



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

www.w4gso.org

info@w4gso.org

Shelby Hamfest 2010 – A Tailgater's Perspective

By Chris Thompson, K4HC

Photos courtesy of Chris Thompson, K4HC and
Will Ravenel, AI4VE

Every year, the Labor Day weekend brings one of the largest hamfests in the southeast – Shelby – also known as “The Granddaddy of them All”. While it certainly can’t compare with the famous Dayton Hamvention, Shelby continues to offer one of the best tailgate experiences available anywhere. In addition to the large flea market, the major manufacturers and vendors in the ham community make the trek, making this truly a “one stop shop” for almost anything Ham Radio related.

GARA and the Triad were well represented in the tailgate section by Will, AI4VE; John,

W4DX; Duane, W4DMB; Chris, K4HC; Ann, KC4YRM; Larry, KT4G; Liz, KI4AVK; John, WB4WIR and Jane, KG4RFS.

This motley crew tailgated together,

which in my view is the only way to do it – with good friends. Will and John went to the hamfest site the previous Sunday and acquired six adjoining tailgate spaces for the group so we wouldn’t be scattered. By doing this as a group, if someone wanted to crawl the flea market or see The Wireman or one of the other dealers,

someone was ready and able to keep an eye on their goodies for sale.

My wife, Ann, has accompanied me to many hamfests before, even where I was selling stuff, but this was the first time she witnessed

NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 27

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, September 27th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam’s Club. This month’s program will consist of discussion about the upcoming trip to Mt. Mitchell, the open house in October and other details concerning GARA activities.



what I call “The descent of the vultures”. I had some old Collins

equipment for sale, and the particular shade of gray they used to paint those cabinets must emit some special odor, because guys



were peering into my trunk asking “how much?” before I even had a chance to unload. The best part of that frantic ten minutes was the conclusion of the dealing, where several \$100 bills made their way into my wife’s pocket (this was a

see **Shelby**, page 5



GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes August 23, 2010

The GARA club meeting was held on August 23rd at 7:00pm. The meeting was held at the Golden Corral restaurant near Wendover Avenue and I-40. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Will Ravenel, AI4VE, who then asked everyone to identify themselves; Tom Forrest, N4GVK, spoke up and asked everyone to give the year that they were first licensed, also.

Gerald Donnelly, N4PAX, donated an amplified microphone to the club.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasury report as doing fine with all major bills paid.

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report as the income is ahead of forecast and the outgo is below forecast.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said there

have been some problems with the D-STAR equipment caused by a bad connection on the router causing it to reset.

Bob Mays, KE4MOW, told about the picnic that was held at Hagen Stone Park and asked the visitors to join GARA, so they would not miss out on the next one.

Betty Williams, KC2BFN, is still contacting potential members.

Will said that the open house is scheduled for October 23rd from 10:00am until 4:00pm. He then gave a brief review of last year's open house and asked for as many volunteers as possible to help set up and run the exhibits. More details to follow.

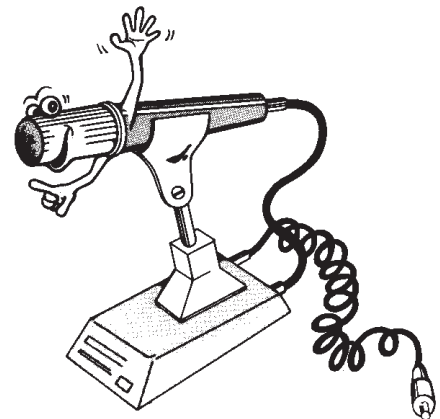
Will also spoke about the trip to Mount Mitchell scheduled for October 16th.

Alan Bradley, KD4IUN, needs volunteers for the Labor Day shootout soccer tournament.

Alan gave Brian Michael Wilson a tee shirt for helping Bob at the last tournament.

Will said that we need a nominating committee for the election coming up in November.

Chris Thompson, K4HC, said that all hams need a multimeter and they can be found rather cheaply at



hamfests, online and at local dealers.

Will asked for the D-STAR users to help with the added cost of the Internet access at the repeater site.

Tom said that he is putting a free donation page on the web site.

Rick, AE4RH, the SkyWarn EC said that there will be two(2) SkyWarn training classes coming up on October 13 for basic and October 15 for Advanced (this has been changed to the 13th & 14th). The classes will be held at Hinshaw Methodist church from 7:00 to 9:00pm each night.

The program was presented by Mike Atkins, N4VE, of Triad Electronics Supply in Winston-Salem.

The meeting ended at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Will Ravenel, AI4VE
Vice-President Roy Smith, N4BYU
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ
Engineering Chairman Jesse Lindley, N4BFD
Operations Bob Mays, KE4MOW
Member-at-Large Rob Erikson, KG4OPX
Member-at-Large Betty Williams, KC2BFN
Appointed Positions:
Webmaster Tom Forrest, N4GVK
Newsletter Editor Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

The Feed Line is ©2010 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

Power-Pole Connectors -

Available from Tom Forrest,

N4GVK n4gvk@bellsouth.net,
336-202-8650, in packages of 10
pair for \$10. A few sets still left.

Board Meeting Minutes September 20, 2010

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on September 20th 2010 at the home of Will Ravenel, AI4VE. Present at the meeting were Will; Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Roy Smith, N4BYU and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV. John Strandberg, W4DX, was there as a guest.

The meeting started at 7:00pm.

Al gave the financial report stating that we are \$268.00 ahead

of forecast on income from dues.

We discussed the upcoming Mt. Mitchell trip that is scheduled for October 16th. The group will leave from the Walgreens at the intersection of Holden Road and High Point Road at 8:30am.

Will highlighted the exhibits at last year's open house, and we discussed possible changes for this year. Roy will get an updated list of hams in the area to whom

we will send postcards.

There will be more discussion of the open house at our next club meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:50pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer,
KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*



October Events

Photos courtesy of Will Ravenel, AI4VE

SkyWarn Training

October 13th & 14th

Training will be from 7-9pm at the Hinshaw United Methodist Church at 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro.

Mt. Mitchell Trip

Saturday, October 16th

A trip to the highest peak in the Eastern U.S., at 6684 feet above sea



level, for some mountain top QSOs.

This will be a car pooled trip. Gather at the Walgreens parking lot at the corner of Holden and High Point Roads for a 8:30am departure. Simplex communications on 147.555 MHz. The drive to Mt. Mitchell is about 3h 15m according

to Google. Bring your picnic lunch, drinks, radio(s) and a sealed bag of chips. Don't forget that the weather at Mt. Mitchell can be unpredictable. Be prepared in case it's chilly.

We'll picnic near the top and then make the 300 meter hike to the observation platform at the top for some QSO's. Plan to leave by 2:30pm for a return to Greensboro by 6:00pm.

Please contact Will Ravenel, AI4VE, (ai4ve@arrl.net) if you would like to make the trip. We will coordinate transportation based on the response.

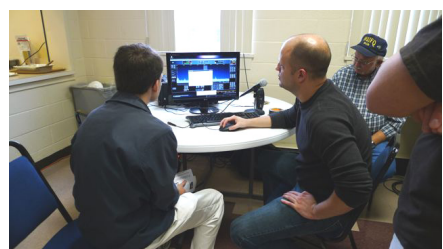
GARA Open House

Saturday, October 23rd

This will be the third annual GARA open house. The purpose of this event is to showcase a wide range of Amateur Radio technologies for new Hams, inactive Hams, and the

general public. The Open House will be hosted at the Hinshaw United Methodist Church at 4501 High Point Road again this year (thanks, Jim) and will run from 10:00am to 4:00pm. There will be more discussion of this event at the next GARA meeting where you will have an opportunity to volunteer your talents. Let's all pitch in to show Greensboro what we can do and to continue to increase interest in the hobby.

Stay tuned to the GARA web page, www.w4gso.org for more information about upcoming events.



From the President's Shack

Why does our hobby exist?

There are five reasons the United States Government deems it important to maintain and encourage the Amateur Radio Service. These principles are documented in Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission rules. The principles that justify the Amateur Radio Service are spelled out in part 97.1, Basis and Purpose:

"The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

Paragraph

(a) is what most people might come up with when asked "Why does Amateur Radio exist?". Hams think of ARES as the embodiment of this principle but it goes beyond that. Although ARES has become the formal emergency services organization for Amateur Radio Operators' contributions in times of

major emergencies, there are plenty of examples of Hams who selflessly use their communications capabilities to save life and limb outside any formal organizational structure. Securing the rescue of an injured hiker, relaying communications from private vessels in trouble at sea, supporting search and rescue operations for a missing child. We read about cases like this every month and each of us would gladly do the same.

How many of us feel like we significantly contribute to the advancement of radio art? Paragraph (b) might seem more relevant in the early days of radio when Hams were widely recognized as being near the leading edge of the science, but Hams still, in fact, innovate and move the science of radio forward. A few relatively recent examples include new digital communications modes, advances in software defined radio, and digital radio networking techniques. The majority of Hams are simply users of these technologies, but those capable of innovation depend on the users to support their continued advancements.

Paragraph (c) states the value of the Amateur Service in advancing valuable communications and technical skills. The

Amateur Radio hobby creates skilled communicators and technicians. This is key to maintaining the supply of individuals who are qualified and ready to come to the aid of their friends, communities, and country.

Paragraph (d) explains the reason that the previous two principles are important.

Amateur Radio, by advancing the state of the art and by advancing communications and technical skills, creates a reservoir of skilled technicians and operators that the country can draw on in time of need. This goes deeper than that simple statement. Everyone has read that the United States is falling behind in math and science skills compared to the rest of the world. As a country, it is essential that we reverse this trend. Amateur radio generates interest in the science, technology, and

mathematics that are needed to understand radio technology. One doesn't need to look very far to see that the excitement generated by Amateur Radio has led many young people into scientific and engineering fields of study and careers. Our training classes, Elmering, and enthusiasm for the hobby are positive forces contributing to the strengthening of our country's ability to compete.

And finally we come to paragraph (e). This is perhaps my favorite principle of all. The country recognizes the importance of our "unique ability to enhance international good will". We are literally ambassadors to the world. Globally, Amateur Radio Operators break through barriers of politics, ideology, culture, race, and religion to communicate as friends. These human connections and the opportunities to demonstrate the common values we all share represent potent medicine to the ills of the world. Each DX QSO we make is in a real sense contributing to a better world.

That's why our hobby exists and why I'm proud to be a part of it.



**Federal
Communications
Commission**



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 September, we had 2 individuals who passed their test(s) and earn either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on October 9th 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



Quinn R Wagner - KJ4WWD,
Passed General



Todd M Smith - AK4CA,
Passed Extra

Shelby

continued from page 1

selling trip, not a buying trip for me). This did not empty me out – and my table still had lots of good stuff on it throughout the day. As always, not everything sold, but the



trip back was significantly lighter than the trip down. Informal surveys of the other members of the group reported similar results.

While I did not have much of an opportunity to crawl the flea market myself, it appeared to be very well stocked, both with buyers and sellers. I know that many people came home to Greensboro with new goodies.

If you missed Shelby this year, try to mark it on



your calendar for next year. Since it's only about a two hour drive each way, it is a very easy day trip. Gather up a few friends, or meet them there, and even if no purchases are made, you'll all have a great time drooling over old and new Ham Radio "Junque".

News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

ARES: 75 and Still Growing

From ARRL

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) will be celebrating its 75th anniversary from September through December 2010. This program of the ARRL – the national association for Amateur Radio – has provided “ham radio” emergency communications for agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, countless Emergency Operations Centers and other responders in the worst of times. In events from ice storms to Hurricane Katrina and Haiti, when normal communications

systems were down or overloaded, the Amateur Radio operators of the ARES programs filled requests for communications aid. Over the years the program name and equipment has changed but the vision remains. The modern communications nets that ARES can quickly create to blanket whole regions - without the need for other infrastructure - remain critical in emergency planning. In the first hours and days of a major event, Amateur Radio is often the source of initial information on the type, scope and reactions needed to save lives. Recognition of this capability led to formal agreements with DHS, FEMA, NOAA and other federal,

state and local agencies. When the Internet, cell phone and electricity go out – they call on us, the hams.

The first mention of an organized Amateur Radio emergency response organization appears in the September 1935 issue of QST Magazine. “At least one

amateur station in every community should be equipped with auxiliary station equipment for use in an emergency.” With those words by ARRL Communications Manager F.E. Handy and Assistant Communications Manager E.L.

Bathey, the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC) was born.

Much like today, Corps members were expected to reach out to served agencies. Corps stations were requested to contact “local Red Cross officials, railroads, military units, police departments, representatives of press associations and the like” and notify them of their ability to assist during times of emergency. Cooperation with served agencies was critical for the success of the Corps just as much as it is today with ARES.

Some of the major responses needing ARES Amateur Radio operators for emergency

communications in recent years include these well-known events:

Earthquake in Haiti - 2010
Hurricane Ike in Texas - 2008
Earthquake in Hawaii—2006
Flooding in Northeastern States—2006
Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita—2005
Wildfires in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico—2005
Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne—2004
Tsunami in Asia—2004
Earthquake in Central California—2003
Hurricane Isabel—2003
Northeast Blackout—2003
Shuttle Columbia Recovery Effort—2003
Wildfires in Colorado—2002
Flooding in Kentucky—2002
World Trade Center, Pentagon and Western Pennsylvania Terrorist Attacks—2001
Tropical Storm Allison—2001
Fires in Los Alamos, New Mexico—2000

Like other modern wireless technologies, Amateur Radio has come a long way from its beginnings. Today’s amateurs are expanding their voice and digital networks, using satellites and TV, developing hybrid applications of radio-internet and GPS location systems, long-range WiFi types of systems and more. Hams are the consummate “DO-ers” not just “USE-ers” of technology.

To learn more about ARES and Amateur Radio, go to
www.emergencyradio.org



Guilford County ARES and Red Cross

Photos courtesy of Tom Forrest, N4GVK

In Guilford County, our ARES group had just barely received word that the Greensboro Red Cross Chapter had become the coordinating chapter for all of North Carolina when the call came requesting support for HF communications to the coast for hurricane Earl. The Red Cross Chapter House quickly became an active center of operations for



Antenna quickly installed on the top of the building

ARES. Within a few hours, the site had been surveyed, an antenna was atop the building and a radio room was in place, operating and ready for action. The telephone calling tree was activated, e-mails were

sent and at least sixteen volunteers came ready to man the station had it been needed. The Red Cross leadership was appreciative and very pleased at the response of the group. Various systems and training that ARES uses served the group well.

Our ARES organization reports directly to the Guilford County Emergency Management Coordinator or his designee. ARES trains to provide volunteer radio communication service as outlined in the Guilford County Emergency

Operations Plan and conforms to the National Incident Management System for a multi-agency response. Upon request and agreement, ARES is able to respond to an individual call for assistance such as from the American Red Cross. As the Greensboro Chapter of the American Red Cross begins the journey of supporting disaster



Red Cross volunteers at work - GARA members Chandlee White on right, KJ4ADX



ARES members at the Red Cross

operations for the entire state, ARES is looking forward to providing communications support as needed.

Jim Waynick
N4JLW
Guilford County ARES, EC

Free Fest!

The GARA web site (www.w4gso.org) has a new addition and a first of it's kind in the area for Hams.

It's a web page on the GARA site called a "Free-Fest" which is a place where Hams and non-Hams can list items to be given away. These items have to be "free" and no money is exchanged. This is a method of recycling your "old stuff" and magazines, etc, instead of

dumping them in the trash. Someone may need what you have. This is a free service of GARA and is open to all. You do not have to be a GARA member to list an item.

One exception, if the item you wish to give away has a transmitter, the

item should belong to a Ham and be received by a Ham.

This could include items that just aren't worth selling and collecting dust and taking up space in your shack.

Information and rules are located at the top of the page, located at www.w4gso.org/freecycle.html There is also a link in the middle of the home page. There is still a "For Sale" area on the GARA site for those wishing to sell equipment.

Send items to list to Tom Forrest, N4GVK, e-mail: n4gvk@bellsouth.net



Area Happenings

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30pm, 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 6:30pm 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

Oct. 2010 to Dec. 2010

October 9, 2010

November 13, 2010

December 11, 2010

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