



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

www.w4gso.org

info@w4gso.org

## US Call Signs Not Issued by the FCC

From ARRL

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander. Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered

into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959. US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

**KA2AA-KA9ZZ** -- reserved for US Army-authorized amateur stations in Japan.

**KC4AAA-KC4AAF** -- reserved for the National Science

see FCC, page 4

**Federal Communications Commission**



### NEXT MEETING November 23

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be November 23rd, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club.

### Attention D-STAR Users:

I'm sure you're all aware, along with the equipment cost, having the internet connection at the repeater site, which enables us to participate in the D-STAR Gateway system, is a recurring cost to the club. As D-STAR users are the primary beneficiary of this service, the board of directors has requested that D-STAR users consider an additional contribution of \$25 per year to help offset those costs.

Contributions may be made to the club treasurer, either at a club meeting, or by sending a check to GARA, PO Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417

Please indicate "D-STAR" on your check.

### Congratulations

As a result of the W4VEC monthly testing: We have a new Extra - **Cameron H Conover, III** - AJ4TW, formerly KJ4BEE, Burlington, NC



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## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes October, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held on October 26, 2009 at the Golden Corral restaurant near Wendover Ave. and I-40.

Will Ravenell, AI4VE, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and stated that Chris Thompson, K4HC, club president was unable to attend due to an illness.

Will said that Chris had asked him to let the club know that he is disappointed that no one has volunteered for the nominating committee. We need to elect new officers for President, Vice President and Member at large.

#### Old Business:

Ernie Wall, NC4EW, said finances are in good shape "check

book balanced, bills are paid and money is in the bank."

Al Allred, K4ZKQ, said we are well ahead of forecast financially.

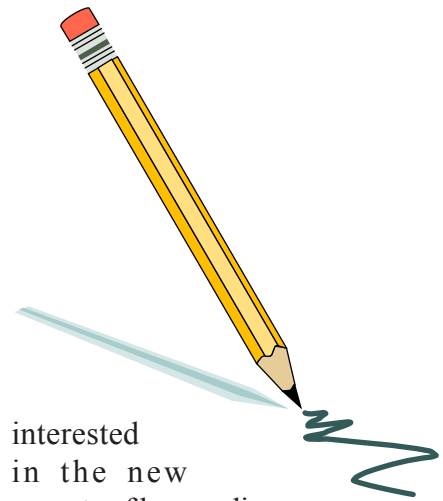
Will asked about approving the minutes as published. Motion made by Bill Blackwell, KM5DW, and seconded by Royce Garrett, WB4CRM. The minutes were approved.

#### New business:

Roy Smith, N4BYU, said that Allen Bradley, KD4IUN, had asked him to report that the Thanksgiving tournament has been moved up to the weekend of November 14th and 15th. Roy also displayed the original charter of GARA which was brought to the meeting by Morris Jeffreys, K4SNI.

Roy then introduced Morris, who is the founder of our club, Greensboro Amateur Radio Association.

Morris then gave a short history lesson about the beginning of the GARA. He also said that he is



interested in the new aspects of ham radio.

Roy then gave some insight to the early days of GARA's involvement with soccer.

Morris said that GARA could take credit for Greensboro Youth Soccer Association tournament's success.

Will thanked Morris and Roy for their history on the club.

John Strandberg, AJ4BT, spoke about the open house that is coming up on October 31st.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

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

#### The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Chris Thompson, K4HC  
Vice-President Will Ravenell, AI4VE  
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW  
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV  
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ  
Engineering Chairman Jesse Lindley, N4BFD  
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU  
Member at Large Clark Doggett, KG4HOM  
Member at Large Dave Touvell, KN4ZO  
Appointed Positions:  
Webmaster Tom Forrest, N4GVK  
Newsletter Editor Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

"The Feed Line" is ©2009 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.

## Items For Sale

**Hy-Gain DX-77 Advanced Vertical Windom.** 7 bands, 10 thru 40 meters. New, \$450, Asking \$225. Please contact Claude Hutcheson, K5CH, chutcheson@bellsouth.net or (336) 545-0006.

**Kenwood TS-570D** 160-10 meters with built-in auto tuner, includes original box, microphone and power cord. \$550 Contact Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, kj4lky@arrl.net or call (336) 971-5511

## Board Meeting Minutes October, 2009

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association board of directors held its monthly meeting on October 11, 2009 at Hinshaw United Methodist Church.

Members present at the meeting were: Chris Thompson, K4HC, Roy Smith, N4BYU, Al Allred, K4ZKQ, Ernie Wall, NC4EW, Will Ravenell, AI4VE and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Visiting with us were: Betty Williams, KC2BFN, Dan Williams, N2LGH, and Jim Waynick, N4JLW.

The board prepared the open house invitation postcards for mailing. The board would like to thank Betty for

helping with the post cards.

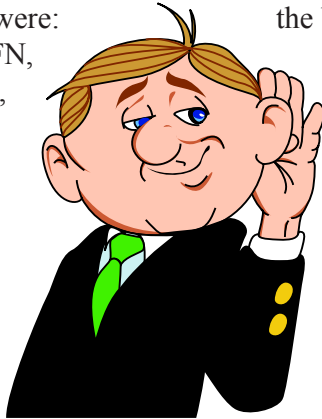
Ernie will mail the cards on October 12, 2009.

### Old business:

The board discussed non-profit status benefits and cost. Chris made a motion to table the matter until further notice, Roy seconded motion was approved.

Greg will investigate GARA's incorporation status and get back to the board at a later time.

Ernie said the finances are good and he has paid \$100.00 to the church for use of the fellowship hall for the open house. Checkbook is balanced, bills are paid and money is in the bank.



Al said we are doing well.

Will stated that he did not have a program lined up for this month.

Chris said that we still do not have anyone to be on the nominating committee.

### New Business:

Will said the antenna at the Natural Science Center was broken. Will and Jesse went out and repaired the antenna. Will and Jesse spoke with Roger Joyner about the antennas and future plans. Also, Roger offered a meeting room for our use.

Will made a motion to check into the use of the room Chris seconded, and the motion was approved.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.

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

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## Georgia Receives \$165,000 To Supplement D-STAR Network

Federal funding has been secured by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to complete a statewide D-STAR emergency communications network. The network's creation was started by Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC, the former Director of Engineering for the state's Public Broadcasting System. When the opportunity arose to install two Amateur Radio antennas on each of nine television towers providing statewide coverage, Fehlig jumped into action and designated Georgia ARES to control the use of those sites for emergency communications.

The next task was to pick the best technology to use. FM

repeaters and packet were among the modes considered, but the emerging Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio (D-STAR) was chosen. The state of the art technology provides simultaneous voice and data communications. D-STAR allows repeaters to be linked on a flexible basis and permits simultaneous voice and low speed data along with high speed Internet connectivity at 1.2 GHz.

When the network is finished, radio amateurs will have access to voice and data repeaters on all nine towers across the state, operating on 2 meters, 440 MHz and 1.2 GHz. Because those towers are strategically located

to provide maximum public television coverage, amateur radio communications will benefit from wide area coverage as well. Georgia's Public Broadcasting Network will provide tower space, feed line, indoor space for equipment, backup power and Internet access at each site.

This grant will help ARES provide better service to its partners, enhance Amateur Radio technology, and add to the tremendous coverage of digital Amateur Radio in the Southeastern Division. See the Georgia ARES Web site for more information.

## From the President's Shack

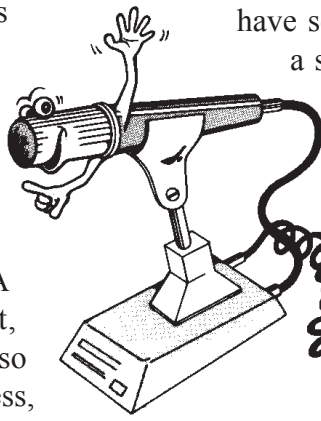
by Chris Thompson, K4HC  
GARA President

It's amazing how quickly the year can finish up. Time sure seems to go faster once you get a little older.

This upcoming meeting is an important one for two significant reasons: Finalizing our D-STAR project, and elections for the upcoming year's club officers.

I surely hope to see most of you at the November meeting.

The GARA D-STAR project, which has been so far a great success,



is ready for finalization and formal transfer to GARA ownership. As the final cost is somewhat more than has been already authorized, the board of directors will make a motion to authorize the final amount, with a little overhead to allow for last-minute changes necessary for our system. Those of you who have been using D-STAR have seen the system grow from

a standalone repeater, to one connected to the D-STAR Gateway with a few hiccups, to a fully mature and reliable system, that is, as they say "ready for prime-time".

I feel that this is a significant step

forward in emerging technologies, and GARA should be proud of its involvement.

Finally, the annual elections will be held immediately after this bit of business. This is an opportunity for you to help shape the future of your club. There are a couple of vacancies in the Board at this point. If you're interested in serving on the board, or know someone else who is interested, please contact Roy, N4BYU.

That's all for now. It's been a real pleasure serving as President for the last two years. That's all for now. Remember to keep having fun!

73,  
Chris, K4HC

## FCC

(continued from page 1)

Foundation's use at the South Pole.

**KC4USA-KC4USZ** -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at their Antarctic bases.

**KG4AA-KG4ZZ** -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay).

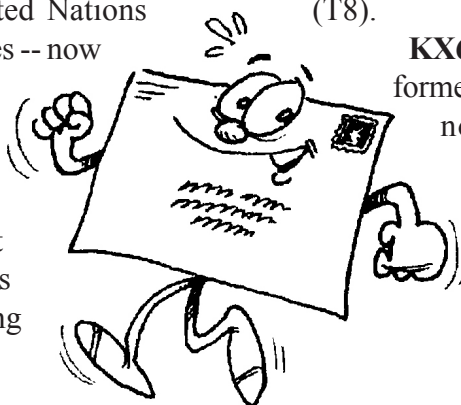
**KL9KAA-KL9KHZ** -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.

The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF

and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations

Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:



**KC6AA-KC6ZZ** -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).

**KX6AA-KX6ZZ** -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

You can find out more on the FCC's Web site. Now you know!

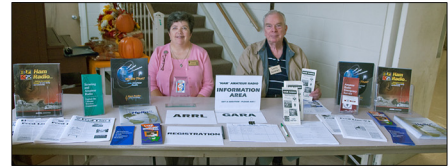


## GARA Open House

**Hinshaw United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
October 31, 2009**

Thank you to all who attended and making the event happen.

Special thanks to Jim Waynick, N4JLW for assiting with the facility and food.



Photos by Tom Forrest, N4GVK



# Area Happenings

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30 PM, 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 6:30 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 News-Line 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. (Not operational present time)

**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 6:15 PM The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at Tex & Shirley's Restaurant in Friendly Shopping Center. Eat at 6:15 PM and the business meeting begins at 7 PM.

**THURSDAY** – at 11:15 AM, 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 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee.

## GARA REPEATERS

145.150 Mhz - minus offset

100 Hz. Tone

442.8625 Mhz. + offset

Digital D-STAR

## The W4VEC Testing Schedule

Dec. 2009 to June 2010

December 12, 2009

January 9, 2010

February 13, 2010

March 20, 2010

April 10, 2010

May 8, 2010

June 12, 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

**Technical Forum Sundays at 7:30**  
**145.15 repeater**



**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*