

www.w4gso.org

info@w4gso.org

It. Mitchell Excursion By Todd Smith, AK4TS

Photos courtesy of Todd Smith, AK4TS and Will, AI4VE

[This is part one of a two part article. We will run part two in next month's Feed Line.]

when several members of GARA made a field trip to Mount Mitchell State Park in Burnsville, NC. Having

Participants and listeners of the Sunday evening Technical Forum moderated by Chris Thompson (K4HC) and Rick Mainhart (WB3EXR) may recall hearing Chris' recent

advice that "You will learn a whole lot more if you get out there and do things, and don't stay ensconced in your shack." That is sound advice that should be taken to heart by all amateur radio operators. And plenty of opportunities exist to "...get out there and do things", especially when one considers the various activities organized by GARA and other amateur radio clubs.

One such opportunity took place on Saturday, October 16th,



the distinction of being the highest elevation east of the Mississippi river, the peak of Mount Mitchell is an amateur radio operator's paradise. At 6,684 feet, an amateur can operate from

the peak with his (or her) emissions

lunning of the Hams l'he

By John Doggett, AJ4DV Photo courtesy of John Doggett, AJ4DV

On September 25th, the day before my 41st birthday I ran my first full marathon. My father, Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, and I took up running a little over a year ago and began competing in 5K's. We gradually moved up to running in half-marathon races in the Triad area. After some



NIÐXI MIÐIÐI NING Monday, October 25

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, October 25th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club. This month's meeting should be enjoyable as we prepare for the election of new officers.

completely unobstructed. For lineof-sight frequencies in the VHF and UHF bands, contacts can be made over 100 miles away while using a handytalkie limited to one watt of radiated power! For frequencies in the HF bands, the higher elevation provides the opportunity for signal take-off

see Mitchell, page 7

research and speaking with fellow runners and a little cockiness on our behalf, we decided we could run a full marathon.

We chose a race that's held in Akron Ohio entitled the "Road Runner". Once we registered for the race, we knew we would have to commit to a vigorous training schedule. We subscribe to several running magazines and have read a few books on the subject matter, and we used what knowledge we had learned and set ourselves up on a training schedule. It was suggested that we begin training for the marathon four months in advance of the actual event. Since our race was in September we

see Marathon, page 6

www.w4gso.org

Feed Line

GARA Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting Minutes September 27, 2010

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on September 27th at the Golden Corral restaurant located near the intersection of I-40 and Wendover Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Will Ravenel, AI4VE. Will then asked that everyone identify themselves and noted that we had several new hams in attendance.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, gave the treasury report stating that there is "money in the bank, bills are paid and the check book is balanced."

Will said that Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, could not be here so he dropped off a public service grant from GYSA and will presented it to Ernie for deposit.

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave

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. the financial report stating that "income is faster than expected and outgo is slower than expected."

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that the D-STAR internet connection costs the club about \$25 more per month and the club is asking members using the D- STAR repeater to voluntarily pay an extra \$25 per year.

Tom Forest, N4GVK, has placed a new page on the GARA website for donating items that you would like to give away.

Will said he received an e-mail about a local business making batteries for HT's. Interstate battery located near Market Street and Guilford college road can spot weld battery packs and the manager, Mr. Ramsey, said he would like to reach out to the ham community.

Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, invited everyone to the picnic coming up on October 9th. He said they plan to start serving at 6pm so bring a chair and come hungry.

There will be a trip to Mt. Mitchell coming up on October the 16th. Plan to meet in the Walgreens parking lot at the corner of Holden and High Point Road and be ready to depart at 8:30am.

Will spoke about the Open

For Sale

Power-Pole Connectors - Available from Tom Forrest, N4GVK n4gvk@

House coming up on Saturday the 23rd of October at the Hinshaw United Methodist church located at 4501 High Point Road in Greensboro. The Open House will run from 10am until 4pm. Will listed some of the attractions that we are planning and asked for volunteers to staff the stations.

The minutes of the last meetings were approved as published in the Feed Line.

Will said that there was no presentation for this months meeting so he asked if the members wanted to see a video of a French man making a vacuum tube from scratch.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

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

Board Meeting Minutes October 11, 2010

The GARA Board of directors held their monthly meeting on Monday, October 11th, 2010, at the Benjamin Branch of the Greensboro Public Library. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Will Ravenel, AI4VE. Members in attendance were; Betty Williams, KC2BFN; Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Bob Mays, KE4MOW and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

The first topic of discussion was the Open House coming up on the 23rd of October. The Board finalized plans and all helped to put stamps on the postcards to get them ready to mail. The Board worked out who will be staffing the various exhibits. They discussed donating \$125 to the church for the use of the fellowship hall for the Open House.

Will said that he has not gotten any interest for the Mt. Mitchell trip coming up on the 16th of October.

Bob Mays wants to reintroduce a proposal that he made in September of 2007 concerning the club funding a wireless weather station at the cities Justice Communications complex. This is, in effect, a thank you of sorts for the use of the tower that our repeaters are on. This proposal was passed in 2007 but it was lost by the city. Bob has spoken with Steve Marks, N4SCM, who indicated that we should have better luck at this time. Will made a motion to support the proposal made by the previous board in September of



2007, Ernie seconded and the motion passed.

Ernie gave the treasury report.

Al gave the treasury report stating that we are \$5,000 ahead of forecast at this time due to public service grants and rising membership.

The meeting ended at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

Silent Key: Charles "Charlie" Strandberg, KB4AK

By John Strandberg, W4DX

Photos courtesy of John Strandberg, W4DX

CLIMAX — Charles F. Strandberg, Jr., 84, died peacefully Thursday October 14, 2010 at Randolph Hospital in Asheboro with his children by his side.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 2 p.m. at Guilford Memorial Park adjacent to the new mausoleum. The Reverend Gerald Donnelly officiated.

What follows is a brief sketch of Charlie, as written by his son, John, W4DX:

Charles (Charlie) Strandberg 2-4-26 to 10-14-10. Licensed as W4JMI in 1939 at age 13.

He had a high end radio shack in the "radio room" which was designed

for this purpose when his father built the house. He had a tower with a beam mounted on the roof of the garage behind the house. However, by the time we moved in 1962, the radios were gone and the antenna was for TV. While in high school, got in a "little trouble" running a neighborhood broadcast station EXIMPON (he called himself the Great Pon).

Dad served as a naval radio technician on LST 817 in the Pacific theater.

After the war, he followed his ham radio roots and graduated from Duke in electrical engineering. While at Duke, he worked part-time a night at a Durham radio station as a radio engineer. Learning about the commercial radio business, he got an



idea for product. During his senior year, he successfully invented a device to sharpen expensive radio station record player needles so that they could be reused instead on having to be replaced. He won the national paper presentation at the 1950 American

see Charlie, page 4

www.w4gso.org

Feed Line

From the President's Shack

October is a great time of year here in Greensboro. The seemingly endless summer heat has finally broken but it's still warm enough to of visitors took in our activities. There were several Hams who asked questions about my antenna, what band I was working, and the K2.

> There were others who knew nothing

> about Ham radio

but were fascinated

with what we were

doing and were full

to introduce others

to our hobby and

that is why the

club is hosting an Open House for the

third year in a row.

It's always fun

of questions.



get out and enjoy the outdoors. A handful of us got lucky with weather for the planned Mt. Mitchell trip last Saturday. John - W4DX, Patrick -KB2RAC, Todd - AK4TS, Todd's girlfriend, Jane, and I made the drive Saturday morning and had a great time making some HF and VHF contacts from the mountain top. One of the best parts of the trip was the interest many of the constant stream

Methodist Church on Saturday the 23rd (probably tomorrow as you read this) from 10am to 4pm. I hope those of you who are not already planning to actively participate in this event will at least drop by. It is a great opportunity to help show off some of our capabilities to less active Hams and to the unlicensed public. It's also a fun social event. Who knows, you and rear bumper. Having completed

We will be at the Hinshaw United

might learn something too. Of course, we hope that the Open House will bring some new members to GARA, but even if that doesn't happen, I believe that this kind of outreach is important for the continued growth and future of the hobby.

Don't forget that the GARA annual elections will take place next month at the November meeting. If you are interested in running for an office or know someone who is interested please contact John Strandberg, W4DX, who is heading the nominating committee. Choice is a good thing.

73 - Will



Charlie continued from page 3

Institute of Electrical Engineers convention for his paper on the invention. After graduating, he formed his first successful business selling the needle sharpeners. After that point and for the rest of his life, he continuously had ideas for developments. Around 1950, he claimed to be the "first" to have an FM broadcast radio in his car. He strung a wire dipole between wooden masts mounted on the front and rear bumper. Having completed this just in time for Friday night, he picked up his date (my mom) and drove his two-mast convertible to the "old" Ham's restaurant and got a prime spot in the front curb-service lot. I asked my mom if she tried to crawl under the seat but she said no, everyone loved it!

He started numerous other businesses over the years, all driven by his ham radio beginnings and was awarded many patents for his inventions. During his professional life, he had the opportunity to work closely with many hams including Weldon Fields, W4AJT; Bob Best, W4JGA; and Don Harris, W4BUZ.

During the '80s, he found time to get back into ham radio and passed the advanced class exam and received the call KB4AK. He had been a regular at the Thursday K&W ham get togethers in the recent past until an injury immobilized him around 2008. He never pushed ham radio on me but was really happy when my son Jace, W4JSJ, and I got our licenses

Congratulations! You Passed!

Photos courtesy of Rick, WB3EXR

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 October, we had 3 individuals who passed their test(s) and earn either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on November 13th 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



Ian B. Tuten - KJ4YSD, Passed Technician



James A Dever - WA4TML, Passed Extra



Scott M Brewer - AK4CS, Passed Extra



www.w4gso.org

Glenda, AG4NC, faithfully checking the paperwork.



Will, AI4VE, faithfully serving as VE.



Roy, N4BYU, there to serve!

October, 2010

www.w4gso.org

BBQ Anyone? By Brian Wilson, K[4LKY

Photo courtesy of Tom Forrest, N4GVK

It is that time of year, fall! Cool weather is starting, the hot, hot days of summer are becoming fewer and fewer. The leaves on the trees are just starting to change. You start to see pumpkins and fall decorations. The stores are selling candy and costumes. All the signs of the change of the seasons are evident. And for the ham community that means something special: The Doggett Family BBQ! This has become an annual event, and since it was my first time attending, I was anxious to hear all about "the farm" and "the family."

I got there at what I thought was an early time, only to find out that others had arrive more than 45 minutes earlier than me. I took my son, Brian Michael, KJ4UBW; my wife, Kris; and my daughter, Sarah. We waited a few minutes and one of those nice ladies said, "OK, I think we are ready. You folks can dig in." And that is exactly what we did. Delicious barb-que, baked



Many enjoy the great BBQ provided by the Doggett family.

beans, slaw, potato salad, drinks (of all kinds) and deserts! There were several to choose from, but I only needed one: banana split desert. I never found out who made it, but it was wonderful.

Lest you think that the BBQ was all about food, there were other things as well. The music was an eclectic mix of 80s rock, Broadway musicals and comedy by Arlo Guthrie. Also, it wasn't just folks from the Ham community. My wife and I had the pleasure of sitting with a couple who we had never met. I wasn't surprised when the introduction ended with the last name of Doggett, but these weren't Doggetts that were hams, they were other Doggetts. It was a pleasure to visit with Truman and his wife.

Oh, and I must tell you about wearing name tags. The first thing that anyone said to me when I walked up was, "Where's your name tag?" Now I have only been a ham for 18 months, and I am not yet fully dressed with "call sign apparel." (I am still considering a vanity call and studying for my extra

see BBQ, page 8

Marathon continued from page 1

began training in June. The training consisted of running a minimum of three nonconsecutive days per week, alternating short runs and long ones. As time grew nearer, we felt we were physically ready but weren't exactly sure how to prepare ourselves mentally. Everyone we spoke to suggested around mile 18 or so we would "hit a wall". Even though I had never run a marathon before, I felt as though I prepared myself enough that surely I wouldn't feel this "wall" effect that so many of my fellow runners had warned me about. I started out feeling great. In fact at mile six I took off on my own leaving my dad to run at his

own pace. Things were going great until I hit, guess what, mile 18! I began thinking to myself what have I done? Why on earth did I think I could run



Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, and his two sons, John, AJ4DV, and Matthew

26.2 miles! After walking for about 15 minutes, I was able to clear my head and began to focus on finishing the race. I picked up my pace and set my eye on the "prize." While I didn't set a personal best record, I did manage to finish the race and so did my dad. I planned to reward myself with a new tattoo and my initial thought at the finish line that day was that I would never do it again. It's been a little over a week since we ran "The Roadrunner" and my tattoo has been picked out and you guessed it, I've registered for my next full marathon along with my dad. We've got until next March to get ourselves ready which means we start our training around the end of November. I guess the old saying "Never Say Never" still rings true.

www.w4gso.org

Mitchell continued from page 1

angles and atmospheric skip that would not be possible at lower elevations. Imagine being able to operate your station with an antenna mounted atop a six-thousand, seven hundred foot tower - that is essentially what happens when one operates a portable rig from the peak of Mount Mitchell!

Those that participated in the outing were rewarded with numerous benefits, including an exciting, memorable, fun-filled day; incredible QSOs that might not otherwise have been possible; a unique learning experience by putting radio theory into practice; the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for our hobby by explaining the amateur radio hobby to interested, curious onlookers; the chance to get to know fellow club members better and share in camaraderie; and as a bonus, the opportunity to see beautiful fall foliage and breath-taking mountain scenery.

Т h е expedition participants were Will Ravenel (AI4VE), John Strandberg (W4DX), Patrick Moore (KB2RAC), Todd Smith (AK4TS), and Jane McGee (not vet a licensed

amateur). The group departed Greensboro at 08:40 for the three-hour drive to Mount Mitchell.

The weather could not have been more perfect. Due to its altitude, the weather atop Mount Mitchell can differ drastically from the weather at the base of the mountain, and can change unpredictably. Upon the group's arrival at the base of the mountain, the weather station at the peak reported the temperature to be

thirty-seven degrees, but in the short amount of time it took the group to eat lunch and drive the remaining twenty miles to the peak, the temperature had warmed to 56 degrees with clear, sunny skies. The clear skies allowed for visibility of eighty or more miles.

Will and John set up their mountain top station on a large boulder near the observation deck. Will brought his Elecraft K2 outfitted

with an internal battery, connected to an end-fed wire dipole antenna. Will's antenna was hung vertically from a thirty-foot telescoping fiberglass pole that he erected next to the boulder. The pole was held in place by lashing it to a tree branch. He then operated CW on the 20 meter band, working around eight different stations. His longest distance contact was a station in Spain. Will worked all of his contacts with an output power level of five watts or less.

John opted to work the 2 meter band using a Yaesu handy-talkie, to which he connected a wire J-pole antenna hung vertically from a tree limb. John was able to make several contacts using the K4ITL repeater in Level Cross, a straight-line distance of approximately 150 miles! He also made several simplex contacts, including a station in Georgia, as well as stations in North Carolina. John also spent a lot of time explaining to curious onlookers what Will was doing while Will copied and sent Morse code.

In part 2, I will tell of Patrick and Todd's success in using a tape measure beam and share the one big problem we encountered, as well as, reviewing some lessons we learned.





From left to right: John, W4DX; Todd, AK4TS; Jane (not yet a ham); Will, AI4VE and Patrick, KB2RAC



Weldon, W4AJT, Is Honored



AWARD PRESENTED - NC Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Brown, N4TAB. Second from left, presents a plaque and certificate to Weldon Fields, W4AJT, for his years of service to Amateur Radio. Looking on are, left, Dwayne Ayers, N4MIO, Area 10 District Emergency Coordinator and Steve Misel, K4WEB, NC Central Branch EC, right. *(Photo by Tom Forrest, N4GVK)*

DXCC News: Four New Entities Placed on DXCC List

From ARRL

With the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on October 10, two now-deleted DXCC entities are now four new DXCC entities, effective October 10, 2010. The island pair of Bonaire and Curaçao (PJ2 and PJ4, the Leeward Islands) and the threeisland group of Sint Maarten, Saba and St Eustatius (PJ5, PJ6 and PJ7, the Windward Islands) have been deleted from the DXCC list of active entities and replaced with four new entities. Not since the aftermath of World War II -- with so many new European entities -- and the break-up of the French colonies in Africa in the early 1960s -- have so many new DXCC entities come into existence all at once.

On October 10, the US Department of State recognized the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles, placing the new entities on its Dependencies and Areas of Special



Sovereignty List, saying that "Curaçao and Sint Maarten (the Dutch twofifths of the island of Saint Martin) became autonomous territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Bonaire, Saba, and St Eustatius now fall under the direct administration of the Netherlands."

According to the DXCC rules, entities may be added or removed from the DXCC List as a result of political

www.w4gso.org

BBQ continued from page 1

exam, so I am a little slow on getting all the stuff.) Purchasing a name tag made hasn't been at the top of the list. I figured if I needed a name tag, then I would just take the first one I saw. I took the name tag and looked at it. It read, "Roy Smith, N4BYU, Pleasant Garden, NC." I am sure Truman and his wife still think I live in Pleasant Garden and my name is Roy. Shall I just say, be careful which name tag you choose to wear.

When we were finished eating and while the children ran around the farm, John Doggett, AJ4DV, was kind enough to tell us a little about the area and the Doggett family. I could fill up another newsletter with some of the stories of his grandfather and the war, POWs and others. Stories about his family and who lives where, as well as trying to help me keep who was married to whom, and which ones were sisters, and how is that one related.

All-in-all it was a great evening of food, fellowship and fun. Thank you to the entire Doggett Family for you wonderful exhibition of hospitality and generosity. May you be bless with many more years of great family fellowship and fun, good health, and an ever increasing ham community that are grateful for you kindness.

or geographic change.

Per the ARRL DXCC Desk, no confirmations for these new entities will be accepted until after January 1, 2011; other administrative changes will be announced as they are finalized. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site, in upcoming editions of The ARRL Letter and in the December 2010 issue of QST.

www.w4gso.org

THE GREENSBORO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION invites you to our 2010 Open House



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

September, 2010

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 Nov. 2010 to Mar. 2011

November 13, 2010 December 11, 2010 January 8, 2011 February 12, 2011 March 19, 2011

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