club and get back to him. More details will be coming. Donna spoke about three members who became silent keys recently: Al Allred K4ZKQ, Jack Snead WD4JES and James Peeden KA4PKF. They will all be missed.

Donna congratulated the members who have upgraded recently. Donna asked for everyone to identify themselves.

Chris Thompson, K4HC, showed off his brand new Diamond DXCC award he just received.

Roy said that several years ago the club voted to send a \$25 donation on behalf of any member who became a silent key. The donation would be made to a charity of their choice. Roy made a motion to continue this practice. Chris, K4HC, seconded and the motion carried.

David said that he would like to make a motion for the purchase of a new hard drive for the D-Star gateway; Chan White, KJ4ADX, seconded and the motion passed.

David also proposed that GARA sponsor the N4G special event station again, and he has agreed to organize the event again. David then made a motion that GARA direct him to investigate doing the N4G event again for 2013. Tom Bertolino, KB1P, seconded and the motion passed.

John Strandberg, W4DX, will head up the Open House again this year.

Patrick Moore, K2CPR, gave a presentation on the new Wouxun UV920R mobile radio.

The meeting ended at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK

Vice-President Todd Smith, AK4TS

Treasurer Craig Bondy, N8STA

Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV

Financial Vacant

Engineering Chair David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU

Member-at-Large Fred Lomax, KK4BAW

Member-at-Large Gaither Frye, KD4CTY

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.

Board Meeting Minutes August 13, 2012

The GARA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on August 13, 2012, at the Katherine Clay Edwards Branch library. The members present were Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK; Craig Bondy, N8STA; Roy Smith, N4BYU; David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Gaither Fry, W4GCF; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Officer reports

Craig said that there were no membership changes except for the recent silent keys.

David said that he has the D-Star gateway back up and running again after it was knocked off line during a severe thunderstorm. David said that he made two fresh backups of the hard disk and everything is working well.

David said that during the last Newline program it was announced that they were considering ending the call in phone service to get the program in favor of an mp3 download from their web site. Roy said that he has informed them that we are still using the call in service. We discussed possible ways to do the mp3 broadcast if we have to.

David also said that the Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) has requested repeater owners to update their information with SERA so they can keep their database up to date. Roy said that he would file an update. David said that the latest issue of the SERA Journal had a favorable report about GARA's technical forum.

Gaither reported that he has started a new job and is not yet sure if it will interfere with his meeting attendance. Gaither said that he would still like to do the Technical Forum on alternate weeks.

Gaither said that he has not received any response from the Natural Science Center concerning a technician licensing class.

Greg had nothing to report.

New business

Roy said that John Strandberg had informed him that we are not likely to be able to use the science center for the open house at no cost. We discussed options for the open house.

Roy also said that there is a bike ride coming up on September 22 from Oak Ridge to Hanging Rock State Park and back.

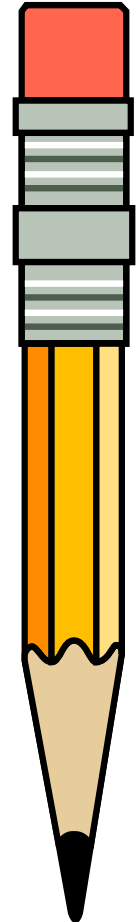
We discussed ways to cut costs and some fundraising ideas.

Donna said that she received an update from the new McNair Elementary School about their proposed ARISS contact that they had requested GARA to assist them with. McNair has been approved for the ARISS contact, and they have scheduled an orientation session on August 22, so we can meet with the school staff and participate in a teleconference with NASA to learn what will be expected. David and Gaither will attend the meeting.

Roy said that we should provide local club literature at the testing sessions to attract new members.

Gaither made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Roy seconded the meeting ended at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



From the President's Shack

From Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK

Boy, am I excited! We have several exciting events coming up.

If you are interested in helping with a bicycle event, see Roy. He is working on possibly putting together a team to help with another bicycle event that will start out in Oak Ridge. It is the "Gran Fondo with Friends" ride and will benefit earlier detection of breast cancer. If you can help out, please do. This is a very worthy cause. I, unfortunately, will not be able to help because Robert and I will in Concord with our Goldwing group, sporting our pink shirts for cancer awareness and competing for the District Couple of the Year position. It is an ambassadorship position and it is a lot of fun. If you would like to know more, just ask me. I am always happy to share.

Our Open House is coming up in October. The date hasn't been finalized yet but we are hoping to have it at the Natural Science Center. This would be a great way to attract younger kids to the hobby. [Editor's Note: Latest report has the Open House scheduled for October 20th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church.]

Speaking of attracting new people to the hobby, I have to tell you what happened to me in a drive thru that shall remain nameless. I had just pulled away from the speaker after order my lunch and I heard someone yell, "Excuse me. Miss." Well, I looked around and to my left was a car with a woman and two children. The kids were approximately 10 and 12. They wanted to know why I had so many antennas on my car. Well, of course, my response was "I am ham radio operator. I am involved in amateur radio. Have you ever heard of it?" To my surprise, both boys shook their heads no. Well, for the minute that I had, I began to explain a little about ham radio. After I pulled through the line, I parked and waited for them to pull out of the line. Unfortunately, I did not have any GARA brochures on me but I did have a copy of our July Feed Line. I gave him the Feed Line, told him to reference our website, and read more about what is ham radio. I hope that it will be something that he will become interested in and add another one (or 2) to the hobby. They were all very grateful and said that it was so nice that I took a few minutes to talk to them about something of which I am very passionate.

I may not always get on the air but I am very passionate about ham radio, especially when we are using it as support and communications at the bicycle events. It is such a great hobby in which to be involved.

The other event coming up is our Christmas Party. We are still a few months away from December and the plans are still in the works but I know it will be just as much fun as our picnic if not more fun. And I might even have some prizes to give away also. You never can tell what will happen but I will make sure you laugh at least once!

Until Next Month 73 to All!

Donna



Engineering Update for August, 2012

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

VHF Repeater:

Not much to report this month, as usual the VHF FM repeater is running well. There is evidence that our site took a lightning strike on the night of August 8th which knocked out the D-Star gateway (again). More on that shortly.

D-Star Repeater:

For the second time in 2 months, the D-Star gateway computer went down. The first time (July 21st) was likely due to the failure of the air

conditioner in the W4GSO equipment shelter; the temperature inside the shelter was over 110 degrees Fahrenheit! After the site owner replaced the air conditioner on July 26th, I restored the gateway from a backup.

On the afternoon of August 8th, several people reported to me that the D-Star repeater was not responding to being keyed up. I tried to access it remotely over the internet, and it was unresponsive. The logs showed that the last time the gateway checked in to the D-Star system was 19:00Z, which was 3pm. According to radar records, there was a severe

thunderstorm right on top of the repeater site around that time. I can only surmise that perhaps we got a lightning strike on or near the repeater. I went to the site later that evening, and although all of the D-Star equipment was powered on, it was locked up. The VHF repeater was operating normally. I power-cycled the network router, the D-Star repeater controller, and the D-Star gateway computer. The repeater controller came back up. The gateway, unfortunately, didn't, so I had to restore it again from the backup. After I restored it and updated the software, I made yet another backup copy. There are now two good backups of the gateway computer, one at the site, and one in my possession.

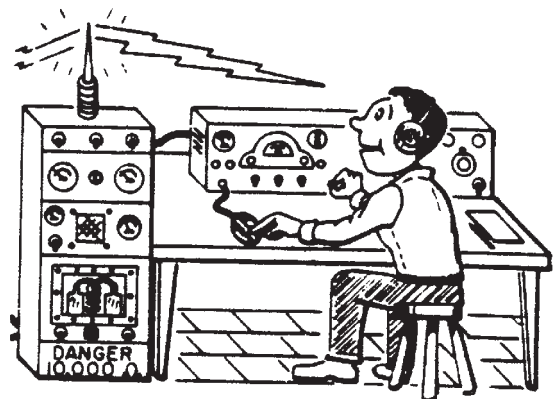
This episode should remind everyone how important it is to regularly make backups of your critical data and programs, you never know when lightning may strike, or other failures may occur!

D-Star Information:

Speaking of D-Star, I want to remind everyone that there are some misconceptions and myths out there about D-Star. Here are some things I have heard and read in the past:

1. "D-Star isn't really ham radio, it uses the internet."

This of course is a matter of opinion... some people think that using a regular repeater isn't "real" ham radio. If you are talking to people over the D-Star repeater, you're using radio, no different than using any other repeater. The difference is the repeater has the ability to "link", using the internet, to other repeaters anywhere in the world. In this case, your voice is being transmitted over the air to the local users within range of the repeater, as well as carried on the internet to other users all over the world. Because the signal is digital, not analog, from your radio to the other end, there is no static, fading, or noise (unlike other modes that use the internet to connect to other locations, such as Echolink). You can have a QSO with another D-Star user next door to you, or on the other side of the world, and they will both sound exactly



Engineering (continued from page 5)

the same! Another key difference between Echolink/IRLP and D-Star is that Echolink only routes voice signals. A D-Star signal also contains a built-in data stream that sends your callsign and short messages along with your voice. This allows you to target a specific user if you want, and only that user will hear you... the system will automatically route your transmission to the last repeater that user was heard on. You can also send your position and speed if you have a GPS receiver, and that data will be forwarded by the repeater into the APRS network. The interface to a GPS receiver is contained in all D-Star radios, and some (ID31, IC92, IC2820) can be equipped with built in GPS receivers.

2. "D-Star is expensive\$1000.00 for a radio"

A basic D-Star HT radio can be obtained, NEW, for around \$430. (ID-80), and in fact I just bought a 50W dual band mobile radio (ID-880) on sale for \$449. Used rigs are out there too, for less money. There are other ways to get into D-Star, using a PC adapter that is less than \$200. Like most aspects of the ham radio, you can spend as little or as much as you want on a rig.

3. "Icom owns the D-Star format and is the only manufacturer that can use and sell D-Star"

This is a common misconception, even by experienced D-Star users. The D-STAR specification is an open standard created by the Japan Amateur Radio League. Icom does not 'own' it. While it is true that currently only Icom is making commercial D-Star radio gear, there is no reason (other than marketplace forces) that other manufacturers can't make

D-Star equipment. There are plenty of home-brewed D-Star solutions already out there that don't involve Icom. For example, the repeater controller for the W4GSO D-Star repeater is not an Icom unit; it was created from scratch by Arch, KT4AT, and has many features that the Icom product does not have.

4. "Club members are pushing for others to buy D-Star radios so it will lower the cost of operating the D-Star repeater"

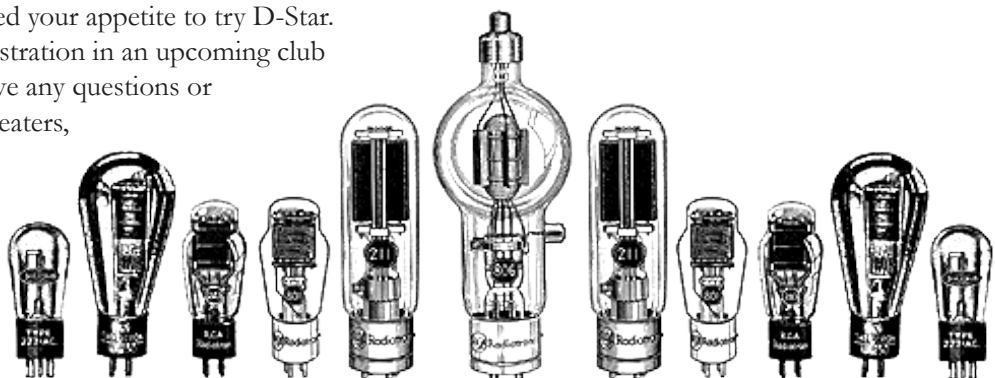
The cost of operating the repeater is fixed, and independent of how many people use it... it only requires electricity (which we don't pay for anyway) and an internet connection (which we do pay for). The equipment was bought by the club about 4 years ago, and is fully paid for. We already pay for the phone line to the site (required for remote control of the VHF repeater), and DSL internet service is an additional cost that we do ask users of the D-Star repeater to help cover voluntarily. The only reason I would like to see more people get involved in D-Star is that it is fun! It is fun to make DX contacts (or local ones) without having to listen to static and noise.

5. "D-Star has less range than analog FM"

D-Star has several things going for it over FM. One is the narrow bandwidth of the receiver IF. In a weak signal environment, the narrower the bandwidth the less noise power competes against the signal. The D-Star protocol uses a number of error correction techniques to recover the data in weak signal operation. Most D-Star users will experience full quieting audio at signal levels below the minimum discernible signal level on a FM analog system operating with the same parameters of power, antenna and range.

So, I hope I have whetted your appetite to try D-Star. Perhaps we will give a demonstration in an upcoming club meeting. 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

73, David AJ4TF



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 Glenda Nicholson, AG4NC, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

In August, we had five (5) individuals who passed their test(s) and earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on September 8th at #3 Centerview Dr, Hickory Building, Greensboro, NC 27407 at 9:00am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Glenda Nicholson at (336) 674-3810 or by email at ag4nc@bellsouth.net

All Photos Courtesy of David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF



*John (Will) Beam - New Technician
(13 yrs old) KK4KZW*



*Grayson (Gray) B Mayberry - New
Technician (16) -KK4KZY*



*Owen M Hilliker - New Technician -
KK4KZX*



*James C Smith - New Technician -
KK4KZZ*



*Michael Speth - Upgrade to General -
K16SQK*



*Some VEs need a little pick me up
early on Saturday mornings!*

Annual Doggett BBQ

September 29, 2012, Save the date for the annual Doggett Picnic.

The Doggett's have been hosting a picnic for many years and started inviting the local Hams. I spoke with John and he gave me the date. The time is usually 6pm. You need a chair and appetite. Some of the best BBQ around.

The Doggett family includes the following hams: Clark, KG4HOM; Jane, KG4ZQK(Wife); John, AJ4DV(son); Mary, KJ4ZQL(Daughter); and Lexie, KI4QNC(Granddaughter)

If you have never attended, you don't want to miss this event. Go ahead and mark your calendars and plan to attend. Even though this is several months away, calendars have a way of filling up. This is a great time of food and fun.



Photo Courtesy of Tom Forrest, N4GVK

Answers to the Riddles

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead. That one was easy, right?

2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry (shot; held under water; and hung).

3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.

4. Sure you can name three consecutive days, yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

5. The letter "e" which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

I'll be getting Alzheimer's any time now. How did you do?



For Sale

HEXX BEAM 5-band Mark 2

antenna package manufactured by DX Engineering. The antenna is in various stages of assembly, so it's never been used. Asking: \$400. I paid \$599.95 for it. Will consider all reasonable offers. Contact Gerald, N4PAX, @ gdonnelly@triad.rr.com (email preferred).

My husband, W4SIX, recently passed away and I still have some of his radio equipment. I have a **Texas tilt tower** for \$1000. Also, **KG-UVD1P** hand held which I am selling for \$90. **One antenna** is left and it is a combination 6 meter and **Mosley three element trap master antenna, Model TA - 33 Jr.** which would sell for \$60. I have other items such as amplifiers and tuners plus several wire antennae. **One rotor** is left that's on the tower for \$30 with the rotor cable.

Please send any inquiries my way. I would appreciate any HAM's getting good use from this equipment. W4SIX was a HAM for over 40 years! Rebecca Scott, wscott30@triad.rr.com

Silent Keys

Richard Lee Howell, AE4RH

Richard “Rick” Lee Howell, 56, a resident of Archdale, passed away Wednesday, August 1, 2012.

He was born November 22, 1955 in Forsyth County, NC to the late John Howell and Helen James Howell and was raised of the Baptist faith. He was employed with PPG Industries, in Lexington, for 27 years. He was a former leader of both the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scout for Pack and Troop 703, respectively. He volunteered his time as a firefighter and paramedic at the A-R C-H Fire Department, Station 33. He was a passionate storm chaser for the National Weather Service and a dedicated Amateur radio operator.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl Glenn, whom he married on August 9, 2003. Also surviving are his sons Chris Howell and Bradley Howell, his wife Erin, and their mother Cathy Prevette.

A celebration of Rick’s life will be held at Cumby Family Funeral Service in Archdale, from 2 until 4 pm on Saturday, August 11, 2012

Memorials in Rick’s memory may be made to the Boy Scouts of America Old Hickory Council at 6600 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston Salem, NC 27106.

Arthur Eugene (Bose) Staley, WD4FCD

SILER CITY — Arthur Eugene (Bose) Staley, 74, of 144 Thompson Staley Road, Siler City died Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the home of his daughter.

Mr. Staley was born on September 26, 1937 in Randolph County and was the son of Eugene Monroe and Julia Willis Staley. Bose was a Marine veteran and was retired from March Furniture in Ramseur. He was a supervisor for Liberty Chair and enjoyed working on small engines. He enjoyed fishing and was an amateur radio operator. Arthur was preceded in death by two sons, Dale and Larry Staley.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years: Lillian Haithcox Staley; one daughter: Tammy Staley of Siler City, NC; two sisters: Irene Staley Jones of Lumber Bridge, NC, and Betty Staley Mahoney of St. Pauls, NC; two brothers: Thomas Steven Staley of East Bend, NC, and Charles Staley of Ramseur, NC; two grandchildren, Erica and Julie, and two great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Sunday, July 29, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City, NC. A graveside service with military rites by the Randolph Honor Guard will be held Monday, July 30, 2012 at 4 p.m. at Gilmore Memorial Park, Julian, NC.

Memorials may be made to UNC Hospice, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com

Published in *News Record* on July 29, 2012

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 2012

September 8, 2012
October 13, 2012
November 10, 2012
December 8, 2012

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 - 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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA