

Feed Line



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True? or False? You make the choice

Editor's Note:

Lee has done a terrific job for the past two years as president of GARA. This is his last installment of a monthly column. We have all enjoyed his words of wisdom and views on Ham radio.

**By Lee Wimbs, W1MBS
President GARA**

We have all heard the story on the Internet about the shark almost grabbing the helicopter as it is hovering over the water. There is even a picture on the net showing this large shark, with its jaws open, trying to bite the landing gear on the chopper.

Then there is the photograph taken from the top of the twin towers just before an airliner hits the tower. You wonder how the people felt, and certainly how the camera survived the impact. These are amazing pictures, and the facts given seem to verify the events actually occurred.

False. Not even close to the truth. There are a number of web sites, such as www.snopes.com or <http://purportal.com/>, that tell the truth. These and many other sites correct what we have heard about certain 'legends, or myths, or just plain hoaxes. Just because it is on the web, or someone tells us, does not make it the truth.

So what happens to ham radio? There are many stories circulating about the future of this fascinating

hobby. How will the new rules affect us? How will the restructuring help the present hams? Will the code go away completely? And what changes

***"The future of
Amateur radio is
up to you. True."***

will happen in the rules, the laws, or the regulations?

The truth is, no one knows. The hams want things to remain the same. The FCC wants to 'improve' the Amateur radio community. And those wanting to be hams are indicating the guidelines are too strict for them to get a license. I would almost bet if you ask four people how they felt about the upcoming changes; you would receive five different answers.

I came across many different website, describing in detail what

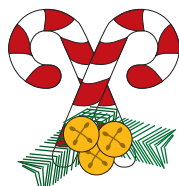
is going to happen in ham radio. Articles describing what are going to make this hobby better, or to destroy it completely. The truth is, they are judging everything on a crystal ball, a complete guess, or just plain luck. No one knows.

To keep this hobby active, to get the number of hams to increase, to enjoy Amateur radio many decades into the future, its success is up to you. You the ham. You the person who wants to maintain current privileges. Or you who want to increase the band spectrum we currently have.

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Happy Holidays
...from GARA

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Election Night, held on Monday November 28, at the Golden Corral Steak House off Wendover Ave. Meet there at 6:30 if you plan to eat, with the business meeting beginning about 7:15.



Member of the Month - Greg Spencer, KG4UQV



Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, working stations at Field Day

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, became licensed in August of 2002 when a close friend and fellow ham shared a copy of The Gordon West technician's audio tape set with him. Greg and his friend Scott Fields, KG4ULX, were licensed only two weeks apart.

He runs an Icom 207H mobile rig in his truck with a CometSSB-1 rubber ducky antenna (the better to survive attacks by tree branches!). He also enjoys using an Alinco DR600T for his "take-it-anywhere" rig, with a Maldol MSG-1100C dual band antenna and a mag mount base. His Yaesu FT-530 HT gets a real workout, as well. Here in Greensboro, Greg finds himself involved with the Guilford ARES group,

and is also active with Triad Skywarn.

A 1978 graduate of Smith High School, and of the Nashville auto diesel college, Greg has been employed by Southeastern Foundries as a maintenance technician for the past ten years. Greg and his wife of 15 years, Kim, are proud to be the parents of their daughter, Jessica Bea. In addition to Ham Radio, Greg and his family enjoy four-wheeling, camping and bowling.

Greg says he really enjoys being a Ham, and wishes he'd gotten started sooner. He's already making plans to upgrade to a general class license. Greg says, "I hope to be active for a long time."

Need A Good Used Item - Here's Your Chance

Kenwood TM-271A - Two-meter transceiver, mil. spec, 25 & 75 watts, new in box with PG-5D programming cable

(software available from Kenwood for free) total value, over \$240, will sell for \$165, complete. this radio has been out of the box a couple of times and has had some programming for local repeaters. The radio new sells for \$179. Contact Tom Forrest, N4GVK,

n4gvk@bellsouth.net or call 202-8650.

Hewlett Packard Flat Top Scanner-Color/Black/White /copier & e-mailer.

Like new top of line, not inexpensive model. Makes excellent copies & pictures. In original box, with original packing, installation instructions, manual, start-up software CD and ArcSoft Photo Manager Software CD, Adobe Active Share CD

etc. Uses 9 volt battery. No manual. With coax & BNC connector. Commercially made. \$30.

Turner Dynamic Amplified Base Microphone. Volume & Tone controls, Built in meter reads both audio output & battery condition. Freq response 200-4000 Hz, low impedance, adjustable head, bar & lock key. With specifications & diagram. VGC \$30 Sony-Mini Stereo Speaker System. For walkman, etc. Like New. \$10

Non-Amateur Equipment:

Central Hydraulics Lift for ATV, Motorcycle, Riding Lawn Mower, etc. Capacity is 1250 lbs. It has safety lock bars, foot pump and lift seat additional adapter. It is brand new, used only once, with manual. They generally sell anywhere from \$99 to \$249 depending on the strength and quality. This unit would range up to \$169. Will sell for \$55.

Electric Guitar-Sears/Trutone-Amplifier and connection cable with plugs

included. Guitar has volume and tone controls, amp has volume and tone controls as well as three input jacks. Wattage of amp unknown, speaker is 8 to 10 inches.

Guitar in excellent condition (made in Japan) and amp is fair to good. All for \$75

May consider a trade on any of the above, however, I really don't need more "Stuff"?

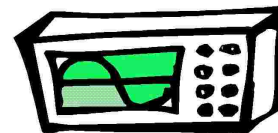
Call me on 145.15 or E-mail me at N4DFA@arrl.net. Serious inquires call my home between 10am & 10pm @ 288-5595

Bearcat BC 200 XLT scanner 200 channels \$75.00 -- Yaesu Dual band VX1 HT. about the size of pack of Cig. \$100.00. wide band receive. Contact Roy smith, N4BYU at 674-6131 or e-mail n4byu@arrl.net

Do you know of an amateur in the area that's newsworthy? They do not have to be a member of GARA to be eligible. Send your items to the Feed Line newsletter Editor, Tom Forrest, N4GVK at n4gvk@bellsouth.net.

"The Feed Line" is ©2005 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.

Engineering & Repeaters



By Arch, Kt4AT
Engineering Chairman

First, thanks to Carlton-N4DFA, Tom-N4GVK, and Roy-N4BYU for keeping an eye on the machines while I was vacationing in the French Alps, at 4000 feet, during the month of October.

Soccer Tournament Antenna Special: While over there, I decided to go ahead and develop software to design log-periodic antennas. There has been a fair amount of literature published on the subject. However, there is also a good amount of controversy regarding the "best" design methodology of that type of antenna. My software includes a direct interface to AWAS, my electromagnetic simulation package. I have used AWAS since its first release in 1989, and I consistently found it accurate at better than 5%. You provide AWAS with an x-y-z description coordinates of an antenna, and you get everything you want to know about that antenna performance, i.e.

impedances, S-parameters, both near-fields and far-fields, gain, etc... Having a direct interface with the log-periodic software allows testing of the various theories floating out there, without having to cut a single piece of aluminum, and in record time. A large number of simulations have allowed to refine the design of those antennas, which are inherently wideband, but also can be made to cover odd harmonic modes quite well. Looks like at this time that a neat little antenna for the Soccer farther-away sites like Gibson Park or Kernersville would be about 3 feet tall by 2 feet long, will address VHF and UHF on a single port (no band connector switching), with an SWR at less than 1.5 to 1 on both. The gain provided will be around 8 dBi on VHF, and 12 dBi on UHF. There are a couple last things to be settled, but within a couple of weeks, I will make a prototype.

UHF machine: Nothing special to say about the UHF machine, which continues

to perform well.

VHF machine: There is in the VHF machine a little bit of occasional crackling, audible mostly on weak signals. This is in there only about 20% of the time (as I write this, today it is not there). We will implement a couple of experiments to confirm that it is indeed what I think it is, low level intermod in the preamp. This only reaffirms the need to finish my preamp design, which will solve the issue, having a dynamic range 10 to 20 times larger as the GE preamps in use now. Another possibility is that it could be actually over the air, as we use this machine very close to VHF band noise floor. Experiments will tell. On a different subject, we will also put on the DVR all the recordings done by Bill-WG4R. This will happen within the next 3 to 4 weeks, along with a software change on the controller. Last, the kerchunking we talked about 3 months ago has disappeared, all on its own... Hmmm.....

True? or Fales? from page 1

Plain and simple: if you do not use what you have, you lose it. I have heard many hams complaining about what will happen to 'their' hobby because of the government, because of their neighbor, because of lack of club interest, because, because, because. Then I ask that ham when his last on-air contact was. Usually the response is the same. "Well, I had to do this", or "I had to do that".

True or False? If we do not use this hobby with the privileges we were given, how long will these privileges be granted to us?

True or False? If we do nothing to promote ham radio, how long will it last? How fast will it grow?

The future of Amateur radio is up to you. True. Will the hobby improve? That answer is up to you. Will the hobby disappear? I certainly hope not.

Hams Provide Link For Tournament

Local amateurs once again provided as a public service, communications for a local soccer competition.

The annual Challenge Clash was held on November 19 & 20 in Greensboro. The event used four sites staffed by about nine Ham operators relaying scores to the main site. the group used the GARA 145.150 repeater.

About 165 teams participated in the two-day event, according to Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, who heads up the communications.

Annual Holiday Party

The annual G.A.S/G.A.R.A. Christmas Social will be on Tuesday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m. at Bonnie Kay Seafood on Spur Road. Musical entertainment will be provided by Gary Hastings and/or members of the Old South Dixieland Band. We are hoping that Jim and Aletha

Sheets will be able to come and provide additional entertainment with their Christmas sing alongs.

Jim Hightower needs to give the restaurant a head count so they can prepare for us accordingly; so please e-mail him with your intentions. There is no "cover charge" and the only expense will be the cost of your meal. Jim's e-mail address is W4jhl1@wmconnect.com

As in the past, we ask that you bring some canned goods to be donated to the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Special Event Station

Twin Christmas Cities

Christmas City ARC will hold its annual Christmas Greetings Special Event from the Twin Christmas Cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem, PA, 1400Z, 10 December - 0200Z, 11 December on 28.465, 21.365, 14.265, 7.270, 3.970 MHz. For a certificate send 9x12 SASE to WX3mas, Greystone Building, Gracedale Complex, Nazareth, PA 18064.

**October 24, 2005 Meeting**

GARA Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant Monday evening October 24, at 7:15 PM with 20 members present and one visitor. The visitor was John Covington, W4CC, Section Manager for the ARRL.

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Wimbs. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the "Feed Line." Lee reported a new member, Gerald Donnelly, KD4EQZ. Lee also asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. Jim Hightower, W4JLH volunteered. A couple more people were needed. It was also noted that a memorial in the memory of Paul Shepherd, WA4LGX, was given by the club to the Julian Fire Department.

There was no old business reported. Committee reports were presented.

Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW, reported all was Ok in the treasury department. Al Allred, K4ZKQ, reported the financial status was in line with including expenses for the repeater upgrades and equipment purchased.

Secretary/web master/news letter editor Tom Forrest, N4GVK, reported all was fine. Web site was receiving numerous hits each week and was receiving a great response for the new section with information on wanting to become a Ham. Numerous e-mails through the site for various questions were handled during October. There were also e-mail from two out-of-state clubs requesting information about our site and layout.

There was no Engineering Committee report given. Arch, KT4AT. Was out of the country on vacation.

Operations Chairman and Repeater Trustee Roy Smith, N4BYU, had no report. Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, said he needed operators for soccer tournaments on November 19-20. If interested, you can e-mail Allen at kd4iun@arrl.net.

The program for the evening was given

by John Covington, W4CC, Section Manager for the ARRL. John spoke briefly about the amateur radio role in the recent hurricane events and the nearly 37 days of continuous duty of operators for the Katrina Hurricane relief effort. He said there were still BPL trials underway in Charlotte by Duke Power. John also spoke about various ongoing items before the ARRL, with one being the no code issue. The talk ended with questions from the members. The members thanked John for his informative talk.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Tom Forrest, N4GVK, Secretary

November 14, 2005 Board Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was Monday evening, November 14, 2005, at 7:30 PM.

Those present were Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, president; John Doggett, KI4BMS, vice president; Tom Forrest, N4GVK, secretary; Ernie Wall, NC4EW, treasurer; Al Allred, K4ZKQ, financial; Arch, KT4AT, engineering chairmam; Mark Robertson, KG4STP, and Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, members-at-large. Not present for the meeting was Roy Smith, N4BYU, operations chairman/repeater trustee.

Officer reports:

President Lee Wimbs, W1MBS, welcomed the members to the meeting. He also said the nominating committee had a slate of potential officers for the upcoming election at the November 28 meeting. A copy of the ballot was passed among board members.

Secretary Tom Forrest, N4GVK reported to the club the GARA web site had received much attention for the month of October. The web site stats recorded 19,987 hits. Tom noted that there had been numerous requests for information through the web site e-mail page. Also, much attention was received to the section about "wanting to become a ham." Tom said

there were nice links on the page directing searchers to specific links about studying and exam prep. There is also a new link direct to testing information for the area. In an old item of business, Tom requested a clarification to an old motion some years ago regarding advertising in the GARA news letter. The rate was set at \$10 per month for a 2.5 x 3.5" ad. Tom made a motion that the fee be amended to \$10 per month or \$100 per year, which makes a better deal for a potential advertiser, \$8.33 per month. The motion carried with no discussion.

Financial Chairman, Al Allred, K4ZKQ reported all was fine with finances and the Feed Line printing cost had come in substantially under estimated cost.

Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW reported everything was Ok on for the treasury. He also asked the board about archived files that were beginning to pile up. The board decided that the treasurer could dispose of all records older than seven years. Secretarial records were to be retained.

Engineering Chairman Arch, KT4AT, said he was working on antenna design software and was in the process of designing an antenna for soccer tournaments. (More on this in the Engineering Report in the November issue of the Feed Line). Arch also said the UHF machine was performing well. The VHF machine still has some cracking. Some experiments at the site were planned to investigate this.

Vice President John Doggett, KI4BMS, said he and others assisted Earle Yeaman, N4ERL, to pack boxes on November 12, in preparation for Earle and his wife to move, as previously planned. Earle, who is the past vice-president of GARA, was recently diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor that required prompt surgery.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Forrest, N4GVK, Secretary

Local Hams and Friends Assist One of Our Own In Need

By Chris Thompson, K4HC

On Saturday, November 12th, a group of local hams (in addition to other friends and neighbors) went to the home of Earle (N4ERL) and Peggy Yeamans to give a much appreciated hand to one of our own who was in need of some help.

Earle, who is the past vice-president of GARA, and a well-liked local ham to boot, was recently diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor that required prompt surgery. As is often the case, the diagnosis and imminent surgery came at a awkward time (is there ever a not awkward time for something like this?). Earle and Peggy, having lived in their spacious home for the past 20 years, decided it was time to downsize, and have picked out a new construction townhome in western Alamance county. Of course, their old home sold in three weeks on the market, and they were in process of packing up and

putting things into storage in preparation for closing on the house on the 21st of November..

In addition to the turmoil Peggy was going through with Earle's surgery and treatment, she was left with trying to arrange the final packing of the old house. While a great deal had already been done, the attic and basement still hadn't been touched. So, I think mostly out of desperation, Peggy asked Chris, K4HC, if he could help with the packing.

A call went out for local hams to gather and help out with this, and the turnout was quite gratifying. In a little over three hours, the attic and basement were cleaned out, and almost everything went into the PODS trailer in the Yeamans' driveway, ready to be stored.

Earle and Peggy's neighbors and other friends also pitched in, making a total of about 15 to 20 people. Food and drinks were provided for those who helped –

and in addition to helping out somebody who needed a hand, everyone had a great time.

Local hams who participated included:

Rudy Langley, KG4HCT
Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Bob Schwer, K3ZGA
Clark Doggett, KG4HOM
John Doggett, KI4BMS
Al Alred, K4ZKQ
Dave Collins, KE4IAF
Chris Thompson, K4HC

Ham Happenings NEWS briefs

Earle Yeamans, N4ERL - Earle was recently diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor that required prompt surgery. He is at home and doing well. See an associated story in this issue of the newsletter about Earl's move.

Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, recently had foot surgery. He's out and about doing very well. Tom also will be co-chairman for next year's Tour-to-Tanglewood bike ride in September.

Tom Forrest, N4GVK, GARA Secretary, newsletter editor and webmaster was recently featured in articles in the Jamestown News and the High Point Enterprise. Tom converted his father's hadwritting to a PC computer font. His father who passed away in April, was known throughout Eastern North Carolina for his beautiful script writting.

Got a good story about a local Ham?
Send it to the Feed Line.
We will make every effort to find
a place for it.
e-mail to n4gvk@bellsouth.net

Election Of Officers at Nov. 28 Meeting

Nominated Officers for 2006, from the nominating committee:

President: John Doggett, KI4BMS
Vice President: Rudy Langley, KG4HCT
Secretary: Tom Forrest, N4GVK
Treasurer: Ernie Wall, NC4EW
Financial: Al Allred, K4ZKQ
Engineering Chairman: Arch Archinard, KT4AT
Operations: (pick one):
 Roy Smith, N4BYU
 Carlton O'Rork, N4DFA
Members At Large: (pick two)
 Mark Robertson, KG4STP
 Clark Doggett, KG4HOM
 David Ostwalt, KD4EQW

Comments appeared in Wall Street Journal out of context

Motorola Apologizes to Amateur Community

The media stories just keep pouring in on how ham radio has been the only predictable means of communication along the hurricane devastated Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coast.



But a story in the September 6th Wall Street Journal raised some eyebrows. It was less than complimentary of Amateur Radio. Its headline read "As Telecom Reels From Storm Damage, Ham Radios Hum." It tells about how "With Hurricane Katrina having knocked out nearly all the high-end emergency communications gear, 911 centers, cellphone towers and normal fixed phone lines in its path, ham-radio operators have begun to fill the information vacuum." Louisiana ham operator, David Gore, W5DSG is quoted as saying "Right now, 99.9% of normal communications in the affected region is nonexistent. That's

where we come in."

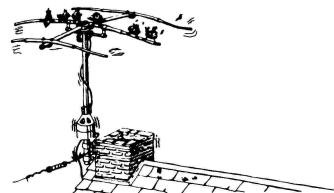
"In an age of high-tech, real-time gadgetry, it's the decidedly unsexy ham radio -- whose technology has changed little since World War II -- that is in high demand in ravaged New Orleans...." The Wall Street Journal article also tells about how Slidell, a town 30 miles northeast of New Orleans, was directly hit by the hurricane. "One of the few, if not the only, communications links is Michael King, KA5MWP, a retired Navy captain, operating a ham radio out of a Slidell hospital." He has been working 20 hour days.

Then the Wall Street Journal switched gears and begins discussing broadband Internet connections over power lines and that "...hams get little respect from telecommunications-equipment companies, such as Motorola Inc." Motorola's Jim Screeden is quoted: "Something is better than nothing, that's right. But ham radios are pretty close to nothing. Ham radios can take a long time to relay messages and work essentially as

'party lines,' with multiple parties talking at once."

Motorola's Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Jeff Madsen, quickly apologized for Screeden's comments which he said "...was taken out of context."

He went on to say "Motorola fully recognizes the incredible work that the Amateur radio operator community has put forth during the Hurricane Katrina response efforts. We also understand the cooperation and partnership that Motorola has developed with the amateur radio operator community in introducing our Broadband Over Powerline solution. In fact, Motorola has at least 100 of its own employees who are amateur radio operators. Motorola values its' relationship with amateur radio and respects the critical and unique work they are doing to help with the Katrina recovery efforts. We appreciate the work the amateur radio operator community is putting forth."



Electric Fence QRM For Ham Operator

The FCC has warned an unnamed Kearneysville, West Virginia, resident that he faces the prospect enforcement action if he does not resolve interference to a local radio amateur. The FCC believes that the interference is being caused by an electric fence charger operating on the person's property.

In its 22 September letter, the FCC warned the operator of the fence charger that this is the second and last time that it will request voluntary compliance. It notes that the unit's owner has not responded in the allotted time. It adds it prefers to see a voluntary resolution to the problem, but if it becomes necessary to facilitate a resolution, the FCC might investigate possible rules violations and address appropriate remedies, including issuing the fence's owner a fine.

The electric fence owner was given until

15 October to let the FCC know what action he or she has taken or intends to take in order to curtail the source of these radio emissions. That deadline has now passed. The person was also instructed to call FCC rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth by telephone if he or she wished to discuss the matter at hand. *The above story from the FCC, Newslines, via World Radio.*

Editor's note: During the 1980's as a repeater trustee, I experienced a similar problem of RF interfering with our repeater. When the source of the RF was finally found, it was a bad electrical neon sign on a near-by restaurant flickering. When the sun set, the RF made our repeater receiver almost completely mute. The restaurant was very cooperative the sign was shut off and repaired. ...Editor/N4GVK

Commercial Ad Rates

If you would like to commercially advertise in the Feed Line, we more than welcome your business.

Rates for our publication are:

**Size: 3.5 wide x 2.5 high
Rate: \$10 per month or \$100 per year. Yearly rate paid in advance.**

We can help design the ad, if you supply us the information.

**Deadline is the first of each month prior to publication.
e-mail Tom Forrest, Editor, The Feed Line, at
n4gvk@bellsouth.net**

FCC's Vanity Call Sign Processing Could Be On Hold Till December

ARRL-Oct 26, 2005--Thanks to Hurricane Wilma, the FCC likely will not be processing any vanity call sign applications until late December. The



Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for licensees in certain states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita could affect the vanity program. This week, the FCC announced an additional extension--until December 22--for licensees adversely affected by Hurricane Wilma. Because all three extensions apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period," they could have an impact on vanity call sign processing. A WTB spokesperson said that the Wilma deadline extension probably would have the same effect on vanity processing as the previous two.

Tracy Simmons told ARRL amateur radio licensees can continue to file vanity call

sign applications, but these will not be acted upon until the WTB resumes vanity processing. Then, all pending vanity call sign applications will be processed in the order they were received. Simmons indicated that the WTB would revise its Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page "alert" telling applicants that vanity processing has been suspended "until further notice" to reflect the latest deadline extension.

In a public notice issued October 25, the WTB made clear that the Hurricane Wilma deadline extension only applies to "affected licensees and applicants in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico." For Part 97 licensees, the extension applies primarily to license modification and renewal application deadlines. According to this week's public notice, the WTB will require affected applicants to attach a "Hurricane Relief Certification" with filings that take advantage of the deadline extensions.

"WTB will rely on certifications by licensees and applicants at the time they submit their filings as proof that relief is

due and the filings are timely," the FCC.

The FCC halted vanity processing to avoid such potential problems as re-issuing the call sign of an affected individual in one of the designated states whose license has expired but remains within the two-year grace period for renewal.

Under Part 97, Amateur Radio licensees have two years from the date of license expiration to renew their tickets without having to retest or risk losing their call signs to a vanity applicant. WTB has temporarily disabled the "auto-termination" feature of the ULS so that it will not automatically cancel licenses not been renewed by the end of the grace period.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between September 20 and November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected

Indiana Tornado

"Like a Thief in the Night," Ham Radio Volunteer Says

ARRL- Nov 11, 2005--Amateur Radio volunteers continue to assist relief and recovery efforts in the wake of a November 6 tornado that left 22 people dead and hundreds injured. The twister, an F3 on the Fujita scale with winds of up to 200 MPH, originated within a line of thunderstorms that struck the region during the early morning hours. It cut a more than 40-mile swath through part of Kentucky and extreme southwestern Indiana, wiping out a section of a trailer park in Vanderburgh County where 18 of the fatalities occurred.

"It was like a thief in the night, striking and having no mercy for anyone or anything in its path," said Amateur Radio volunteer and police officer Bob Pointer, N9XAW. He said Amateur Radio initially assisted Red Cross emergency response

vehicles (ERVs) in the field to communicate with their headquarters, a new facility where the communication system was not yet complete.

Pointer says Red Cross volunteer Terry Brooks, AA9MM, took the first ERV to the scene. "En route he contacted other hams to report to the center to take over net control," he said. "This was in operation for two days until the Red Cross established communications with their field units via their own methods."

Since then, Amateur Radio volunteers have been supporting relief activities of The Salvation Army, at the request of Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) National Director Maj Pat McPherson, WW9E. The need was to set up communication between mobile field and canteen units and The

Salvation Army headquarters in Evansville.

"This was set up in no time," Pointer recounted. "Local hams were quick to turn on their radios to listen for calls for assistance. It did not take long to start receiving offers to volunteer." Calls from as far away as New York and other states came in with offers to volunteer, Pointer said. "It was truly a rewarding feeling. Thanks to the ARRL for putting out the call so quickly."

Pointer says that within hours of setting up, ARRL Section Manager Jim Sellers, K9ZBM, called to offer assistance and got the ball rolling. ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator David Pifer, N9YNF, contacted ARRL Headquarters to spread the word.

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 PM The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Golden Corral on Landview Dr., off W. Wendover Ave. Dinner at 6:30 PM and the business meeting is slated to begin and 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 various locations 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. On Mondays, give a call to see where everyone is meeting.

EVERY FRIDAY – at 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks at Guilford College (winter location till Daylight Saving time changes)

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417



Web:
www.w4gso.org

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