



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



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Field Day 2015

by Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, GARA Vice President

Field Day is on June 27th, this year is the first year in a long time that GARA will run Field Day on our own, and we are planning to do it right. We will be running 3A this year from Tannenbaum Park in Greensboro on the corner of Battleground Ave. and New Garden Road. We have some fun plans in store for this year's Field Day, and there will be a little something for everyone.

Food! Everyone likes to eat, so GARA is firing up the slow cooker. We'd like to get a head-count of who plans to come out to eat so that we know about how much food to prepare. Once you come out and eat we will be asking for a suggested donation from each in order to cover the cost of the meal for the club. We'll have plenty of comfortable places to sit and enjoy a meal with friends out of the sun, so come on down and enjoy the radios and a meal with friends. Email me aj4tw@arrl.net and let me know if you plan to come so that we can get a rough estimate to plan our meal.

We are doing some cool things with the logging software for each station. We will have each station connected to the others through a MESH network node so that the logging can all be connected. This will

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This Month's Program

Our next meeting will be June 22, 2015. The meeting will be held at 7:15 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, gossip, and connect faces to call signs.

The presentation topic for this June is: "Field Day" presenter is Cameron Conover, AJ4TW

Some reminders:

- GARA is planning to serve lunch and dinner for members and their families during field day on Saturday the 27th if you plan to attend either lunch or dinner or both please contact Cameron Conover, AJ4TW with when you plan to attend how many in your party. His email address is shiftlink@gmail.com.

- If you want to operate a station or help log during field day, you can reserve a time slot by contacting Cameron Conover, AJ4TW.

- GARA has new name badges. If you do not have your, you can get your name badge at any meeting.

- If your ARRL membership is up soon or you want to join ARRL, you can do it through GARA. Renewal/ Join forms are available at this meeting.

NEXT MEETING Monday, June 22

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, June 22nd, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. The program for this month's meeting is "ARRL Field Day 2015" by Cameron Conover, AJ4TW.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes April, 2015

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on April 27, 2015, at Captain Bills Seafood Restaurant located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. Tom Bertolino, KB1P, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Tom asked that everyone identify themselves.

CLUB BUSINESS and OFFICER REPORTS

Tom said that Layman Idol, KW4GU, needs volunteers for the upcoming Highland Games.

Tom also spoke about the GARA picnic coming up on May 16th at Hagen Stone park shelter 5. RSVP by May 13th to any board member.

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, spoke about presentations for the next several months. Cameron also said there will be a Field Day planning meeting at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library on April 29th at 7pm.

Todd Smith, AK4TS, gave the treasury report.

Scott Toth, KV4UP, said he is trying some new initiatives for GARA related topics check the W4GSO webpage for more information.

Tom spoke about testing and scheduled events.

Tom made a motion to hold the May general club meeting in conjunction with the picnic, Layman Idol, KW4GU, seconded and the motion carried.

The presentation was given by Carl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL section manager.

Carl spoke briefly about things that are currently happening within the section and then went on to narrate a slide show about Field Day 2014 in Western NC.

Linda Worland, KK4LHH, made a motion to end the meeting, Chris Thompson, K4HC, seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Thomas Bertolino, KB1P
Vice-President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW
Treasurer Todd Smith, AK4TS
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Scott Toth, KV4UP
Engineering Chair Jesse Lindley, K4AX
Operations Chair Roy Smith, N4BYU
Member-at-Large David Bond, KK4VCG
Member-at-Large Patrick Moore, K2CPR
Appointed Position:
Public Information Officer
Betty Williams, KC2BFN
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor
Brian Wilson, NX4U

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Regular Meeting Minutes May, 2015

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their regular monthly meeting on May 16th 2015 in conjunction with the GARA Picnic at Hagan Stone Park.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, spoke about Field Day.

Tom said we are looking at possibly combining the picnic and Field Day next year. Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, made a motion to adjourn, Layman Idol, KW4GU, seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

Board Meeting Minutes - June, 2015

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on June 8th 2015 at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library located at 1420 Price Park Road in Greensboro.

The members present were: Tom Bertolino, KB1P; Cameron Conover, AJ4TW; Jesse Lindley, K4AX; David Bond, KK4VCG; Roy Smith, N4BYU; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV. Layman Idol, KW4GU was visiting with us.

Cameron spoke about upcoming programs that he has lined up for the rest of the year.

David said that there will be a Field Day Band Captain meeting on June 11

The board discussed Field Day setup plans.

Jesse said he has not heard anything new on when the Yaesu DR1X repeater is to ship. The repeaters are backordered due to a high demand during the promotion.

Jesse said the Dstar repeater is working pretty good, and he expects to update the Gateway computer soon. Jesse said he would like to get the new repeater online before doing any work on the tower.

The board discussed the Open House, and the board should have a date soon.

The board discussed the need for board meetings every month especially in the summer. Tom Bertolino, KB1P, made a motion to not hold a board meeting in July or August unless a need arises, Roy Smith, N4BYU, seconded, 5 in favor, 1 abstention and the motion carried.

The board discussed the 501c3 nonprofit status

The board discussed the N4G special event station held in March; Tom said he has 849 QSL cards that need to be mailed. Tom made a motion that Todd either buy stamps or cut a check for the stamps so Tom can get them, Jesse seconded, the motion passed with all in favor.

The board discussed emailing the club roster to all members, Cameron made a motion to email the roster to all members, Roy seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

The board discussed sending a donation in memory of Weldon Fields, W4AJT, who recently became a silent key. Roy made a motion to send a donation of \$25.00 to the ARRL in memory of Weldon Fields, W4AJT, Tom seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

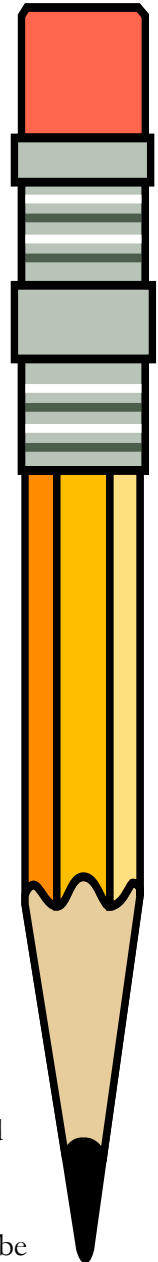
GARA account balances as of 06/02/2015	
Account	Balance
PayPal	\$69.00
Checking	\$4,681.77
Savings	\$600.00
Money Market	\$7,506.03
Total	\$12,856.80

Layman pointed out that today would have been Weldon's 101st birthday.

Tom made a motion that any member who reaches the age of 100 be given a lifetime membership, Roy Smith N4BYU seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

Roy made a motion to adjourn Cameron seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. The meeting closed at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



From the President's Shack

If you missed GARA's picnic, you missed an excellent time. The food and social interaction was great. We set up an HF station with an all band antenna brought by Steve Blackford, KB7SQI. The antenna worked great. We had a number of contacts with central Europe. Of course, Cameron Conover, AJ4TW made the most contacts. I want to thank Layman Idol, KW4GU and Elizabeth Christopher for their help in; getting the picnic food and supplies, setting up shelter 5, and the doing the cooking. Also I want to thank everyone who brought extra food or a dessert. I hope to see at next year's picnic.

Field Day is June 27-28 at Tannenbaum Park behind Colonial Heritage Museum. Setup is scheduled for the afternoon of the 26th around 2:00 pm. The Field Day committee led by

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, is planning an outstanding family event. GARA will be operating as Class 3A battery powered club entry with a Get On The Air (GOTA) station. This means there will be 4 HF stations; one station dedicated to CW, one to digital, one to voice and one station that allow new hams, inactive hams and people without a license to operate. There will also be a 2 meter and a DStar station available to operate.

For those not familiar with the ARRL rules for a GOTA HF station, the station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year's Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by a generally inactive licensee. It also allows non-licensed persons to operate the station under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator.

So with 4 HF stations, a 2 meter and DStar stations available for use during Field Day there is ample opportunity for anyone who wishes to get on the air to do so. If your license class does not allow you to operate on the lower bands, this is your chance to get on those bands. So do not miss this opportunity!

If you want to; operate one of the HF stations; help an operator log contacts; help man the information booth or help with the setup, please contact Cameron. His email address is aj4tw@arrl.net.

In addition to providing you an opportunity to operate on the lower bands, the Field Day committee is planning to serve lunch and dinner to club members and their families. To ensure that there is a demand Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, is asking if you plan to dine with us during Field Day please contact him and let him know which day and meal (lunch, dinner or both) you plan to attend and how many in your party. Based on the demand the Field Day committee will come up with a menu and plan, and contact you with the information. Again Cameron's email address is aj4tw@arrl.net.

Do not forget to mark this event on your calendar, Field Day looks as if it is developing into a fun family event.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P
President, GARA



GOTA (continued from page 1)

allow each station to see what frequency and mode the others are on, it will also let us all keep up with the score in real time and watch that log-book fill up with contacts.

In addition to the 3 main stations that comprise our 3A category we also plan to have a GOTA station in cooperation with W4GTI, GTCC Radio Club, expect to see some of those guys at Field Day as well. W4GTI will be providing a brand new FTDX1200 for the GOTA station. Some of the members from GTCC have already expressed an interest in joining GARA as their careers and interest progress beyond the school.

Also we have plans to set up a satellite station and work some satellite contacts during Field Day. Along with that we plan on having a VHF station set up for 50Mhz and beyond operation, these two transmitters do not count against our 3A category.

Your Field Day committee is working hard to make sure everything is in place and ready to go so that Field Day can be a fun relaxing opportunity to mingle with friends and play with radios on all kinds of bands and modes. I hope to see everyone there, lingering and jumping in on the radios and just plain having fun. GARA's main objective for Field Day 2015 is FUN, so come help us reach our goal!

Silent Key - Charles "Weldon" Fields, W4AJT

Weldon was the oldest known Ham in North Carolina and the longest licensed amateur radio operator in our State having received his license in 1930. Weldon made many contributions to our Country, our State, and to amateur radio during his lifetime. He was a founding father of the Tar Heel Emergency Net in 1947, which continues operations to this day. In September of 2011, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine was bestowed upon Weldon W4AJT (SK). The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is among the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina and it is presented to outstanding North Carolinians with a proven record of service to the State or other special achievement. In 2014, Weldon W4AJT was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal -- the highest civilian honor -- for his service to the Civil Air Patrol during World War II. Since he was unable to attend the ceremony in Washington, DC, it was awarded to him in Greensboro last January.



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 May the testing session was cancelled due to the funeral for Weldon Fields, W4AJT. In June, there were four (4) who passed their test(s), and earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

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

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, phone (cell), 336-812-5500.

Photos Courtesy of Tom Bertolino, KB1P, and/or Roy Smith, N4BYU



*Jonathan Bennett, KK4GMD
Upgrade General*



*Boone Angel, KM4LDV
Passed Tech*



*Glen Sellmer, K4WRZ
Upgrade General*



*James Courtney Smith, KK4KZZ
Upgrade Extra*



May/June Engineering Update

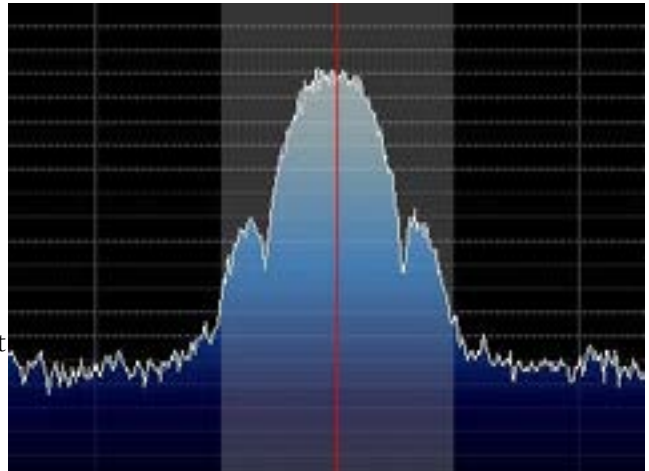
From Jesse Lindley, K4AX

Status of the VHF FM repeater is unchanged. Still working fine, but with what I think is homegrown static that is only there when the transmitter is keyed. Hoping I am wrong on that and that maybe something will change when the Yaesu System Fusion repeater is put inline, doubtful of this however, and we probably will need work done on the antenna system on the tower. In the next few weeks I'd like to test this out by putting another RX inline that we can listen to, whilst keying the repeater and see if the crackling noise is there only when we transmit or constantly in some form.

As for the status of the System Fusion repeater, the club is still awaiting its order to be filled. A lot of clubs across North America took advantage of the offer and they are still backlogged. The board placed an order this week for the Arcom repeater controller that will go inline with the new repeater. Arcom had a Dayton special this week so we were able to save some money. This controller will be a good asset for the club and will be able to easily be changed and programmed by future club engineering committees.

Locally there are two online in Rockingham County by the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, another one by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, another two planned by KF4OVA on the Piedmont Repeater System in High Point and Kernersville on UHF, and lastly a second in High Point by NC4AR on VHF. A list of local repeaters planned can be seen here, by KF4OVA <http://yaesystemfusion.webs.com/repeater-list>.

The UHF repeater has been doing ok recently. No changes made this month other than the drive output on the repeater being increased and the amplifier output being reduced. Back in February when we checked the Dstar repeater output we found it to be at 130 watts output. I didn't think much of it at the time, but I thought I remembered that when the repeater was first put online in 2008 that the output was around 80 watts. At some point we ended up dropping the input to reduce the drives output, however this caused the data channels on



the signal to drop and error out, especially to people at range from the repeater and not people like me that live down the street from it. We were advised that the input needed to be increased and the output set at 80 watts. Information found online set me on the right path on how to do that, and Cameron, AJ4TW, and I went out to the site to make the change. Looking at the repeaters signal on a spectrum display showed that the two data channels looked much better and defined after the change. Attached is a picture of the signal the main hump being the voice channel and the two data channels on each side.

I look forward seeing everyone at the GARA Field Day this year! This will be the first time we have put on Field Day as A.R.E.S. has been doing it in the past, though obviously most of the same people are involved. We will have dedicated CW, Voice, and Data stations online this year, as well as operating a mesh net, Sat station and G.O.T.A. station. Fun to be had by all! The next month the Field Day crew will be busy getting everything ready.

Jesse Lindley, K4AX@arrl.net
73, GARA Engineering Committee