

The Official Publication of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

GARA - We're putting the "Spark" back in Amateur Radio®



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Ham Radio Important Tool at Tour to Tanglewood



The 2006 BB&T MS Tour to Tanglewood, start Sunday morning.

**by Tom Forrest, N4GVK
Feed Line Editor**

The 2006 BB&T Multiple Sclerosis Tour to Tanglewood was held September 9-10 with a total of 41 amateur operators from Forsyth and Guilford Counties providing communications for the two-day event.

The ride, a yearly fundraiser for MS, covered a 100-mile round route between the starting line at the Volvo facility near Interstate 40 in Greensboro and Tanglewood Park in Winston-Salem. This year's tour included well over 1400 riders.

Hams provided communications for 14 "SAG" wagons on Saturday, and 11 on Sunday. The "SAGS" provided transport for riders with mechanical problems,

minor medical conditions or exhaustion. Amateur "SAG" communicators also helped to contact emergency medical personnel for more serious conditions. Hams provided communications coverage at all assigned rest stops along the route for both days, as well.

Tour coordinators report that roughly a third of the riders actually complete the entire 100-mile route. Most others average about 60 miles of the course. Event coordinators are quick to point out that the tour is a marathon – not a race. The tour provides cycling enthusiasts an opportunity to enjoy their chosen sport while providing funds for much-needed MS research.



Frank Boyd, N4AMP, GARA member, mans one of the rest stops.

John Kippe, N0KTY, of Winston-Salem and Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, of Greensboro were this year's Ham radio coordinators.

Rescue Radio: Digital Emergency Alert Network Tested

A major step forward has been made in adapting digital wireless to emergency communicators needs. This, as Global Security Systems says that its new Mississippi statewide digital emergency alert network has been tested successfully.

The Mississippi installation is described a single-to-multipoint messaging system. It is designed to provide redundant distribution of emergency alert messages

in cases where responders radios and cell phones get clogged with traffic or become useless.

In its release, Global Security Systems said the system uses a commercial FM receiver chip that can be inserted into pagers, smoke detectors, cell phones, PDAs and other devices to alert responders and provide information as a situation develops.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting is also

involved in the new alerting system. It partnered with Global Security Systems and the state Office of Homeland Security. The latter to allow use of its tower network in support of the new state wide emergency alert system. The network was created under contract to the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security. (RW)

GARA Meeting Minutes



REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 28, 2006

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held Monday evening August 28, 2006, at 7:15 PM at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover Avenue.

President John Doggett, KI4BMS, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the "Feed Line". One member was reported sick. Pegi Mauldin, N4JBM. The group welcomed Jim Bullings, AE4BA as a new member.

Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW, said we now have 70 members.

"Al" Allred, K4ZKQ, reported that Income and Expenditures are well in line with the forecast for the year. Al also suggested present members contact members that had not renewed and invite them back to a club meeting.

Tom Forrest, N4GVK, secretary, reported all was fine and the web site had been receiving numerous requests and "hits" over the past month. He said he still needs input for the news letter.

John Doggett, KI4BMS, reminded everyone of the cook out on September 16 – to start about 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, commented on the Labor Day Soccer Shootout. Additional ham operators are needed for adequate coverage of the games.

Carlton O'Rork suggested returning to the idea of a new member packet for members. This packet would include information about the repeaters and the club. The membership agreed and will be looking into starting this again.

The president announced the following events:

Lunches: Mondays, 10:45 at Jake's Diner,

and Fridays, 11:00 at the K&W Cafeteria on Holden Road; Coffee: Fridays, 8:00 pm at Starbucks on Battleground. The Mt. Mitchell trip will be October 14.

The program for the evening was slated to be by Bill Mauldin, WG4R, on his new book. Due to the illness of his wife, the program was rescheduled to another meeting date.

Arch spoke briefly about the new digital repeater and the progress he was making. He hopes to have the repeater up and running for the picnic September 16 at John Doggett's house for a demonstration.

The meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Forest, N4GVK, Secretary

Board Meeting August 14, 2006

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
August 14, 2006

The following Board members were present: John Doggett, KI4BMS; Clark Doggett, KG4HOM; Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Arch, KT4AT; "Al" Allred, K4ZKQ; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Rudy Langley, KG4HCT and Tom Forrest, N4GVK.

Reports:

Ernie, NC4EW, gave the treasurer's report saying there had been a few new members joined. He also discussed an increase in the phone bill. Roy took the bill and will contact BellSouth and determine why there were multiple charges. Also it was discussed as to what method we wanted to use to present the weekly program News Line. No action was taken at this time.

Al, K4ZKQ, gave his report stating all was OK and the forecast was on track

The secretat'y's report was given by Tom,

N4GVK. Tom said the web site had a new added feature of publications, and downloads by interested parties. Arch already has numerous articles and downloads on the web page. Labels were handed out to correct the e-mail address and web site on the club brochures.

John. KI4MBS, passed out a document presented to the club from Triad SkyWarn. The board reviewed the document which governed the use of the 145.15 machine during an activation of SkyWarn. The GARA 15 repeater is a second back-up for Triad SkyWarn. The primary SkyWarn repeater in Asheboro is down at this time, and conditions sometimes make the first back-up, the 145.25 repeater unusable. Consequently, chances of using the GARA 15 repeater are higher. The board approved allowing Triad SkyWarn coordinator John Hamilton, NC4JH and assistant, Phil Owen, N1XLP, to have the control codes that places the GARA repeater in and out of SkyWarn mode. The code was not to be shared with other SkyWarn members.

Rudy, KG4HCT gave the vice president's report commenting how concerned he was about attendance. Arch noted that this was the case in all organizations right now.

Arch made further comments about supplying a Ham in California with information he had written, to repair their club's duplexer. The Ham found Arch's information on our club web site.

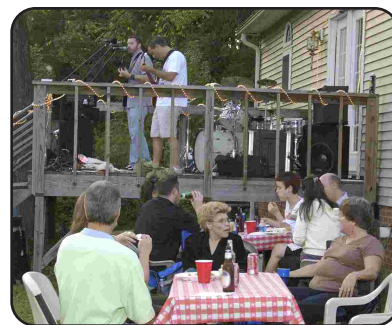
John commented on his daughter getting her Ham license. Alexie Doggett, received her call sign of KI4QNC. John also reminded everyone of the BBQ cook out September 16.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

No Board Meeting for Sept.

"The Feed Line" is ©2006 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.

"Doggettville" BBQ & Picnic - Fun For All



Fine food and friendship was the menu for the annual picnic given by the Doggett family at "Doggettville" near Summerfield. Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, John, KI4BMS, Jane, KG4ZQK, Mary, KG4ZQL and Alexie, KI4QNC were the hosts for the home-cooked BBQ picnic.

For an added feature at the picnic, Arch, KT4AT, engineering chairman for GARA, deployed the new digital D-Star Icom RP-4000V repeater and the RP2C controller. The repeater had about a three mile range located at John's (KI4BMS) with antenna ht. of around 10 feet. Arch supplied two Icom IC-U82 hand-helds and two Hams, K4HC and KE4FCW, recently purchased the Icom IC-91AD. Alexie, KI4QNC, was designated control operator, for the event and Roy, N4BYU, was trustee. The machine used the call W4GSO. The repeater received a temporary coordination of 440.5125 +offset, for the event from SERA. Hams attending the event had a chance to get a first-hand demonstration of D-Star.



Chris, K4HC, left and Steve, KE4FCW discuss their new IC91AD radios. Arch, tries some fresh cooked BBQ.



Clark, KG4HOM, dishes out fresh BBQ from the warmer.



Alexie, KI4QNC, talks on the D-Star repeater

Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

Sympathy - to GARA member Chris Thompson, K4HC, on the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Adele Miller Wallace, 93, September 17, 2006. Mrs. Wallace is survived by her two daughters, Gloria Wallace Thompson (K4GWT) and her husband, Walter (K4WCT) and Sue Wallace Navarro and her husband, Luis; seven grandchildren, including Susan Gail Thompson (N4SBN), Christopher Wallace Thompson (K4HC).

Sympathy - to Ray Joyce, WD4MVM, of Greensboro, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Nannie Lucille Sheppard Joyce, 84, September 12. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families.

Get Well - GARA wishes all the best to

member Pegi Mauldin, N4JBM, who will begin chemotherapy treatments soon.

Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, assisted with the search and communications, Sept. 8, for two missing young brothers ages three and four, in the Danbury community of Stokes County.

The following items are still available from the estate of Earl Fox, W4DWR:

1. Yaesu FT920 --- \$950.00
 2. Astron RS12 Power Supply --- \$50.00
 3. Tucker T3000 Antenna Tuner - \$300.00
 4. Amertron AL572 Amplifier - \$1000.00
 5. CW Key --- \$30.00
 6. Antenna Analyst SWR121 --- \$70.00
 7. Yaesu ZL1000 1KW amp and power supply for \$2,000
 8. Various towers make offer-Take down
- Contact: Ken Weeman, WB2RFK
H: (336)434-0164, C:(336) 491-3136.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be September 25, 2006 at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover Ave. We eat at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:15. A presentation will be made by GARA member Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, on hooking up your computer and getting on the internet. Please come and bring a friend. If you are not a member and would like to know more about GARA, visit our web site at www.w4gso.org or email us at info@w4gso.org

Area Activities

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 PM, the **Greensboro Amateur Radio Association** has their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. 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.

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 6:30 PM **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Greensboro Police Western Sub Station at 300 Swing Rd in the community room. Refreshments at 6:30 PM and the business meeting begins at 7 PM.

SATURDAYS – at the K&W Cafeteria on Big Tree Way, hams get together for **Saturday Breakfast** at 7:30 AM. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater, with 100 Hz. tone.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS – at 11 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. On Monday they meet at Jake's Diner at Wendover and Big Tree Way and on Friday lunch is at the K&W Cafeteria off South Holden Road. 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 at Starbucks on Battleground (summer location till Daylight Savings time changes)

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association
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Web:
www.w4gso.org

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