



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

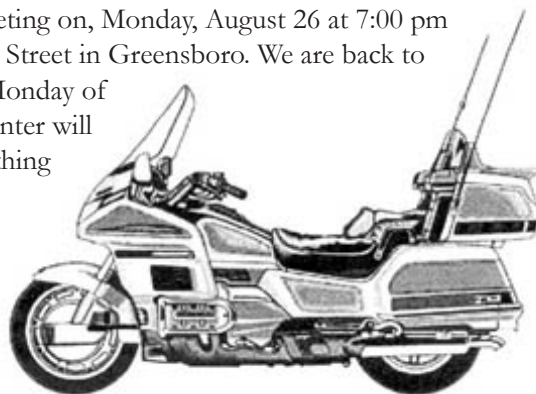
www.w4gso.org

info@w4gso.org

## GARA Announcements

The Board of Directors invites you to attend our August Meeting on, Monday, August 26 at 7:00 pm in Captain Bills Seafood & Steakhouse located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. We are back to our normal meeting schedule of holding our meetings on the 4th Monday of each month. Topic for the night is "Two-Wheel Mobile." The presenter will be Robert Ferguson, KD4TVE. Why not show up early have something to eat and get caught up on the latest club gossip. Members start to arrive around 6:00 pm.

Two Public Service Events on our calendar require Ham volunteers. The first is the Taste Carolina Wine Festival, Sept 14, 2013 from 1030-1900. The event is held at the Farmers Market on Sandy Ridge Rd. Point of contact for this event is Thomas Fleming, KJ4YDP, a member of the Greensboro Jaycees. He is looking for hams to help control traffic into and out of the parking area at the Farmers Market. All you need for a radio is a HT. If you are interested in helping out, you can either contact Thomas Fleming either by email at [thomas@wfeci.com](mailto:thomas@wfeci.com) or call him at 336-312-4199.



# ARRL

# 100

## YEARS

The second event Grand Fondo 100 mile bike ride is scheduled for Oct 12, 2013. This event supports breast cancer research and is a GARA sponsored event. There are five rides, which range from

12 miles to 100 miles. All races start and finish at the same place Crossfit Center, Linville Rd, Oak Ridge (next to the Post Office). The rides start at 0900 hours. Ham support will require the following: Hams stationed at key areas along the route; Hams riding in support vehicles; Hams at aid stations and at Net Control. Based on your assignment you will be required to be on station between 0730 and 0900 with ends times from 1100 to 1400. Ham equipment will vary based on assignment

as a minimum you will need 2 m portable radio capable of 50 watt output and an antenna. Hams riding in support vehicle will need to be able place or mount their radio and antenna in the support vehicle they are assigned. We will be using the GARA's 145.150 repeater. If you are interested in helping out, you can contact me, Tom Bertolino, KB1P at [kb1p@arrl.net](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net) or see me at a meeting.

In addition, February was the start of our Join /Renew ARRL through GARA campaign. If you chose to join/renew through GARA please bring the form along with your payment to this meeting. Craig Bondy, N8STA, GARA's treasurer will be collecting the forms. If you do not have a form Craig will have extra forms with him.

## NEXT MEETING

### Monday, August 26

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, August 26th, 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 "Two-Wheel Mobile." Robert Ferguson, KD4TVE, will provide a presentation on the joys and challenges of combining amateur radio and motorcycle riding. Come and enjoy this interesting presentation.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes July 22, 2013

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting on July 22nd, 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.

#### Officer reports

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, said that our next GARA meeting will be on August 26th 2013.

Tom also reminded those present about the GARA sponsored Open House coming up on October 3rd. He also stated that the board is working on a date for a fall ham radio event at the Greensboro Science Center which will be announced later.

Craig Bondy, N8STA, gave the treasury report and stated that we now have 112 members.

Roy Smith, N4BYU; Chan White, KJ4ADX; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, had no reports.

Donna asked everyone to identify himself or herself.

Roy made a motion to approve of the minutes as published, Layman Idol, KK4LLY, seconded. The motion passed.

Greg gave a summary of Field Day.

Donna spoke about the N4G special event station, which was held in March.

The meeting ended at 19:51.

*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.

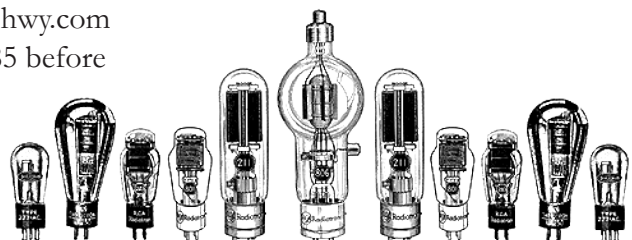
Email: antolick@infohwy.com

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 pasted. 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

The GARA board of directors did not meet in August.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

## From the President's Shack

*From Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK*

Where has the year gone? It is August already. Before we know it, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas will be here.

This has been a busy year for the club. We have partnered with the Greensboro Science Center to hold Expos at their facility, gone to the stars and back to talk to the astronauts, held our annual picnic, and we have added a few new members to our club. Whew! I'm tired just thinking about it.

Well, don't sit down yet. We still have one more project that needs your help; Club Elections. In order to make this a success, I need 3 people to volunteer to be on the nomination committee. In 2012, Patrick, Thomas, and Asa were our committee. Even though Asa moved to Florida, Patrick and Thomas still carried on and did a very good job. Now I need 3 people to take their place.

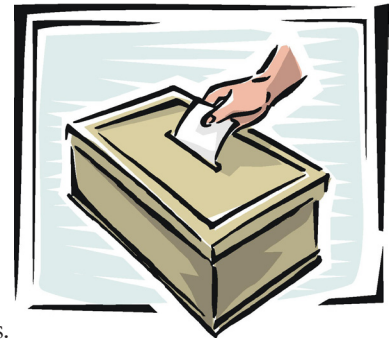
Being on the nomination committee is something you can do for your club. Serving on the board is also something you can do for your club. If you have never served on the board, I encourage you to consider it. And this is after serving myself for almost 2 years. It's been crazy, frustrating, and rewarding at the same time.

I hope you will consider either being on the nomination committee or serving as a board member. If I don't get volunteers soon, I will have to appoint nominators. The elections will be held at our November meeting and the nomination committee needs to time to speak with the current board members and prospective board members. If you are interested, please let me know right away.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Until next month 73,

Donna, KD4WIK (Wild Independent Kid)



## Info from ARRL

### ARRL ROANOKE DIVISION MEMBERS

The North Carolina Section Manager has requested that I send out a notice to the Roanoke Division reminding all of the Shelby, NC Section Convention on August 31 and September 1, 2013 at Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Shelby, NC. The hamfest flyer can be found at [www.shelbyhamfest.org](http://www.shelbyhamfest.org). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible Shelby.

### VANITY CALL SIGN FEE GOES UP AUGUST 23!

The new FCC regulatory fee of \$16.10 to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will go into effect Friday, August 23, when the new regulatory fee schedule will appear in the Federal Register. Earlier this year the FCC had proposed upping the vanity call sign fee from its current \$15 to \$15.20, but in the Report and Order in MD Docket 13-140, released August 12, the Commission offered no explanation for the higher fee.

In another change, starting in FY 2014, the FCC will require that all regulatory fee payments be made electronically.

The R&O ordered a broad schedule of new fees and waived the usual 30-day waiting period following Federal Register publication, because it feared there would not be time for FY 2013 fees to become effective before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1.

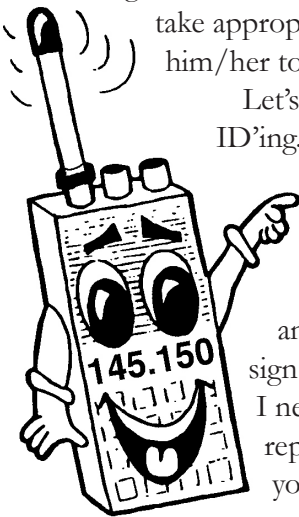
The FCC says it expects \$230,230 in revenue to cover the costs of administering the vanity call sign program. It anticipates 14,300 vanity call sign applications.



## Repeater Etiquette

By David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF and Tom Bertolino, KB1P

Recently GARA's board of has heard some complaints about hams using the club's 145.150 repeater. The complaints range from hams dominating the repeater, hams not ID'ing, and the most serious complaint is hams using profanity on the repeater. We will state now, "Profanity will not be tolerated on this repeater". If you hear profanity on this repeater please make an on the spot correction by politely reminding the offending ham that profanity is not allowed per FCC rules. In most cases the ham will apologize, if he/she does not stop, do not argue with them, make a note of their call sign, time, date and give this information to a club official. The club will take appropriate action against the ham, up to and including reporting him/her to the FCC.



Let's talk about the other complaints; hams dominating the repeater, and hams not ID'ing. The most common offense is not ID'ing. FCC rule requires hams to ID every 10 minutes and when you leave the QSO. So if your QSO lasts for over 10 minutes you need to ID (send your call sign) and every 10 minutes thereafter during the QSO. So if your QSO lasts for 35 minutes you will need to ID 4 times (every 10 minutes and when you sign off). I have gotten into some very interesting QSOs and have forgotten to ID, however the ham I was talking to ID'ed by sending his call sign and adding the remark for ID. This was a polite reminder by the other ham that I needed to ID. Some times we just have to remind each other to ID. Fortunately the repeater will remind us too. It will send its ID by Morse code every 10 minutes. When you hear the repeater ID, it's time to ID as well.

The other complaint is hams dominating the repeater. This happens when the hams in the QSO do not allow enough time between their conversations for other hams to join their QSO. There are no FCC rules about this complaint. However, there is something called repeater etiquette. This is a system of unofficial common sense rules that have developed over time, and when they are followed they allow for orderly QSOs over repeaters. I will review some of these unofficial rules. For the newly licensed ham this may be the first time you see these rules. For hams who have been licensed for a while it will be a refresher. I will review them in this order:

What to do when you tune in to a repeater; How to enter a QSO; What to do when you are in a QSO.

When you tune into a repeater, the first thing you should do is listen. You should listen for at least 10-20 sec to ensure no one is using the repeater. If no one is using the repeater and you want to talk to another ham send his call sign than yours. Example: N4??? this is KB1P, if he is monitoring he will answer. If you do not care who you talk to just send your call sign KB1P and state "listening". If there is someone monitoring they may answer. If no one answers your call try again in a few minutes.

What should you do if after tuning into a repeater and during the 10-20 sec pause and you hear hams talking? To join the QSO you have to wait for a pause

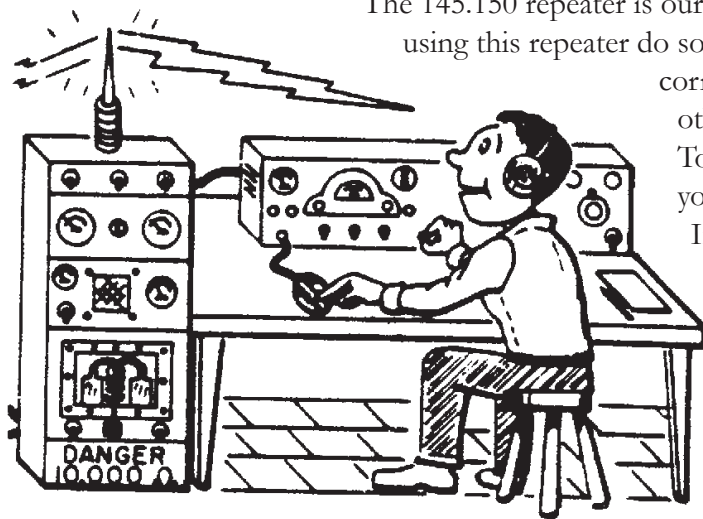
see Repeater, page 6



## Repeater (continued from page 5)

in the conversation. There should be a pause after one ham passes the conversation to the other ham. It is during this pause you send your call sign. After you send your call sign you wait until one of the hams acknowledges you by sending your call sign. If they do not acknowledge your call sign try again during the next pause. They should acknowledge you.

When you are in a QSO and it is your turn to talk, do not press the PTT button until you hear the repeater drop. This will take a few seconds. For new hams, this is what “letting the repeater drop” means: you will hear the courtesy beep, and the transmitter will continue to broadcast without any audio for a second or so. This is known as the “squellch tail”. Once the transmitter has stopped, then you can key up your radio. This allows two things to happen. The first, it will prevent the repeater from timing out, and second it gives other hams time to join the QSO.



The 145.150 repeater is our repeater and it is up to us to ensure that all hams using this repeater do so in an orderly. Do not be afraid to make a polite

correction. This is other hams teaching or reminding other hams. Some examples of corrections: “Hey Tom you should wait until the repeater drops before you key, maybe someone wants to join the QSO”.

If someone butts into the middle of QSO and it is not an emergency, call him/her and state, “It is customary to wait until there is a pause in the QSO before you join in”. Or, just state, “Hang on for a minute, we will get back to you.”

If we are allowed to continue to make mistakes without correction, how are we going to learn?

## 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 August, there was no one who passed their test(s) and earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month’s testing session will be on September 14th 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.

## Engineering Update for August, 2013

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

I'm still out in '6' land, working on a project there, so I won't be able to get back to my repeater projects for a while. I did make a 'field trip' to the top of a local mountain, more on that later.

### VHF Repeater:

Nothing new to report from last month. However, I am still convinced that we are getting interference again on the repeater input frequency. 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:

As of this writing (August 12th) the D-STAR machine is unable to connect to the internet, in fact it went off line Saturday afternoon, August 10th (right about the time that a series of storms moved through the area). Since I am 2500 miles away from it, I asked Roy to take a look at it, I'll let you know next month what we found.



### Crowded Tower!

On Sunday, August 11th, I took a field trip to the summit of Mt. Diablo, California, elevation 3894 ft above sea level, one of the highest points in the San Francisco Bay area. You can drive up to the summit, where there are a large number of commercial and amateur antennas. W6CX (Mt. Diablo ARC) has several repeaters on the summit. Enjoy the pictures!



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)



## Pending Amateur Service Rule Changes Are Not on Back Burner, FCC Assures VECs

Speaking in late July at the 28th annual National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) meeting, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Mobility Division within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), assured attendees that pending proposals to modify the Amateur Service Part 97 rules are not on the back burner but still under review. FCC personnel addressing the teleconference were unable, however, to predict when the Commission would take action on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) in WT Docket 12-283.



Among the FCC proposals: Granting exam credit for expired and beyond-the grace-period licenses; shortening the grace period during which an expired ham ticket may be renewed; correspondingly revising the time a call sign remains unavailable to vanity applicants; and reducing the number of volunteer examiners needed to administer examinations. The docket also seeks comment on amending the rules to permit remote test administration and proposes allowing Amateur Radio stations to transmit certain emission types.

FCC Program Analyst Rebecca Williams of the FCC's Gettysburg Office told meeting participants that the FCC will not remove or conceal a licensee's name or address from its public database. She said she's received numerous complaints from licensees about their information being public. According to §97.23, licensees must provide a valid mailing address, but as Williams pointed out, that can be any US address where the licensee can receive mail, such as a work address or a post office box. Licensees can protect their privacy and remain within the rules, she said.

She also reminded her audience that since February 14, 2011, a radio amateur can serve as a trustee for only a single club and may not also be a club license trustee for another club. The rules further prohibit clubs from having more than one vanity call sign. Amateurs who served as trustees for more than one club, and clubs holding more than one vanity call sign before the change may continue to do so, she said.

NCVEC Chair Larry Pollock, NB5X, presided over the teleconference. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, Assistant Manager Perry Green, WY1O, and Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, represented the ARRL VEC for the session. Representatives from 12 of the nation's 14 VECs took part in the meeting.



## Calendar of Events

- 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, volunteers 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 5 GARA's Open House (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 12 Gran Fondo Bike Ride (need volunteers to help control ride, 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 Ham Expo (Greensboro Science Center)
- 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
- Jan 11 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Jan 13 GARA Board Meeting
- Jan 25 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Jan 27 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)

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 Sept. to Dec. 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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