



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line



Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad

Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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GARA Elections

By Tom Bertolino, KB1P

It looks as if GARA will actually have a voting election at the November 23rd. We have two members running for President and two members running for Treasurer.

The following the GARA members have been nominated and agreed to run for GARA's board positions.

President:

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW;

Lee Wimbs W1MBS

Vice President:

 Scott Toth, KV4U

Secretary:

 Greg Spencer, KG4UQV

Finance:

 Patrick Moore, K2CPR

Treasurer:

Todd Smith, AK4TS;

David Bond, KK4VCG

Engineering Chair:

 Jesse Lindley, K4AX

Operations Chair:

 Roy Smith, N4BYU

Member at Large:

 Ed Miller, AD4YB

Member at Large:

 Tom Bertolino, KB1P


This Month's Program

Our next meeting will be November 23rd, 2015. The meeting will be held at 7:15 pm at 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.

There will be no presentation this month. After the club business session, GARA will hold its elections. Some reminders:

- GARA's General Election is scheduled for November 23rd monthly meeting.
- Any GARA member in good standing and holds a valid amateur radio license can run for any

board position. If you would like to run for a board position or you know anyone who in your opinion that would make a good board member notify me or any current board member

- GARA's 2016 membership dues should be paid by January 1, 2016. You can pay your dues: at any meeting (we now accept; credit cards, checks, or cash); or at our Web Site (www.w4gso.org/) by clicking on the, "About" tab then on, "Join" tab then fill out the form and follow the directions; or you download the form and mail it in with your check. (You can download the form by going to the web site and clicking on the "About" tab, then on the "Join" tap, go to the paragraph titled "Membership Fee: \$24/year click on the underline "Membership Form").

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

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 23

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, November 23rd, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. There will not be a program for this month's meeting. We will hold elections immediately following the business meeting.

GARA Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting Minutes October, 2015

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on October 26, 2015, at Captain Bills Seafood Restaurant located at 6108 West Market Tom Bertolino, KB1P, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. Tom asked everyone to identify themselves.

CLUB BUSINESS and OFFICER REPORTS

Tom said that the only business that he had is a reminder that he will not seek reelection next year.

Scott Toth, KV4UP, said GARA now has 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, said that Robert Ferguson, KD4TVE, had a motorcycle accident and he is OK.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, spoke about license testing and new hams.

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, said that he did not have any club business but he did say a bit about Guilford ARES and asked anyone not already a member to check it out. Roy Smith said that ARES needs more people as there may not be enough to serve if ARES is called out in an emergency.

Patrick Moore, K2CPR, said he is testing HT antennas and if anyone needs one tested to see him; Patrick also said he can program HTs, too.

Schedule of events:

November 23rd GARA meeting is election time.

December 8th Ham Radio Christmas party

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

The Feed Line is ©2014 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.

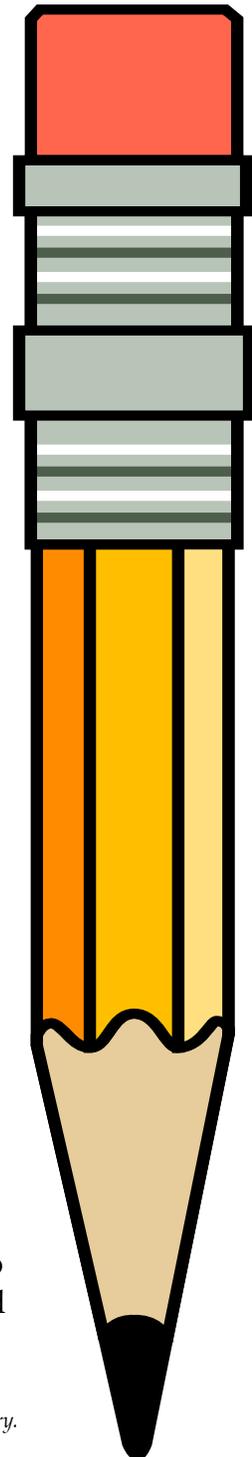
Joann Stout, KD4VGP, passed, became a silent key recently. Joann is the wife of Roger Stout, N4RWS.

Jim Hightower, W4JLH, spoke about the Ham Radio Christmas party and said that the party will be at Captain Bills on December 8th. Contact Jim by November 30th for details and number of people in your party.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, gave the presentation on "Techniques and operating advice for new hams."

Roy Smith, N4BYU, made a motion to adjourn, Scott Toth, KV4UP, seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



Board Meeting Minutes - October, 2015

The GARA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on November 9th 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; Roy Smith, N4BYU; David Bond, KK4VCG; Patrick Moore, K2CPR; Scott Toth, KV4UP; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

The board discussed the elections and nominations.

Scott said he would like to see more articles posted on the website, because the more we can put on there the better it is.

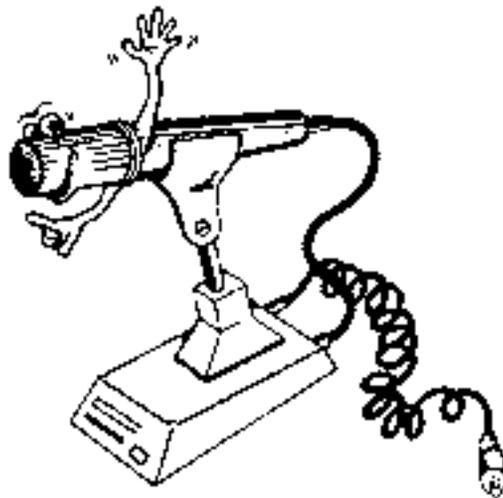
Jesse gave the engineering report stating that he recently updated the D-STAR gateway to increase security.

Jesse said the he and Cameron are going to get together and finish setting up the new DR1X fusion repeater this week.

Patrick said he would like to see us pursue the acquisition of a new amplifier for the D-STAR repeater to replace the defective one. The cost of a new amp is projected to be around \$800-\$1000. Tom said we should look at donations since we now have the 501(c)3 status. Tom said the new board should look at funding this purchase.

The board discussed a schedule for board meetings. Tom said he thinks the new board should look at the schedule.

Patrick made a motion to adjourn, Jesse seconded. All in favor and the meeting ended at 8:06pm.. *Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*



Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes Senate Committee

From ARRL - for additional info, visit <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-passes-senate-committee-gains-cosponsors>

The Amateur Radio Parity Act S. 1685 has been endorsed by the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. In the voice vote on November 18, two Senators — Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) — asked to be recorded as voting “no.” The Committee held an executive session to consider the various legislative measures and nominations.

“Our work is not finished on the Senate side of Capitol Hill, although this is a huge step forward,” said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. She urged ARRL members to continue to write, call and e-mail their Senators about S. 1685 to build up its support for the future. “We know that members’ response to the call for a communications blast last week made all the difference for some Senators on the committee.”

S. 1685 picked up another Senate cosponsor on November 18, when Sen Jerry Moran (R-KS), who sits on the Commerce Committee, has signed aboard the bill. “ARRL members in Kansas should contact his office to say thanks,” President Craigie said. “Having an additional cosponsor who’s on the Committee is especially good news.”

On hand to observe the Committee mark-up session were ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD.

President Craigie encouraged ARRL members in Florida and Hawaii to keep contacting Senators Schatz and Nelson, urging them to change their minds about the legislation. “

From the President's Shack

There are only two events left this year; GARA's annual election, and the Ham Radio Christmas Social.

GARA's election is being held during the November 23rd General Meeting. This is an important meeting. GARA's Bylaws require that there be a quorum presented to hold an election. A quorum is defined as 1/4th or more of the members entitled to vote. Because there was not a quorum present at last year's meeting, GARA could not hold its election during the November meeting.

Who can vote in a GARA election? Any dues paying member in good standing can vote. As stated in the Bylaws a member is in good standing: when the member's dues are current or in the arrears by not more than three calendar months after the start of the fiscal year.

I know Thanksgiving is only three days after our November meeting, and this is the traditional start of the holiday season and for most people this is the busiest time of the year. I hope you will make time in your busy schedule and attend November's meeting and vote.

The other event is the Ham Radio Christmas Social. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 6:30 pm. This year's Social is being held at: Captain Bill's Seafood and Steak Restaurant, 6108 W Market St, Greensboro, NC 27409. The Southeast Express will provide the musical entertainment.

All amateur radio operators, their families and/or guests are invited. You do not have to be a member of a radio club to attend. There is no admission charge, however you are asked to bring some canned goods which will be donated to the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

If you would like to attend please contact Jim Hightower, W4JLH, by November 30th with the amount of people in your party. Jim's email address is w4jlh@bellsouth.net.

As I said before, this is the start of the holiday season: a time when people's thoughts turn to family and friends; a time of festive celebrations. Please, do not turn this joyous season into one of sorrow do not drink and drive!

It is also a time that many of our service members get a chance to visit their love ones. If you see one of these service men or women, take the time to thank them for serving their country.

Happy Holidays, and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P

President, GARA



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 November, there were two (2) who passed their test(s), earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on November 14th 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 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

Photos Courtesy of David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF



*Paul Plante - KM4HXV
Passed General*



*Virginia Cox - KM4OXZ
Passed Tech*

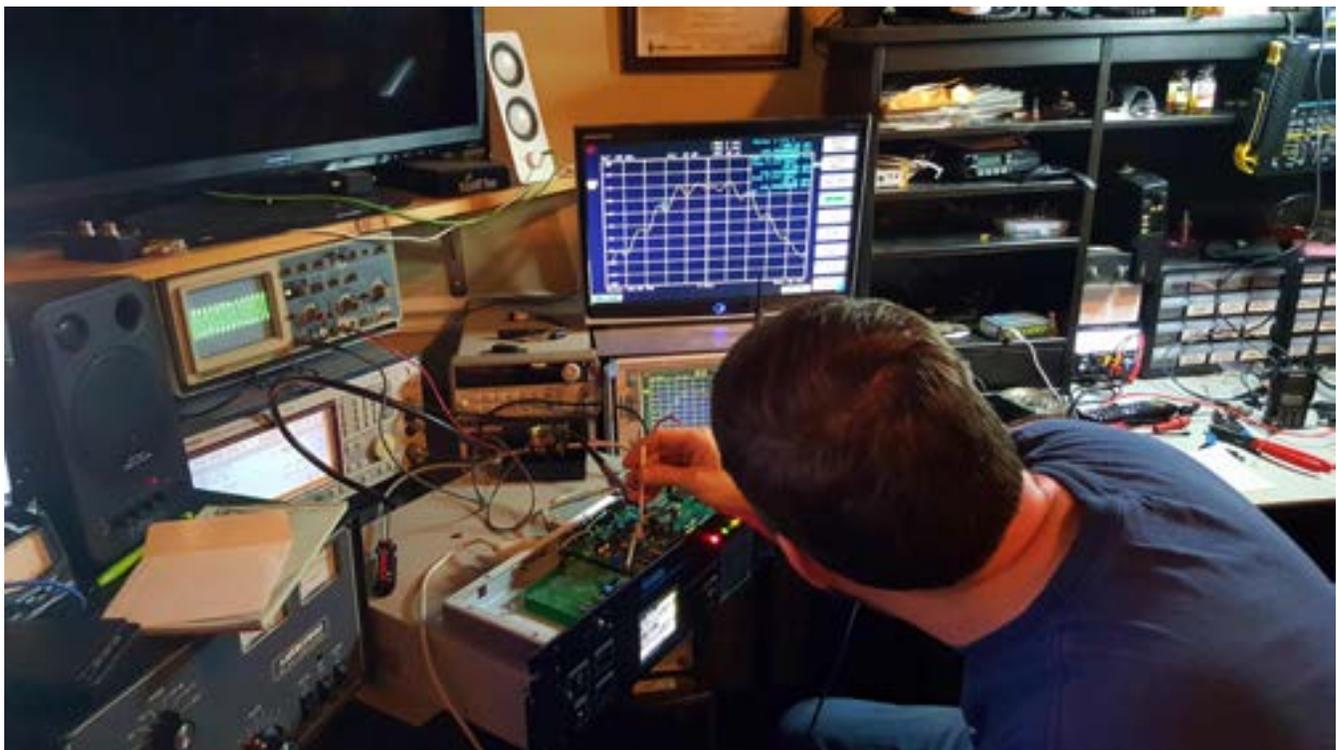
November Engineering Update

From Jesse Lindley, K4AX

Well it's November and almost the end of 2015. Thinking back, it's been an interesting year serving on the GARA board and seeing some things get done that we have been wanting to do for a long time. For example, a new website, that can be accessed and updated by board members with a users forum for club members, the ability to renew and start membership from the website. Also, planning and executing a GARA-run Field Day, finally getting 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax status for GARA, and getting a new repeater ready to go online. I'm probably missing something, but it seems like we did a lot, and I have enjoyed serving.

This month being time for our elections, I hope we get to see you at the meeting voting, and as always, we can always use people that want to run for board positions. I believe wholeheartedly that the same people should not be serving year after year on the board. New ideas or different approaches to things can be good and bad, but you never know until it's done. Many times, people don't like how things are being done, and serving on the board gets you into a place to have others see your ideas and make them happen. If you can't serve but are interested, it would also be good to at least show up to board meetings and observe the process.

The VHF machine has not needed any attention recently, other than tweaking. The preselector that had drifted out of alignment earlier this year, got us 10db of RX back, and losing power. We needed to reflash the controller and DVR and now it's been running smoothly. It is still noisy at times, and that will probably get worse as the days get cooler with less humidity. Also, on my last visit to the site, I noticed that it seemed like mice may still be getting into the lower sections of the rack where the backup machine is located. Cleaning that out should probably be a monthly task.



Cameron, AJ4TW, adjusting deviation on the controller using a signal generator and spectrum analyzer.

Engineering (continued from page 6)

The UHF D-STAR machine has been running ok. David tipped me off that the SSL certificate had expired on the status and registration site at <https://w4gso.dstargateway.org/>. With his suggestion, I got in contact with AA4RC, who is the author of the Dplus software. He gave me the updated script to get it squared away on the Linux Gateway computer. I noticed after checking a lot of reflectors and other gateways on repeaters, it seems to be a common issue. On another note, also internet related, we have lost the internet connection out at the site twice in the last month. Restarting the DSL modem and router seems to fix the issue. I'd like to thank KK4VCG for helping me out with it the last time, as I wasn't able to get to the site during daytime hours due to work.

Last week, Cameron and I finally were able to get our schedules aligned for a get-together at his place. We were able to get the audio levels on the controller set to the correct deviation. We needed to set the levels on receive, transmit, the controllers audio, and the deviation of the CTCSS tone output. Everything was set to specifications/standards.



Picture of the Henry 100 watt Amplifier.

It is an interesting process, and it's the first time that I think either of us have done it. The tone output from this repeater will be different than what we currently have, it will be outputting a 100hz tone, the same as the input, which will help if you want to use squelch decoding. This is handy if you have a noisy environment or are mobile near a lot of leaky cable television lines. Currently tone output is at 67hz. This helps negate a feedback issue with the current controller. Since not many ham radios do a split tone, having both input and output tones the same will be a nice change.

One issue we noticed with the new Arcom controller and ADR interface is that there is a delay on the first keyup on the machine that will knock off the first letter of a call if someone is a "quick keyer". The ADR interface introduces a 100 millisecond delay on the input to help with transitions between FM and digital transmissions. However, we are seeing more than a 100ms delay. I've been in contact with the owner of Arcom to get the situation squared away.

We also have the new VHF amplifier on hand. It was picked up this week by Cameron. It is a Henry unit that is 100% duty cycle rated, and will put out 100 watts @ 20 watts drive. We will probably drive at less than 20 watts input. The current machine puts out 80 watts before it hits the duplexer, if I remember correctly.

I hope to get the machine on the air very soon. I'm tired of it taking up desk space in my shack, and I want to use it from anywhere in town instead of my living room only. I also do not like having no one to talk to on it. As soon as I can work out knocking down the delay issue, I'm putting it on the air. This week I actually have several days off in a row, and the first time I've had more than one day off in a week in awhile.

Jesse Lindley, K4AX

Calendar of Events

- Nov 23 GARA General Meeting "GARA Elections" (Captain Bill's Seafood, Greensboro)
- Nov 28 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Dec 8 Ham Radio Christmas Social (6:30 pm at Captain Bill's Seafood, Greensboro)
- Dec 12 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Dec 14 GARA Board Meeting
- Dec 26 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Jan 9 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Jan 9 Winston-Salem FirstFest (Summit School, Reynolda Road , www.w4nc.com)
- Jan 11 GARA Board Meeting
- Jan 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Jan 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Feb 8 GARA Board Meeting
- Feb 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Feb 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Feb 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Mar 11-12 Charlotte Hamfest (Cabarrus Arena & Event Center, Concord, www.charlottehamfest.org)
- Mar 14 GARA Board Meeting
- Mar 19 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Mar 26 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Mar 28 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Apr 2 North Carolina Section Convention (Raleigh Hamfest, www.rars.org/rarsfest)
- Apr 9 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Apr 11 GARA Board Meeting
- Apr 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Apr 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- May 9 GARA Board Meeting
- May 14 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- May 23 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- May 28 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- May 28 Durham Fest (Durham, NC, www.dfma.org)

This purpose of this calendar to provide information on events in and around our area that might be of interest to our readers. As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place in North Carolina and around the Greater Greensboro Area. If you know of an event that would be of interest to our readers, please contact Tom, KB1P at kb1p@arrl.net.

Area Happenings

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409. Please plan to gather at 6:30pm for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15pm

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – at 7:30pm, the Technical Forum on the 145.150;

- at 9pm, the GARA News and Information Net. This net features NewsLine and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Roy Smith, N4BYU is always looking for net controls. Contact him if you would like to help.

TUESDAYS – at 8:30pm The Triad SkyWarn Net meets on the 147.225, K4ITL repeater, no tone required.

TUESDAYS – at 9pm, the D-STAR Net meets on 442.8625 (W4GSO B and Reflector 54C)

WEDNESDAYS – at 8:30pm, The Guilford Amateur Society Rag Chew Net holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

THURSDAYS – at 9pm, The Guilford County ARES Net meets on the 145.150 repeater (100 Hz. tone).

OTHER ACTIVITIES :

FIRST MONDAY – The Guilford County A.R.E.S. monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7pm.

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

THURSDAY – at 11:15am, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria, 300 Forum VI Mall at Friendly Shopping Center. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone.

EVERY FRIDAY – at 8pm (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks at Edney Ridge Rd.

The W4VEC Testing Schedule Sept. to Dec, 2015

Dec. 12, 2015

Jan. 16, 2016

Feb. 13, 2016

Mar. 19, 2016

Location: Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407,

Time: 9:00am

Contact: Roy Smith

Phone: (336) 312-0647

E-mail: n4byu@arrl.net

GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz. tone

442.8625 MHz. + offset, Digital D-Star



Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA