



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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GARA Open House

by Brian Wilson, NX4U

It is time for the Annual GARA Open House and Radio Expo. On Saturday, October 11th, from 10 am until 4 pm at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Rd, Greensboro, GARA will host its annual Open House. This event has taken many forms through the last few years and many people have been exposed to amateur radio through the volunteer efforts of some of the GREAT members of GARA. Each year, the membership, with the direction of the Board of Directors and few others committed to making this a great event, spend many hours in preparation and six (6) hours on a Saturday, and showcase this wonderful hobby in which we are all involved.

It would be great if many of the GARA members would get involved in this years event. If you would like to volunteer to assist with one aspect of the Open House, or prepare to have your own "booth" exhibiting what make the hobby special to you, please contact John Strandberg, W4DX, at w4dx@arrl.net he will be happy to answer any questions you might have, and help you with your volunteer efforts.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Open House



This Month's Program

Our August Meeting will be held on Monday, August 25th at 7:15 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, gossip, and connect faces to call signs.

The presentation topic for this month is: "Circuit Simulation with SPICE" presented by David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF. Come and see if modeling your designed circuit works for you. The program that David demonstrates free on the internet.

Some reminders:

- GARA's Open House, October 11th ,10 am to 4 pm at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Rd, Greensboro.
- GARA has new name badges; you can get yours at any meeting.
- If your ARRL membership is up soon or you want to join ARRL, you can do it through GARA. Renewal/ Join forms are available at this meeting. Craig Bondy, N8STA, GARA's treasurer will have the forms with him.
- Don't forget GARA's Technical Forum held every Sunday night at 7:30 pm. The Forum is hosted by Layman Idol, KK4LLY.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 25

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, August 25th, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. The program for this month's meeting will be "Circuit Simulation with SPICE" by David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes July, 2014

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on July 28, 2014, at Captain Bills Seafood Restaurant located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. Tom Bertolino, KB1P, called the meeting to order at 7:16pm.

CLUB BUSINESS and OFFICER REPORTS

Tom projected some pictures of the GARA picnic that we recently had at Gibson Park. Weldon Fields thanked everyone for the warm thoughts, the cake and plaque that GARA gave him in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, had no report. Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, reported on Field Day. Craig Bondy, N8STA, and Todd Smith, AK4TS, were not in attendance.

Tom spoke about the Adopt-a-Highway program that Todd has been proposing. Tom said there is a survey online to gauge interest in the program.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, spoke about VE testing and informed us of recent upgrades.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, gave the engineering report.

Tom spoke about updating the W4GSO website and listed the scheduled events coming up.

Tom started the "show-and-tell" part of the meeting which was very interesting. The meeting closed at 8:04pm. *Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*

Board Meeting Minutes August, 2014

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on August 11th 2014 at Captain Bills. The members present were: Tom Bertolino, KB1P; Cameron Conover, AJ4TW; Craig Bondy, N8STA; Jesse Lindley, K4AX; Todd Smith, AK4TS; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV. Layman Idol, KK4LLY; Brian Wilson, NX4U; David Bond, KK4VCG; and Ritchie Spong KB3YHO were also in attendance, visiting.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

The board started out by discussing the website problems, wants, needs and desires. Ritchie gave us some ideas about what is possible, as well as, issues that have to be dealt with in building a new website. Ritchie agreed to do the website for us. Cameron suggested a committee to come up with a design for a new website. Tom Bertolino made a motion that Cameron lead a committee to develop a website. Jesse Lindley seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

The board discussed a presentation for the August meeting, and the Open House coming up on October 11th.

Todd spoke about hams helping with the Radio Merit Badge for a local scout troop.

The board discussed the K4NSC station at the Greensboro Science Center which will likely be removed when the center starts their next phase of remodeling.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Cameron seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Thomas Bertolino, KB1P
Vice-President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW
Treasurer Craig Bondy, N8STA
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Todd Smith, AK4TS
Engineering Chair David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU
Member-at-Large Fred Lomax IV, KV4PI
Member-at-Large Jesse Lindley, K4AX
Appointed Position:
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor
Brian Wilson, NX4U

The Feed Line is ©2014 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

Info from Around NC

From North Carolina Section News by Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager

CFARS SWAPFEST

The 16th Annual Ole Fashioned CFARS Swapfest, sponsored by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, will be held on Saturday, August 23rd, at the Cumberland County Shrine Club in Fayetteville, NC. Please see <http://www.cfarsnc.org> for further information.

SHELBY HAMFEST

The 58th Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL North Carolina State Convention, sponsored by the Shelby Amateur Radio Club, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 30th and 31st, at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Shelby, NC. In addition to the commercial vendor displays and flea market, there will be VE testing and forums. Multiple VE testing sessions will be offered on Tuesday - Thursday (8/26-28) at 4:00 PM at the Fairgrounds Fire Station; and, on Saturday (8/30) at 2:00 PM at the Jack Hunt Campus Center, Cleveland Community College. Multiple forums will be presented on Saturday (8/30). The forum topics will include: NC MARS; AUXCOMM (NC ARES); reports from the ARRL Roanoke Division and NC Section; the K9W Wake Island Commemorative DXpedition; and, Amateur Radio Satellite Overview/AMSAT. Steve Ewald, WV1X, ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor will present a forum entitled, "ARRL Field Organization in Action" from 10:40 - 11:55 AM on Saturday (8/30). Please see <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org> for further information.



ARRL AND FEMA SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AT NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CONVENTION

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the ARRL and FEMA on July 18th at the ARRL National Centennial Convention 2014. The MOA will enhance cooperation between the League and the federal agency in the area of disaster communication. Fugate was the keynote speaker at the ARRL National Centennial Banquet later that evening, with more than 800 people in attendance. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/fema-and-arrl-sign-agreement-fema-administrator-calls-ham-radio-resilient>

To read the full text of the Memorandum of Agreement, see [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public Service/FEMA/FEMA-ARRL-2014.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/FEMA/FEMA-ARRL-2014.pdf)

W1AW CENTENNIAL QSO PARTY

Even though the ARRL National Centennial Convention is over, the 100th anniversary of the ARRL is still being celebrated! The W1AW Centennial QSO Party is still "on the air" and it consists of two main activities: 1) portable operation of W1AW in each state and most territories; and, 2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. For further information on the W1AW Centennial QSO Party, see <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

From the President's Shack

It is the end of August, and school starts this week. Please drive carefully and watch out for children heading to and from school.

There are only three GARA general meetings left this year, and GARA's elections are only two months away (November). If you want to nominate someone for a board position, now is the time to do it. If you are not happy with the direction of the club, now is your chance to influence the direction of the club by running for and being elected to a position on the board.

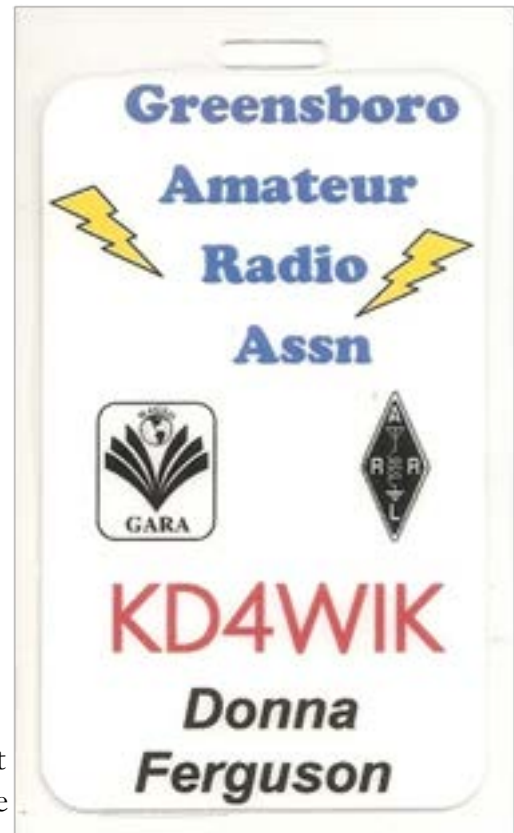
If you want to nominate someone or want to run for a GARA office, please contact Patrick Moore, K2CPR. His email address is patrickmoore13@gmail.com. Patrick has agreed to head the nomination committee again this year. Thank you, Patrick for stepping up and volunteering.

GARA's Open House is October 11, 2014, 10 am to 4 pm at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Rd, Greensboro. The point of contact for the open house is John Strandberg, W4DX. If you want to show off your ham radio specialty or just help set up or clean up you can contact John at his email address, w4dx@arrl.net.

GARA has new Name Badges. You can get your badge at any club event. They are free to all GARA members and come with a clip.

Hope to see you at a meeting.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P
President, GARA



GARA has new Name Badges. You can get your badge at any GARA meeting. They are free to all members and come with a clip.

Congratulations! You Passed!

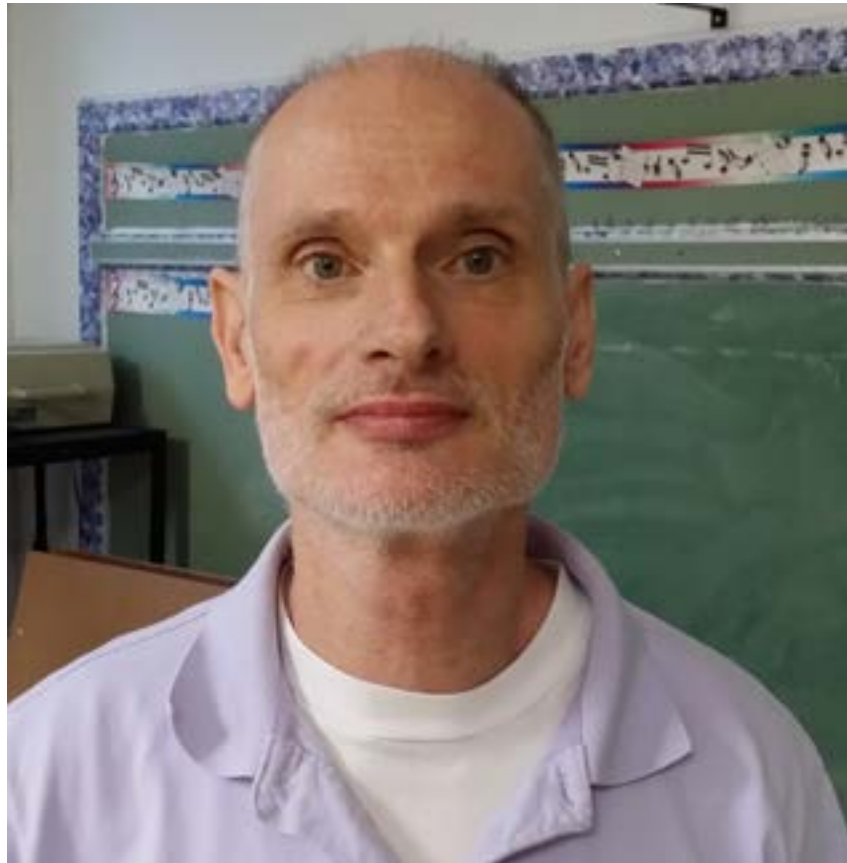
Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to Roy Smith, N4BYU, and a group of volunteers,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

In August, there was 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 13th 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

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, phone (cell), 336-812-5500.

Photos Courtesy of Tom Bertolino, KB1P, and/or Roy Smith, N4BYU



*Richard Sears, KK4BAX
Passed General*

Engineering Update for August, 2014

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

I hope everyone is having a good summer, chasing those W1AW portables and 13 colonies! There's always something interesting to do in the amateur radio hobby! Unfortunately it has been hard to find the time to turn on the HF radio this month, lots of outside interference from things like work... well, I guess I need to pay for this hobby somehow, right?

In July, I made a trip to Raleigh, and using my ID-880, tried to see where the signals from both the VHF and the D-Star repeater dropped out. I was able to key up both machines up to the hill going down towards the I-40/I/85 split east of Mebane, before they started fading. Using a Google Maps distance calculator (<http://www.daftlogic.com/projects-google-maps-distance-calculator.htm>) it looks like that distance is just short of 40 air miles from the repeater antenna. It also helps that the terrain elevation is nearly 100 meters higher at the antenna than at the 40/85 split.

Jack, AI4LL, one of our new D-Star users, is regularly getting into the D-Star repeater from Calloway, VA, which is more than 60 air miles from the repeater, and more than 100 meters higher in elevation! He is using a directional antenna though, to increase his ERP and receiver gain.

UHF (D-STAR) REPEATER

We are still operating on the borrowed power amplifier, and it is still working well. I'll let you know when I get the original amp back and get it installed. Arch is on his annual trip to Europe and will be gone through the month of August, so it will be at least another month.

Our gateway computer's SSL (secure socket layer) certificate expired on 6/30/2014, but Robin AA4RC updated the 'dstargateway.org' website with a new certificate, so I have installed it. The "invalid certificate" warning should now be gone.

Also, for my own records, and to help others, I made a complete block diagram of the D-Star repeater, and all the interfaces between the modules (AC power, DC power, networking, and RF). For security reasons I will not make it public, but it is part of the club records, so members can view it if they are interested.



VHF REPEATER:

Although I don't listen to it every day, my impression is that the interference on the VHF repeater has diminished. If someone has a different view, we would appreciate specifics (where were you, time of day, your operating conditions, etc.)

NEW PROBLEM REPORTING SYSTEM:

The club has been working on an on-line problem reporting system that will be available to members to submit reports of repeater operation. http://w4gso.org/repeater_form.html

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.

HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act Of 2014 and a WEBINAR

In June, 2014 with Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) as the sponsor and Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2) as co-sponsor, HR 4969 - the "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" - was introduced into the 113th Congress. This bipartisan effort would direct the FCC to extend the "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas ordered by PRB-1 to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants (CC&R's).

The Atlantic Division is sponsoring a webinar on HR 4969. All Divisions are welcome to attend. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD and ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco N2YBB will talk about HR 4969 and what it means for ARRL members and how we can help effect its benefits. This session will be moderated by ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR.

This webinar will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 from 9:00pm to 10:30pm. To join in, please register as soon as possible at this URL: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/296315552>

On a personal note, please join me in participation with this webinar. The ARRL is very fortunate to have Chris Imlay as legal counsel. He is extremely knowledgeable about Communications law as it relates to Amateur Radio and other radio services. His presentation skills are excellent, and he is a very entertaining individual. Mike Lisenco has been very active in recent visits to Capitol Hill and has been very successful in gaining cosponsors for HR-4969. He can offer multiple tips on meeting with your respective representatives locally during this congressional recess, or upon their return to D.C. He is likewise entertaining, and his fine Brooklyn accent is just icing on the cake!

As always, www.arrl.org/hr-4969 is the link that provides considerable information on HR-4969. Please visit often, and PLEASE become part of the grassroots effort! This bill is our best chance yet to beat CC&R's!

'73 de JIM N2ZZ
ARRL Vice Director
Roanoke Division
For Dennis Bodson W4PWF, Director, Roanoke Division



For Sale

I have the following items for sale:

Diamond CP6 vertical antenna. \$250; Icom ID-880H D-Star radio. \$325; Rohn Heavy Duty 56' Tower. \$625; Hygain TH3MK3-S Thunderbird 3 Element 20-15-10 Beam. \$250.

Thank you.

Tom, KQ4BR - thomas.j.willis@earthlink.net

“The Hang Out” - Each Friday Night

Years ago local area hams would get together at a local eatery on Friday night. This hasn't been one in years, so I called Captain Bill's and I believe we have set up in a private room from 7-9pm on Fridays.

If we do start again, as of now it will be free, but we should eat or at least leave a couple dollars for the wait staff. It will keep them happy and help us keep it free. This will be the new group in Guilford County.

The Friday Night Hang Out at Captain Bills, later to be shortened to “The Hang Out.” No officers, no dues, no bylaws. Just come and hang out. \$2.00 for the help, please.

THE GREENSBORO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FREE!

YOU'RE INVITED

TO AN OPEN HOUSE

Saturday
October 11, 2014
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
at
Hinshaw United Methodist Church
4501 High Point Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27407

GARA
GREENSBORO AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION

W4GSD-DSTAR
442.8625 MHz

- Displays of Amateur (Ham) Radio
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Skywarn - Storm Spotting for the National Weather Service
- On-air demonstrations
- New and modern radio technology
- Information about obtaining/renewing your license
- Representatives from various amateur radio organizations

Whether you're a formerly or presently licensed amateur, or a complete newcomer to the hobby, this will be a chance for you to catch up on technology and what's going on in the Amateur Radio hobby.

If you have any questions please e-mail us at:
info@w4gso.org

Our web site is:
www.w4gso.org

Talk-in:
145.150 Mhz. 100 KHz tone
D-Star - 442.8625 Mhz.

Ham Radio
in the 21st Century

SKYWARN

**Are you receiving
GARA emails?**



**GREENSBORO AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION**

GARA sends periodic emails with club news and announcements. If you use Gmail, you may be overlooking our emails! Gmail has added a new feature called **Tabs** to your inbox. This feature is designed to make your inbox easier to manage by using different tabs to automatically organize your incoming mail into categories. This new organization causes emails from GARA to end up in the **Promotions** tab, rather than in the **Primary** mailbox. Here's a tip you can use to help ensure your email is delivered to the **Primary** tab.

- ① Go to the Promotions tab
- ② Find an email sent from "GARA-Greensboro Amateur Radio Association", (or sent from "events@w4gso.net")
- ③ Left-click and hold on the email, and drag it from the Promotions tab over to the Primary tab
- ④ Release the mouse and the email will drop into the Primary tab
- ⑤ Gmail will display a yellow box asking if you want to make this change permanent. Click **YES** to ensure that all messages from GARA appear in the Primary tab going forward.

DID YOU TAKE OUR SURVEY ?

GARA wants your feedback and opinions about possible future meeting program topics, or other meeting comments. If you did not yet take our brief survey, please do so by visiting

<http://tinyurl.com/GARAsurvey>

Calendar of Events

- Aug 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Aug 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Aug 30 North Carolina State Convention (Shelby Hamfest)(Shelby, NC) www.shelbyhamfest.org
- Sep 8 GARA Board Meeting
- Sep 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Sep 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Sep 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Oct 11 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 11 GARA's Open House (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 12 Maysville Hamfest (Rotary Park Community Center ,704 8th Street Maysville, NC)
- Oct 13 GARA Board Meeting
- Oct 25 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Oct 27 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Nov 8 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Nov 10 GARA Board Meeting
- Nov 24 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Nov 29 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Dec 8 GARA Board Meeting
- Dec 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Dec 22 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.

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 54C)

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. 2014

Sept. 13, 2014

Oct. 11, 2014

Nov. 8, 2014

Dec. 13, 2014

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA