



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line



Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad

Betty Williams , KC2BFN Editor

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## GARA Events and Info

Field Day and the Annual GARA Picnic are just around the corner. Field Day Coordinator Patrick Moore K2CPR will be looking for volunteers. There is still a need for a Picnic Coordinator. The Club picnic will coincide with Field Day. See the President's message for more information.

## This Month's Program

We had a great meeting with Barry Baines, WD4ASW at our last general meeting in April. His presentation was excellent and inspiring, and it was an honor to have him at our meeting. Visit [www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org) to watch his presentation if you haven't already seen it. With Field Day quickly approaching, May's meeting will revolve around the club's preparations for the event. Patrick Moore, K2CPR will present and let us know about Field Day plans, where there are still needs, and how you can become involved. You won't want to miss the meeting or the event- both will be a great time of fellowship and camaraderie (and food!). See you soon!

The when and where: Thursday 5/26/16 @ 7pm  
Glenn McNairy Branch Library, 4860 Lake Jeanette Rd  
Greensboro, NC 27455

What is it? Field Day organization meeting  
Everyone has something to add!

At this meeting we will decide who our band captains are, how many stations we want to run, what type of equipment we are going to use, etc., etc. This will be the main decision making process for GARA's Field Day 2016!

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

### NEXT MEETING Monday, May 23rd

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, May 23rd, 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 Patrick Moore K2CPR, the Field Day Coordinator.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes April, 2016

The Greensboro Amateur radio association held their regular monthly meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Captain Bills seafood located at 6108 W. Market Street in Greensboro.

Scott Toth KV4UP started the meeting at 7:15pm.

Scott asked that everyone identify themselves.

Patrick Moore K2CPR spoke about moving the ecolink node from Gary Grant N5ODE over to K2CPR as Gary has been traveling a lot and doesn't have time to maintain it. Patrick has negotiated a group buy on the Yaesu FTM100 fusion mobile radio. The price is \$300.00 each, Patrick will send out an email with details. Patrick said the fusion repeater is up and running. There will be a field day planning meeting soon.

Barry Baines WD4ASW who is the president of AMSAT-NA gave a great presentation on AMSAT. The meeting ended at 9:00

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

## Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

### 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 Vacant  
Member-at-Large Ed Miller, AD4YB  
Member-at-Large Thomas Bertolino, KB1P  
*Appointed Position:*  
Public Information  
Officer  
Newsletter Editor  
Betty Williams KC2BFN

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The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

### Membership Requirements

Every licensed amateur, regardless in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training maybe required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Because ARES is an amateur radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency powered equipment is desirable but not required for membership. [www.guilfordares.org](http://www.guilfordares.org)



## Board Meeting Minutes - May, 2016

The GARA Board of Directors did not have a formal meeting in May; therefore no meeting minutes were available.

### From the President's Shack

It's been an unusual spring season this year, seems like it's been especially wet and a little extra chilly, but I'm sure the summer will warm us up soon. Field Day is coming and I can't wait to see everyone there. We're still looking for someone to spearhead the picnic efforts for field day, if that's your wheel house, we need you.

This month I'm sad to report that our long time operations chairmen and call sign trustee, Roy Smith, N4BYU, has resigned from both positions leaving a vacancy that the club is sure to feel. Roy, has served the club for a very long time, I'm not sure how long Roy has been on the board, honestly. I would like to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to Roy for all his years of service to GARA and W4GSO. Roy always made the board meetings interesting, he was sure to take the minority opinion on almost anything; I think mostly just to give it a voice and make sure we were paying attention. The GARA board meetings will not be the same without him. When you see Roy at a club meeting or some other club event, or when you talk to him on the air, please let him know how much his service is appreciated. I know that after that many years of service there comes a time when you need to move on and do some other things. Thank you, Roy, we appreciate all that you have done!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the club meeting on Monday and hearing about this year's field day plans.

73

Cameron

AJ4TW

### Field Day on Social Media!

Follow Field Day on Facebook and Twitter! ARRL has created a [Field Day event on Facebook](#), and you can also join the conversation by using the hash tag #ARRLFD. Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day!

## May Engineering Update

*From Jesse Lindley, K4AX*

As I write this we have one just over a month to get ready for the 2016 ARRL Field Day, I look forward to going, having a weekend off work, and seeing some club members at the Field Day site to work some contacts!

Due to the group buy for the Yaesu FTM100-DR that Patrick K2CPR put together, and lots of prodding and arm twisting by him for almost a month, I decided to jump on the deal.

It's a great rig, 2m/440, FM, C4FM voice wide, C4FM digital narrow, and analog APRS with the built in GPS and TNC. I compare it a lot to the Yaesu FT-7800r which I've had a long time and the Icom ID-880h as they all are dual band radios, with a small remote head, one band at a time, and all in the same price range. I've enjoyed using the FTM-100DR, out of the three I think it offers the most for what it costs. It has a great display, easy to navigate menu system, and good audio with on TX from what I've heard, and the audio amp in it is 8 watts, so it will be heard very easily in a mobile with external speaker. The C4FM digital audio quality is the best I've heard, compared to Dstar and DMR that I also use. There are about ten local Yaesu Fusion repeaters in the area, and I look forward to trying it out with a good antenna at home on all of them.

### VHF 145.150 FM/C4FM Report

The Yaesu DR1x C4FM/FM repeater has been in place now for about a month, and it's been interesting to see how it does now that it is in place. We fought with squelch issues and amplifier issues all month, as I write this I still need to go out and adjust the squelch a bit more.

The controller built into the repeater does not blank out the RX as well as a external controller does after a transmission, and offers no courtesy tone. We will probably have it dialed in a bit better by the end of this month so it's not as noisy, or eliminate the problem altogether with the external controller.

The good news is that the RX on the repeater seems to be pretty hot. During testing we fed it signals with a 1khz tone down to -134dbm breaking the squelch and even at -134dbm with my deaf ears I could hear the tone. Needless to say on 2m the repeater would not need a preamp as the noise floor at the site averages at -125dbm.

The bad news up till a few days ago was the Henry amp, it was made for the VHF business band, like most repeater amps are, and needed to be adjusted down to the ham band. We could only get the output matched to give about 74 watts out. In addition to that, a internment jumper issue was found. At one point this past month at a visit to the site after seeing weak signals I found the amp to be putting out less than five watts! However, the good news is that with some local help the amp was retuned for the amateur radio portion of the VHF band and now is putting out full power which is 110 watts. Signal reports from fringe areas have been good so far, and the repeater is putting out a few more watts than the GE Mastr II did.

See page 5

## Engineering (continued from page 4)

UHF 442.8625 Dstar Report.

Lately the Dstar report has become more of the “computer report” to me. And this month really isn’t that different. As far as the RF side of the business goes, the repeater seems to be doing well, the audio looping problem we’ve had for years rarely happens now, and it when it does, it generally is pretty short. RX and TX seem to be pretty well matched, and no problems have been reported.

On the computer side of the Dstar report, the internet connection has been a problem as of late. This is either due to the ATT DSL service, or the modem we are using which is getting long in the tooth. The past couple of months the service would drop and the modem would require a reboot to get things going again. This in turn sometimes caused issues with the Dstar Gateway not working, and not syncing with the controller. Sometimes just a modem reboot fixed issues, other times reboot of the two computers in the proper order was also required to get things going, and other times further work is required when they go down.

I placed the modem in a part of the cabinet that gets good airflow, so that it stays cool, and it may be a coincidence, but it has not dropped the DSL service since, so I hope that until we upgrade the service, and get a new modem this will keep things going smooth.

I’d like to say a special thanks to the members of the Engineering Committee with the help of keeping the repeaters going. We keep a Google Hangout group going, and communicate with each other daily. Without these guys my job for the club would be a lot harder!

Cameron AJ4TW, Patrick K2CPR, Steve KB7SQI, Scott KV4UP, and David KK4VCG have all been a great help on the Engineering Committee and it is very much appreciated by me.

## FCC Information

### FCC QUESTION POOL REVISED FOR JULY 1, 2016

The FCC question pool for Amateur Radio Extra license exams has been revised and will be effective for exams conducted on or after July 1, 2016. ARRL will produce new study materials in preparation for the new Extra exam. Manuals will be available the first week of May at the [ARRL store](#).

### FCC GOES PAPERLESS

In order to streamline procedures and save money, the FCC stopped routinely printing and mailing licenses in February 2015. There are a number of ways a license holder can obtain an official FCC copy of their license. Licensees can find complete instructions on our [Obtain License Copy](#) web page.

## Can you pass the test?

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 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, and his team of volunteer examiners for taking time out of their busy schedules each month to help new or upgraded hams in our area.

Next month's testing session will be on June 11th 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.

## You Have an Appointment with the Doctor!

A new episode of "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast is available now: Does CW Really Get Through When Nothing Else Can?

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## Calendar of Events

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, <a href="http://dfma.org">http://dfma.org</a> )
Jun 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jun 11	Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest ( <a href="http://www.w4nc.com/ws_classic_hamfest_2016.htm">http://www.w4nc.com/ws_classic_hamfest_2016.htm</a> )
Jun 13	GARA Board Meeting
Jun 25-26	ARRL Field Day
Jun 25	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Jun 27	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Jul 09	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jul 09	31st Annual Firecracker Hamfest (Salisbury, NC, <a href="http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest">http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest</a> )
Jul 11	GARA Board Meeting
Jul 16	Mid-Summer SWAPFEST (Cary, NC, <a href="http://www.qsl.net/n4nc">http://www.qsl.net/n4nc</a> )
Jul 25	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Jul 30	WCARS Hamfest (Waynesville, NC, <a href="http://wcars.org/">http://wcars.org/</a> )
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, <a href="http://www.cfarsnc.org/">http://www.cfarsnc.org/</a> )
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, <a href="http://shelbyhamfest.org">http://shelbyhamfest.org</a> )
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)
Oct 8	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Oct 10	GARA Board Meeting
Oct 24	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Oct 29	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Nov 12	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Nov 14	GARA Board Meeting
Nov 26	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Nov 28	GARA Elections/General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Dec 10	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Dec 12	GARA Board Meeting
Dec 31	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)

The 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 News Line and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Patrick Moore K2CPR 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

June to Sept., 2016

June 11, 2016

July 9, 2016

Aug. 13, 2016

Sept. 10, 2016

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

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