



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line



Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad

Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)[info@w4gso.org](mailto:info@w4gso.org)

## GARA Events and Info

Congratulations to all those who made our Special Event Station N4G a huge success this year. David, AJ4TF, reported the final tally for N4G (NPOTA MP04): Total HF contacts: 1106

80 meters: 216; 40 meters: 409; 20 meters: 468; 15 meters: 13; Phone/SSB Total: 1062.

PSK31: 12; CW: 25; JT65: 7; Digital Total: 44.

Field Day and the Annual GARA Picnic are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend and participate. See Cameron's President's Shack article for more information.



## This Month's Program

Last month we had a great visit with Don Wilbanks, AE5DW from Amateur Radio Newline via Skype. Don graciously gave us an hour to discuss various topics from AR Newline to his own station and Ham Nation. He even showed us his guitar! This month we have another treat in store. Our special guest, via Skype, will be Tim Duffy, K3LR from DX Engineering. Tim received the Radio Club of America's Barry Goldwater Amateur Radio Award in 2010 and was recently named the Dayton Hamvention's Amateur of the Year in 2015. The founder and chairman of the successful Contest University, Tim has also taught over 3,700 amateurs in the art and science of radiosport and moderates the Dayton Hamvention's antenna forum every year. Be sure to join us on March 28 to visit with Mr. Duffy, and make sure that you bring your best questions to ask!

- 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/](http://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, March 28

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, March 28th, 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 Tim Duffy, K3LR, from DX Engineering. He will be presenting and answering your questions.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes February, 2016

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on February, 22, 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 called for everyone to identify themselves.

Cameron spoke about the calendar of events on the website.

Scott Toth KV4UP spoke about next month's presentation.

Jesse Lindley K4AX

*(Unfortunately, the remainder of the minutes from the meeting have been lost.)*

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

## Silent Key - George Lindsay, KG4ADA

GEORGE A. LINDSAY GREENSBORO GEORGE AXEL LINDSAY, age 90, of Greensboro, NC, passed away February 28, 2016, following a brief illness. George was born January 23, 1926 in Chicago, IL. He served his country in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Ocean theater during World War II, as well as Korea. Following his honorable discharge, George graduated from college with an electrical engineering degree and spent 43 years working for Western Electric, AT&T and Lucent Technologies. His career took him all over the world, including Alaska and Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, and many of the projects he worked on required top secret government clearance. He was a member of the Elks Club for over 40 years and The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for 60 years. Upon retirement George volunteered full time with the AT&T Pioneers Association and the American Red Cross. George loved helping people and he made a difference for survivors of many devastating events including hurricanes Andrew & Katrina and the September 11 attacks. George is preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Emmaline Lindsay. Surviving are his two daughters, Debora Lindsay Schum and husband Joe of Avondale Estates, GA; Cheryl Lindsay of Greensboro, NC; and his beloved granddaughter Lindsay Kirby of Greensboro, NC, who called him "Poppy." To honor George, please consider a donation to the Piedmont Chapter of the American Red Cross

#### 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

The Feed Line is ©2016 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.

## Board Meeting Minutes - March, 2016

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on March 14, 2016 at the Lawndale Baptist Church located at 3505 Lawndale drive in Greensboro.

The members present were; Cameron Conover, AJ4TW; Scott Toth, KV4UP; Patrick Moore, K2CPR; Tom Bertolino, KB1P; David Bond, KK4VCG; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV.

Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

The board discussed what to do about the previous treasurer not cooperating with the board.

The board discussed the dues payments made by some members before the change of treasurers since we do not have that paperwork. It was decided that we extend the member renewal date to June 1st so we can get things cleared up and not penalize anyone.

The board discussed the upcoming Field Day and club picnic. Cameron said we need a Field Day organizer to volunteer.

The engineering committee will get together soon to develop a plan of action for antenna work that needs to be done on the tower.

Scott said he will start pushing GARA logo items for sale.

GARA has recently had some radio gear donated to us and the items will be sold at silent auction at the next club meeting proceeds will be used to purchase some band pass filters to be used at field day.

We discussed putting some antenna building instructions on the GARA website.

Patrick made a motion to adjourn, David, seconded. All in favor and the meeting ended at 8:15pm. *Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*

## From the President's Shack

Happy Spring everyone! N4G seems to have been a great success! I was at the N4G site on Sunday and I saw lots of smiling faces, and lots of people chipping in to make things run smooth. It was great! David, AJ4TF, reports that we made 1106 contacts this year. He's uploaded the log to LOTW so that's 1106 people that now have NPOTA credit for Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, MP04. I had tons of fun running a nice little pile up on 40m Sunday morning. Congratulations to the whole crew and especially those new to HF who got on the air and made some Q's! I worked N4G from home on Saturday night on 80m SSB and was thrilled to hear that the operator working me was a brand new General class ham.

This year we'll also be having our annual picnic and Field Day simultaneously at Guilford Courthouse NMP. I hope to see a huge turnout! Last year we had about 27 participants show

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## President (continued from page 3)

up and play and help out at Field Day. That means that about 80% of our membership did not get a chance to enjoy Field Day. All you have to do to join in the fun is show up!

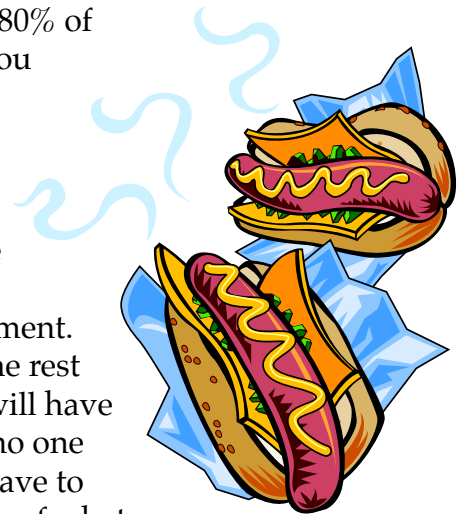
Again, we will be looking for leadership from our membership to step up and help coordinate things for Field Day. This year we need a Field Day coordinator, and I'd like to have someone to act as the picnic coordinator, as well. Since we are having these two annual events simultaneously, I think it would be wise to split the two efforts up in terms of management. The coordinator's job is simply that, coordinate the efforts of the rest of your team to insure a smooth operation for the event. You will have help and support from the membership and the board so that no one person is handling too much work. The coordinator does not have to be a ham radio expert, you just have to be willing to keep track of what needs to happen and able to help find the right people to make sure everything is taken care of. We need to start having Field Day meetings very soon. If you are interested in helping to make sure GARA has a fun and successful Field Day event, you're perfect for the job. Make 2016 your year to contribute to the success of the club.

Also, I'd like to put a challenge to the club, I'd like to see how many of our members we can get to Field Day. Even if you can't stay for long. Stop by the site and sign in. At least just come out and put your eyes on the operation and let us know what you think. I'd love to see us double our participation to 54! All we need to reach that goal is for 27 more people to come out, sign the check in sheet, and take a look around. It would be really awesome if, while you're there, you pick up a microphone or log some contacts for someone. Grab a soda or eat a burger on Saturday afternoon and enjoy a beautiful summer day in the park with some radios. But no pressure on any of that, our Field Day location this year is right off Battleground Ave, almost in the heart of Greensboro, surely it's not too much trouble to pop in on Saturday for a few minutes to support your club. It will be fantastic to see you there.

As those of you who have participated know, we have been struggling with intermod from adjacent stations at both N4G and Field Day for a few years now, so we'd like to purchase a set of band pass filters to resolve this issue. Also, we think it would be a great investment for the club to purchase a nice quiet generator to run some of these operations and give us a little more flexibility on where we are able to set up. Our fund raising goal for club operating equipment is about \$1500. Consider making a donation, remember GARA is a 501C3 now, so any donations are tax deductible. We have another fund raising opportunity on the horizon as well due to a recent donation of some radio equipment to the club. We're still inventorying the equipment and deciding how best to handle it, but stay tuned for an update and a possible auction in the near future to raise some money for fun things for your favorite radio club. I'm really looking forward to the March meeting, I think it's going to be a lot of fun to host Tim Duffy, K3LR.

See you all soon!

73, Cameron, AJ4TW





## March Engineering Update

*From Jesse Lindley, K4AX*

Spring has sprung, the N4G event has come and gone, and onward to Field Day 2016!

My workload has greatly increased the last two months, cutting back a bit on my time to do other things when I'd like, or the energy and desire to do so. I missed out on N4G this year due to work, but it was great hearing about the participation, seeing the pictures from the event and hearing about all the contacts made! The ARRL's year long

National Parks On The Air event helped bring in the contacts, and along with some great operators it seems more contacts are in the log than ever before. I think it's great that with David Macchiarolo's planning and the club's membership participation that such an event can be had. I hope my job allows me to get involved more next year.

<http://www.w4gso.org/news/n4g-is-a-success/>

The past month in the "engineering department" for GARA has kept a few of us busy chasing down issues at the related to internet issues mostly, and connectivity between the two computers currently at the repeater site for DSTAR control and linking. For several weeks the DSL router has had to be restarted sometime over the weekend to get the connection back, and we lost a USB Ethernet adapter to failure on the DSTAR gateway computer. Steve KB7SQI and I went out to the site to check out the Ethernet connectivity situation, and Steve solved a configuration problem with and donated a couple of his USB nics to get us going again.

I'd also like to thank Scott KV4UP, our club's vice president and the cool guy who

has set us up with some great presentations this year! Scott has donated some computer equipment to the club to be used with the repeaters, including a Dell computer, Ethernet switch, and soon a router. All to be used for future expansion for things like repeater control, Playing Newline and other

reports during nets, controller programming and repeater linking if the club desires.

Outside of computer/internet issues DSTAR machine has

see Engineering, page 6



## Engineering (continued from page 5)

# YAESU

*System Fusion*

been performing well. Power and SWR output have unchanged since the last check and the machine seems to be performing well.

The VHF machine is still chugging along. No issues at all to report of as of late, other than the same static interference that we have had for over ten

years. We still have plans to recheck the machines sensitivity soon, in case the preselector values have shifted.

Everyone that has visited the site with me the last few weeks has commented that our antenna's don't look straight on the tower. I tend to agree and I think our VHF antenna that in the past appeared straight, seems to be at a angle leaning to the southwest, it's noticeable mostly when standing underneath it. In the past it and the N4DUB repeaters antenna seemed to be straight and the DSTAR antenna was out of whack.

I'm still working on the Fusion repeater controller, I had some scheduler issues that put the machine in net mode when I didn't want it to, I want to see that it's working before I install it. I'm about finished with the Fusion machine and I look forward to gaining some desk space when it's away. There maybe some on the air testing with limited functions at first when it's installed, but it won't affect normal day to day operations at all.

## 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 March, there was no testing session due to scheduling conflicts.

Next month's testing session will be on April 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 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net), phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

## Calendar of Events

- 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>)
- Sep 10 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Sep 12 GARA Board Meeting
- Sep 24 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Sep 26 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)

# 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 April to Aug., 2016

Apr. 9, 2016

May 14, 2016

June 11, 2016

July 9, 2016

Aug. 13, 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**

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

*The Official Publication of GARA*