



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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GARA Events and Info

Make sure you have marked your calendars for the upcoming Special Event Station at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park on March 12-13, 2016. David, AJ4TF, is heading up the event again this year. Be sure to contact David if you are interested in helping with setup, tear-down or operations. He is always eager for folks to assist. This event cannot happen without radio operators and support.

Also, please remember that GARA annual dues are down due. You can pay your dues: at any meeting (we now accept; credit cards, checks, or cash); or at our website, www.w4gso.org.



This Month's Program

For our meeting this month, Don Wilbanks, AE5DW from Amateur Radio Newsline, and the popular internet webcast Ham Nation, will be joining us via Skype. We're very excited to have the opportunity to talk to Don about AR Newsline and see what's been going on there recently, and have a chance to ask questions and get his thoughts about other topics too. Be sure to make a point to be at the meeting this Monday, February 22!

- 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/).

- 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.

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

NEXT MEETING Monday, February 22

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, January 25th, 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 will be presented by Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, from AR Newsline.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes January, 2015

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on January, 25, 2016, at Captain Bills Seafood Restaurant located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro.

CLUB BUSINESS and OFFICER REPORTS

GARA President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Cameron welcomed everyone and asked everyone to identify themselves.

Cameron said there was a delay in getting The Feed Line ready this month and the President's Letter is posted on the GARA website. Cameron spoke about the website and the calendar of events.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, has requested volunteers to help with the N4G special event station coming up in March. David said the permit application has been filed with the park service. Cameron said we could get a few pileups this year since the national parks on the air centennial.

Scott Toth, KV4UP, said that Bob Hiel who was scheduled to be joining us via Skype had a scheduling conflict and Scott said they are working to reschedule the presentation.

David Bond, KK4VCG, gave the treasury report and listed the bills that have been paid.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW
Vice-President Scott Toth, KV4UP
Treasurer David Bond, KK4VCG
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Patrick Moore, K2CPR
Engineering Chair Jesse Lindley, K4AX
Operations Chair Roy Smith, N4BYU
Member-at-Large Ed Miller, AD4YB
Member-at-Large Thomas Bertolino, KB1P

Appointed Position:

Public Information Officer
Betty Williams, KC2BFN
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor
Brian Wilson, NX4U

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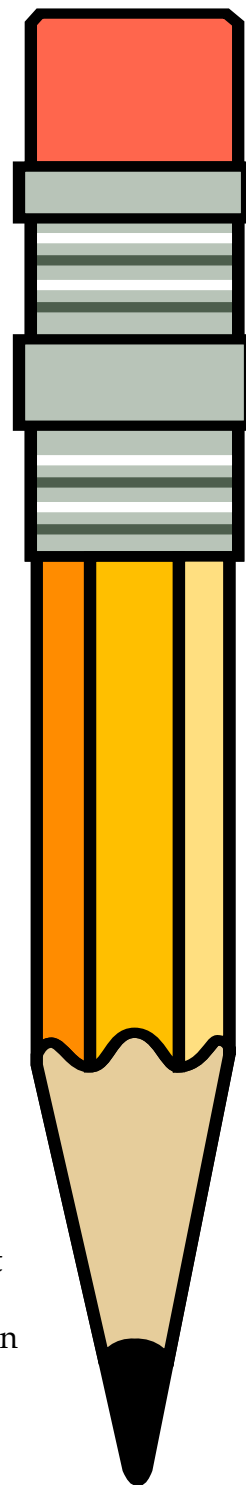
Jesse Lindley, K4AX, was unable to attend the meeting so Cameron said he will put Jesse's engineering report on the website.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P, reminded everyone that they can join or renew their ARRL membership through GARA and the club gets a small part of the fee for our club expenses.

Cameron gave the presentation on HT emissions. Cameron had a spectrum analyzer and tested several of the low cost HTs as well as an Icom HT.

David Bond, KK4VCG, made a motion to adjourn, Chris Thompson, K4HC, seconded and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



From the President's Shack

Winter has settled in on us this month, we've got snow and ice on the ground as I type this. All of that kind-of puts a damper on some of the activities that hams enjoy, but hopefully you have your station all set up and it's a perfect time to operate from home and make some fun contacts. I hear lots of National Parks activations for the ARRL National Parks on the Air event, some brave souls out there braving the chilling cold. Speaking of NPOTA, get ready for our annual N4G special event in March. This is a wonderful opportunity

to come out and operate, do some logging, and do some socializing with you fellow hams. I think events like these really enrich the experience of being a part of a club like ours. I would encourage everyone in the club to come out and get on the air. Experienced operators can come out and show some of the newer folks the ropes. There will be significant pile-ups this year as we will also be an NPOTA station activating Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, MP04. If you are new to ham radio, I cannot emphasize enough how helpful events like these can be to help you get going in ham radio. I learned a lot myself at the first few field days I attended as a new ham. N4G is no different, come out and pitch in, you can learn so much by just watching what the experienced guys are doing, better yet, log for them, even better, after you get a handle on it, please get on the air yourself. There is nothing more thrilling to me as a ham as working a healthy pile-up. You will have fun. N4G is March 12th and 13th, also come out on Friday evening to help with set-up. Many hands make light work.



Soon spring will be here and we will have Field Day looming right around the corner. Last year I served as your Field Day chairmen, I would like to see someone else pick up that torch this year. As I expressed many times last year, Field Day Chairmen does not mean, the poor guy who has to do all the work. We will put together a Field Day committee and the Chairmen will just be the guy, or gal, who organizes that committee, runs the meetings, and helps to lead the group toward the goal of a fun and successful Field Day for 2016. I would suggest going back to Guilford Courthouse NMP again this year, just so that we can take advantage of the NPOTA status. Is there anything you'd have changed



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from last year? Would you like to see something improved? Do you have a project that you'd like to incorporate into Field Day, a solar power station, or a satellite station, maybe you have an affinity for VHF weak signal. Join the field day committee and put your ideas into reality. Last year we had a very strong Field Day committee and I don't think anyone finished that weekend feeling like they had too much work to handle. I think we can build on what we did last year and improve on it even more. Join in the Field Day fun, and help support your club in helping new operators experience HF and reaching out to our community to spread the word about Amateur Radio and GARA. Again, y'all, many hands make light work.

I'm looking forward to our club meetings this year, it's going to be fun seeing everyone, and I think I'll get the hang of it soon enough. Scott has lined up a very nice list of presenters for us so far this year. I hope to see everyone at the meeting coming up in February. 73

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW



January Engineering Update

From Jesse Lindley, K4AX

I hope everyone has done well the past month, staying warm and safe during the winter weather events and have enjoyed the nice sunny and slightly warm days in between. Personally on the ham radio front I've been getting back on HF a bit more and try to make a few new contacts each day after work if I have time, mostly filling holes on needed DX or DX on a particular band. The last couple of years I have nailed down DXCC mixed, voice, CW and digital, and on the 20m band. Now I am trying to pull out DXCC on the rest of the bands, and I'm getting close on a couple, but there is a lot of work to be done. It's nice to have a long-

term goal (for me) and keeps me going sometimes when my interest is down.

Those that know me, know that I enjoy using SDR rigs, and my current rig is FlexRadio 5000A. At this point

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Engineering (continued from page 5)

it has become a bit dated, though for a rig that's been out for seven years the performance is pretty good. One thing that has been interesting to see is how the software has improved the performance of the radio over time, with added features and some bug fixes. FlexRadio moved on to direct sample SDR rigs and the 5000a was left behind in software, the last major release fixing most fixing bugs and it's pretty solid. The nice thing is the software is open source, and recently Darrin Kohn, KE9NS has been adding features and posting almost daily updates to PowerSDR for the FlexRadios of the last generation. I won't go over the changes here, but if anyone is interested check out <http://www.ke9ns.com/flexpage.html> for more information and a revision history. Every few days it's been fun to download the latest and see what new feature or improvement Darrin has made for my radio.

I don't have much to report in the engineering department this month. Nothing much has changed since last month.

In the VHF department 145.150 has been seeing a lot of crackle recently. I've talked before one what I think is happening to this (duplex only crackle) however it's only a guess at best. I hope soon Cameron and I can go out and make sure the sensitivity on the machine is where it is supposed to be and adjust accordingly if needed. Last year around this time we found it to be 10db down, but all that was needed was a simple tweak on the preselector to get it back where it was it was supposed to be.

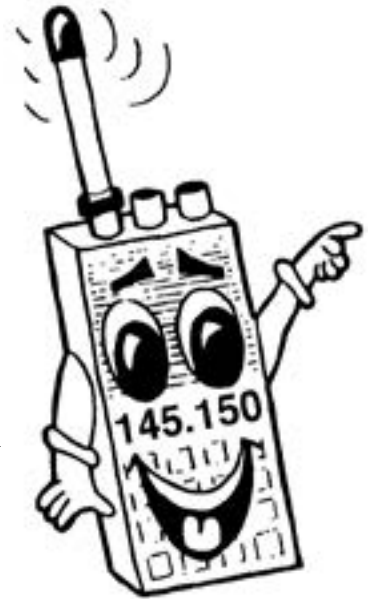
In the Yaesu Fusion repeater area of interest we are still in a holding pattern waiting for Yaesu to get the rig back to us. That should be any day and we can proceed with getting it installed when it shows up.

For UHF the D=Star repeater has been doing well the last month. The only issue we had being loosing the internet connection for a few days. Making the trip out there it was quickly discovered the issue was in the billing department and not the engineering department, due to the transition of board members. The account billing is now fixed and we are back online.

We still have plans to replace the router at the site, and a Scott Toth donated a Cisco switch so when we do replace the router we will have plenty of ports to plug things into. Last week Scott, Ed Miller and I went out to the site to set the switch up. Scott does a lot for the club, maintaining the website, and running the tech forum and his contributions are greatly appreciated!

That is about all I have for now, I look forward to seeing everyone at the club meeting this coming week, and hopefully at the N4G operating event in March. As usual David, AJ4TF, is on the ball getting it planned out and it should be a great time for all!

Jesse Lindley, K4AX



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 January, there were three (3) who passed their test(s), earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on March 19th 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 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

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



*Ed Booth- KM4QPY
Passed General*



*Michael Jackson- W4ABX
Passed General*

Calendar of Events

- 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,
<http://www.charlottehamfest.org>)
Mar 12-13 N4G Special Event Battle of Guilford Courthouse
(Tannenbaum Park, Greensboro, NC)
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, <http://rars.org/rarsfest>)
Apr 9 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Apr 11 GARA Board Meeting
Apr 16 Catawba Valley Hamfest (Morganton, NC, <http://rars.org/rarsfest>)
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 14 12th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest (Reidsville, NC, <http://N4IV.org>)
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, <http://dfma.org>)
Jun 8 GARA Board Meeting
Jun 25-26 ARRL Field Day
Jun 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Jun 11 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jun 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Jul 16 Mid-Summer SWAPFEST (Cary, NC, <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>)
Jul 09 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jul 09 31st Annual Firecracker Hamfest
(Salisbury, NC, <http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest>)
Jul 10 WCARS Hamfest (Waynesville, NC, <http://wcars.org/>)
Jul 11 GARA Board Meeting
Jul 16 Mid-Summer SWAPFEST (Cary, NC, <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>)
Jul 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Jul 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Aug 08 GARA Board Meeting
Aug 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Aug 13 18th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org/>)
Aug 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Aug 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Sep 03 North Carolina State Convention
(Shelby Hamfest, Shelby, NC, <http://shelbyhamfest.org>)

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 March to July, 2015

Mar. 19, 2016

Apr. 9, 2016

May 14, 2016

June 11, 2016

July 9, 2016

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

Time: 9:00am

Contact: David Macchiarolo

Phone: 336-420-9424

E-mail: aj4tf@arrl.net

GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz. tone

442.8625 MHz. + offset, Digital D-Star



Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

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Greensboro, NC 27417

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA