



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

*Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad*

Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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## GARA Announcements

### HAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GRAND FONDO BIKE RIDE

GARA has agreed to provide communications for the Grand Fondo Bike Ride on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The Grand Fondo is a charity ride that raises money for research seeking an earlier biological detection test for breast cancer.

The ride consists of five routes (12, 25, 43, 61, and 100 miles). All rides start and finish at the Cross Fit Center, 8309 Linville Rd, Oak Ridge. Start time for all rides is 0900 hrs. The ride routes go through three counties (Guilford, Forsyth, and Stokes). The ride ends when all riders cross the finish or at 1600 hrs when road support ends.

The communications support that GARA provides helps to ensure the event is successful and more important helps ensure the safety of the riders. Ham support times vary depending on assignment. They start from 0730 – 0900 hrs and end from 1200 – 1600 hrs. Equipment needed also varies depending on assignment. Rest Stop assignments will need VHF radio and antenna combo that is cable of producing 50 watts of output. Sag vehicle assignments; hams will ride shotgun (as a passenger) in a panel van, and they will need VHF radio and a mag mount antenna combo that is cable of producing 50 watts of output that can be placed in/on the panel van. Rover assignments, hams will provide their own motor cycle with a VHF radio system cable of 50 watt output. For assignments at the Cross Fit Center you will need a HT.

Lunch and a tee shirt will be provided to volunteers.

If you can help or if you need more information please contact, Tom Bertolino, KB1P at kb1p@arrl.com, or if you know someone who can help with this event please give them this information.



### GARA'S SEPTEMBER'S MONTHLY MEETING

Our September Meeting will be held on Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 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 and gossip.

The presentation topic is Delorme InReach Satellite Communicator by Josh Fox, KG4SZC. For those who do not know what the Delorme InReach Satellite Communicator is here is a short description. InReach SE is about the size of an average HT and allows the traveler or outdoor adventurer to keep connected and safe anywhere in the world. InReach SE remains the only satellite communication device that can both send and receive text messages in its price category.

Also February was the start of our Join/Renew ARRL membership through GARA campaign. If you chose to join/renew your ARRL membership through GARA, you can do it at this meeting Craig Bondy, N8STA, GARA's treasurer will have the forms with him. See you at the meeting.

### NEXT MEETING Monday, September 23

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, September 23rd, 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 on The Delorme InReach Satellite Communicator by Josh Fox, KG4SZC.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes July 22, 2013

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on August 26, 2013, at Captain Bills Seafood Restaurant located at 6108 west Market Street in Greensboro.

Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

#### OFFICER REPORTS

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, displayed a certificate that he received for making a clean sweep in the 13 colonies contest held in July.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that Doug Johnson, K4OJP, had passed away, Weldon Fields, W4AJT, is back home from a stay in the hospital and Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, is recovering from a heart attack.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, gave us an update on the repeaters health. David also spoke about his recent trip to Mount Diablo State Park while he was in California. David spoke about all of the antennas up there and several repeaters on the mountaintop.

Donna asked for everyone to identify them selves.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, introduced Laura Kilpatrick who is one of the organizers of the Gran Fondo Bike Ride coming up on October 12th. Laura gave some information about the bike ride and the need for our help. This bike ride is a fundraiser for local breast cancer research. The GARA board has decided to sponsor this bike ride, and we will need about fifteen hams to work this event.

Tom gave a short refresher on repeater etiquette since there have been some issues of abuse lately.

Donna mentioned the ham radio testing session coming up and the Carolina Wine Festival coming up on September the 14th at the Triad farmers market. Contact Thomas Fleming,

KJ4YDP, or Patrick Moore, K2CPR, if you can volunteer. We now have a date for the fall Ham Radio Expo at the Greensboro Science Center and that date is November 23rd. More details will follow as they become available.

Donna said that election of club officers takes place in November, and we need volunteers for a nominating committee.

Robert Ferguson, KD4TVE, and Ken Worland, KK4GSM, presented a program on how they integrated ham radio and motorcycles.

Alan Kaplan, W1AEL, spoke about some headaches he has been having dealing with getting a permit to put up a tower. Alan asked for any advice or help from members which prompted several responses.

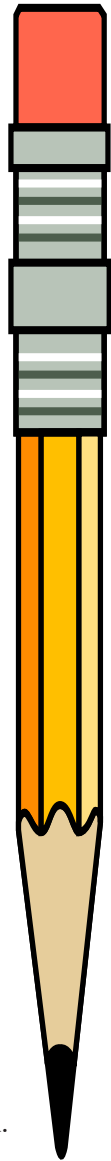
Robert made a motion to adjourn, Jim Hightower, W4JLH, seconded.

*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.



## Board Meeting Minutes

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on September 9, 2013, at Captain Bills. The members present were: Donna Ferguson, KD4WIK; Craig Bondy, N8STA; Roy Smith, N4BYU; David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Chan White, KJ4ADX; Tom Bertolino, KB1P; Todd Smith, AK4TS; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

### OFFICER REPORTS

Tom gave us an update on the 501C3 research he has been doing stating that he has been having trouble getting the information requested.

Tom also said the presenter for the September meeting will be Josh Fox, KG4SZC.

We also discussed upcoming presentation topics.

Craig gave the treasury report stating that we have 90 paid members and 112 total and 11 members either join or renew their ARRL membership through GARA.

David gave the engineering report and said that he is still trying to get a quote on internet access from Time Warner cable. David said he will try contacting them again.

David said that he wants to get in touch with the principal of McNair elementary school about setting up the ham station there.

David said he is working with Layman Idol, KK4LLY, and Ken Worland, KK4GSM, about training for the D-star repeater and Gateway. The Gateway went down after a recent storm when the power went off in the area. David said he wants to check the ups battery the next time he can get up there.

Roy said that we need to look at the interference that is getting into the VHF repeater again. David said that we need to do some fox hunting to try and find the source.

### NEW BUSINESS

We discussed the Open House that is coming up soon and the Ham Radio Expo scheduled for November.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Craig seconded and the meeting ended at 20:25

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

## New Bureau Address N4 W4 K4

Carolina DX Association  
W4 K4 N4 QSL Bureau, PMB#305  
631 Brawley School Rd STE 200B  
Mooresville, NC 28117-6209



## Silent Key: Douglas B. Johnson, K4OJP



Douglas Bernard Johnson, 89, died unexpectedly on August 26, 2013. He was born on September 18, 1923, son of Della Permar Johnson and Nicholas Fillmore Johnson. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a daughter, Lucinda Johnson Kimel.

Funeral services will be conducted 2:00 PM Thursday, August 29 at College Place United Methodist Church with Dr. Jason Harvey presided. Interment with military honors will follow at Green Hill Cemetery. Doug served in the Army Air Corps in World War II and was a ham radio operator with the call letters K4OJP. He was an electrical engineer for WFMY-TV for many years before opening Johnson TV Sales and Service. In later years, he was a salesman before retiring.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Carol Childs Johnson; his daughters, Melinda Johnson and her husband, Richard Johnson of Bolivia, NC and Judy Hilton and her husband Lee Hilton of Hickory, and son, Douglas Bernard Johnson, JR. of Charlotte. In addition, he is survived by 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

The Family will receive friends prior to the service at the church from 1:00 to 1:45 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be sent to College Place United Methodist Church, 509 Tate Street, Greensboro, NC 27403. Forbis & Dick North Elm Street Funeral Home is serving the Johnson Family.

## Info from ARRL

**TAKE REFUGE IN HAM RADIO, OR VICE VERSA** – October is a glorious time to do portable outdoor Hamming, and October 12-20 will be a perfect opportunity with the National Wildlife Refuge Week Amateur Radio Special Event, which you can find at [www.nwrweek-radio.info](http://www.nwrweek-radio.info). Amateur Radio participation is part of overall National Wildlife Refuge Week. North Carolina is home to eight wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (Although the rules this year permit state managed refuges to be included, North Carolina does not have any designated as such.) This would be a chance to operate from the National Wildlife Refuges located at Alligator River, Cedar Island, Currituck, Mackay Island, Mattamuskeet, Pea Island, Pee Dee, Pocosin Lakes, Roanoke River and Swanquarter. Because of the sensitivity of the habitat, you must file an operating plan in advance with the manager at a refuge and obtain permission before operating. The organizers of this event can help with operating plans at [info@nwrweek-radio.info](mailto:info@nwrweek-radio.info). You can find the hyperlinks to the eight National Wildlife Refuges in North Carolina at <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=NC>

**JOTA OCTOBER 19-20** – Another great outdoor tradition in October this year will be the 56th annual Jamboree On-The-Air (JOTA), which is unique in three respects. 1) It is officially the largest event in scouting with 750,000 participants, eclipsing the next largest event, the U.S. Boy Scout National Jamboree, by a factor of almost twenty times; 2) it is a global event – not just the U.S. or North America, and 3) JOTA is one of the very few joint events between Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. Last year local clubs helped to put 14 JOTA stations on the air in North Carolina. Plan now to reach out to your local Boy Scout or Girl Scout council to volunteer to host a JOTA station, then register your station at [http://scouting.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_2gH1Qhj1HcPbOUB](http://scouting.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2gH1Qhj1HcPbOUB). An overview of JOTA can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>



## 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](mailto: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
Oct 12, 2013	Grand Fondo 100 mile bike ride	start/end Oak Ridge	<a href="mailto:kb1p@arrl.net">kb1p@arrl.net</a>

[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.]



## 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 September, there were two (3) who passed their test(s) and earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on October 12th 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.

**All Photos Courtesy of Roy Smith, N4BYU**



*Alan Needham, KK4SIU - Passed General*



*Ken Wilkins KK4TWV - Passed Tech*

## Engineering Update for September, 2013

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

I've gotten a temporary reprieve from working out in '6' land, so I have been able to spend a few weeks at home. California is nice but it's certainly not home!

### VHF Repeater:

Nothing new to report from last month. I am still convinced that we are getting interference again on the repeater input frequency. I have heard one of the frequent users of the repeater repeatedly complain, "Something is broken" on the repeater. His signal sounds very marginal into the machine. However, other users, who are much farther away, have a good signal on the input, and sound clear, at the same time. The point of all this is, although I still think we are receiving interference, no amount of "fixing" will make up for a weak signal getting to the repeater antenna. If someone tells you that you are 'scratchy', don't take offense to it... they are just trying to help you. If you are on a handheld, move to another part of the house... you might be shaded by terrain, your structure, or other structures around you. You would be surprised how much moving a couple of feet will help, especially if you are in an area that is experiencing multipath losses. In this month's ARRL QEX magazine, there is an article on using Google Earth to predict radio propagation lines of sight based on the surrounding terrain. I have only glanced at it but I plan to read it more closely this week. I also have prepared a program on radio wave propagation that I will present at a future club meeting.

Regarding the repeater input interference, if anyone would like to do a 'foxhunt' on your own, contact me (by email) and I will let you know what to do. Perhaps I will have a chance to do this myself in the near future.

### UHF D-Star Repeater:

Last month, I told you the D-STAR machine was unable to connect to the internet after shutting down Saturday afternoon, August 10th (right about the time that a series of storms moved through the area). Roy, N4BYU, found that the power input to the cabinet had been off, and the UPS had tripped off. We only have backup power for a short time, but the generator for some reason either did not start, or started late. The D-STAR gateway computer, which is a Linux based machine, lost power suddenly when the UPS shut off. I have told you in past columns that Linux machines don't like a sudden shutdown, there is a defined process for shutting them down cleanly. In this case, the database engine, called 'postgresql', which helps to keep track of all of the registered D-STAR users, did not restart because there was an extraneous file that did not get deleted (it gets deleted during a normal shutdown). Deleting this file, which is a well-documented problem for D-STAR administrators, and restarting the gateway software, solved the problem, and the repeater was back on the internet in no time!

As you know, Ken KK4GSM, and Layman KK4LLY have volunteered to help on the Engineering Committee. I have been starting to get them up to speed on the D-STAR machine, and how the gateway works, at least, they are reading about it. We will have a hands-on training session at the repeater site soon!

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)



## Calendar of Events

- 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, Greensboro) Club Elections
- 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)
- Feb 8 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Feb 10 GARA Board Meeting
- Feb 22 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Feb 24 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. 2013 to Mar. 2014

**October 12, 2013**  
**November 9, 2013**  
**December 14, 2013**  
**January 11, 2014**  
**February 8, 2014**  
**March 15, 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](http://www.w4gso.org)

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*The Official Publication of GARA*