



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Betty Williams , KC2BFN Editor

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This Month's Program

If you missed July's meeting, you missed a special time with Bob Heil, K9EID, but it's not too late to see it! Head over to our website at www.w4gso.org to watch the video of the meeting online. You won't regret it!

This month we're going to try something a little different. I have a few ideas for meeting topics for the rest of the year, but considering that the weather is still nice, this seemed like it would be fun. If there's one thing that hams like to do, it's ogle other hams' gear. We also like to learn about new things that might spark an interest or lead to a new project idea. With that in mind, our meeting this month will be a "Ham Show & Tell" where you'll be able to show off or talk about your latest HT, how you were able to talk on the Brandmeister network via a D-star hotspot that's linked with a C4FM reflector, your fancy new Elecraft, or the cool way you mounted your screwdriver HF antenna onto your Prius. The plan will be to start off inside and eventually move outside into the parking lot to see mobile rigs and antennas, how they're setup, etc. I will have small flags available for you to clip to your mobile antenna to let people know that you're open to showing off your setup as they move from car to car.

Be thinking now of what you'd like to bring for Show & Tell.

I hope we have great participation and all learn about all of the new and exciting things you all are doing!

- ❖ GARA has new name badges. If you do not have yours, you can get your name badge at any meeting.
- ❖ There is a new ARRL-affiliated club in the NC Section! The new club is the Greater Gaston Amateur Radio Society of Gastonia, NC. Congratulations and welcome!

NEXT MEETING Monday, August 22nd

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, Aug. 22nd, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road.
SHOW AND TELL EVENT.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes - August, 2016

There was no Board meeting in August.

Regular Meeting Minutes - July, 2016

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

Cameron Conover AJ4TW called the meeting to order at 7:15PM

Cameron asked everyone to identify themselves.

Cameron spoke about the VHF fusion repeater and said he would like to test in automatic mode for another month before having a discussion on which mode to keep it in.

Patrick Moore K2CPR spoke about an issue with the controller and work that was done at the repeater site recently.

Scott Toth KV4UP said he is working on a presentation for next month.

Patrick gave a rundown on field day and said he will have a points total at the August meeting.

Patrick also spoke about some problems with stability of the echo link node caused by the computer. Patrick said he has made some changes to help prevent issues in the future. He said he is also changing over to a fusion radio and will change the call sign to W4GSO.

Ed Miller AD4YB spoke about the hard work done by the club officers.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Presiden Scott brought up Skype on the projector and introduced Bob Hiel K9EID who gave us some great information.

Patrick Moore K2CPR made a motion to adjourn, Linda Worland KW4UD seconded and the meeting closed at 8:44PM

Respectfully submitted by;
Greg Spencer KG4UQV
GARA Secretaryt 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 John Strandberg W4DX
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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GARA Secretary

From the President's Shack

President's Shack August 2016

The dog days of summer are here. Long, hot, and muggy days, lots of daylight to keep 20 meters open for us. It's amazing to me how hard the solar conditions seem to have crashed after a few really good years. I've been a little slack on HF lately, well, a lot slack. I think I got really spoiled after the centennial year, the ARRL Centennial celebration year will go down in history as one of the most active years for US hams ever, I think. They are now delivering all of those QSL cards from Centennial, I know that our own Chris C.W. Thompson, K4HC, got his full complement of WAS+ QSL cards recently, which reminded me that I was all out of cards at the bureau so I sent them a pack of 10 cards with postage and I'm hoping to get my centennial QSL's any day now. I can't wait!

Recently we have had some very generous donations of equipment to the club that we intend to use as fund raising material. We've struggled a bit with what to do with all of this stuff. How do we check it out? How should we sell it? I think I have an idea. Let's take it to Shelby! We are lucky enough to have one of the east coast's biggest hamfests only a couple hours away. I think we should take advantage of that. I'm going to propose that we rent a table for the club, W4GSO Shelby hamfest table this year. We should put our banner up and peddle our wares. If anyone is going to Shelby and wants to sell something of their own, they are welcome to join us at our table in return for manning the table for a few hours. That way we all get to walk around and see the sights and we get to help the club raise some funds at the same time. If you are interested in that, let me know. I was going to be in West Virginia that weekend, but I think I'm going to change my plans and head to Shelby to help out with the table. So let me know if you are interesting in heading down and helping out, or even just hanging out. It'll be fun! I put a video on the Greensboro Amateur radio YouTube page a couple weeks ago showing some contacts that I over-heard on 145.15, check it out. We've been hearing some interesting stuff from pretty far off lately. Just last night, 8/15 we had a station from TN getting into that repeater. Pretty neat stuff.

I'm going to the beach on Thursday this week and I don't think I'll be back in time for the club meeting on Monday night. I'm sorry about that, but I just don't get much time to visit with my brother AF7PO, and he's going to be on the east coast for a few days so I'm going to go hang out with him and my nephews! We're going to take my IC-7000 down to the beach and try to play on HF some, hopefully I'll be able to make up for my recent inactivity on HF to some extent. We'll try to jump on 40 or 75 while we're down there too in hopes of working some of you guys back here in Guilford Co. I guess it's a summer finale, then the boys have to head back to Richland, Washington to get back to school. I'd still like to find someone who's interested in doing some history on the club. If you are interested in interviewing some of our charter members please let me know. Even if it's just an on air QSO that you record, or a lunch meeting that you take some notes on. I think it is important that we record some of the history of this 40 year old club before it's too late. We need to be able to remember where we came from. Happy summer, y'all.

73,

Cameron, AJ4TW

Aug. 2016

August Engineering Update

August has been a slow month for me in the ham radio department. I've not had much time to get on the air or get things done, which is tough when it comes around to writing up an engineering report with not much to report on! I've just gotten over being under the weather for the past week and I've hardly keyed up the local repeaters much less even turn on the HF rig.

A few of us locally have ordered and received the Yaesu FTM-3200DR that is currently on sale at HRO and other places for \$139.00. It's a two meter rig that has a power output of 65 watts on high, has a front facing speaker, and looks more like a commercial radio and is similar to the Yaesu FT-3100, Icom V-8000 or the Kenwood TM 281A. The FTM 3200DR is unique in its cost because it can do FM or the C4FM mode that the W4GSO VHF repeater and several other VHF repeaters can use. Sounds great on both C4FM and FM, I'm really pleased with it. It's the cheapest mobile digital voice rig I know of which is amazing for something made by one of the big three Japanese manufacturers and that is made in Japan and supported in the US with a warranty.

VHF 145.150 FM/C4FM repeater

The DR1x repeater is churning along fine. No issues to report in the last month with its internal controller and the Henry amp. The amp is putting out more power than the previous repeater and the RX performs at a much improved level, without the constant need of tweaking. From what I've heard of users of the edge of coverage the machine seems to be doing great. At first we had some amp issues, but now that things are tweaked up and working we seem to have great performance. Cameron AJ4TW posted a video on YouTube some things he heard on the repeater with map showing the range of the stations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp05w8y4OJM&feature=youtu.be>

In the first part of the video both stations were using CF4M on the repeater. I've talked to both of them on FM as well. On FM they are heard, but are noisy, to the point that you probably wouldn't want to have a long conversation but certainly able to be copied. On C4FM with the error correction it's almost perfect copy, no noise, and loud easy to understand audio.

I'm still working on getting the external controller going with this machine. I've not had a chance to try some things after ping ponging Arcom about our issue due to working late a lot of days and being sick on a long stretch of days that I had off from work. I hope to square this away soon as possible.

UHF Dstar repeater

No issues to report on the Dstar repeater. As I think I talked about last month, all of the improvements made on the computer/gateway/IT side of the machine has really helped with reliability and that continues to be the case. I've not had to go out and reset the internet connection in a few months now, and the extra memory on the computer seems to help with keeping things running smoothly. I checked power out and SWR and it's unchanged since the last check, about 80 watts out with a flat SWR. Since we are using a GE MASTR II amp on this machine that has some age on it I keep a eye on it. From my location in Greensboro if the repeater is only putting out less than a watt it's full scale so it's good to get a reality check.

I think that's all I have to report for this month, 73 until next time Jesse K4AX

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS –

September 1-4: 60th Annual Shelby Hamfest Special Event, 1600Z-2200Z, W4NYR, Shelby, NC. Shelby Amateur Radio Club. All HF bands, SSB and CW.

QSL. SARC, PO Box 2206, Shelby, NC 28151. Times will vary daily.

www.shelbyhamfest.org

September 10: 48th Annual National Hollerin' Contest Spiveys'

Corner, 1500Z-2200Z, KK4NC, Dunn, NC. Sampson County Amateur Radio Service. 14.264 14.242 7.264 7.242. Certificate. Cliff Ireland (KK4NC),

170 Pincroft Dr, Dunn, NC 28334. www.nationalhollerincontest.com Special Event Station listings in the NC Section newsletter are based on what appears on the ARRL website, see <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> Please consider listing your Special Event Station at least 60 days before the event, see <http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application> Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a Special Event Station. Thanks!

(source: ARRL website)

Dick Battle AK4RB reflects on World War II service

Dick Battle was four months into college studies at the University of Redlands in California when it became obvious he would be drafted.

“I preferred the Army Air Forces, so I enlisted on Dec. 7, 1942,” he said.

By February 1943, he was a communications specialist with the 15th Fighter Patrol Squadron of the 12th Air Force in Casablanca. “Since our communication equipment was preferred targets for the Nazis, we stayed well behind the lines,” Battle recalled. “I got bombed at, but never shot at. We moved across Africa, Sicily and up the Italian boot, maintaining communication links, performing air-sea rescue and flying reconnaissance missions. My job was to keep the radios working.” They operated their communications center from an active monastery at Monte Senario, north of Florence, Italy, overlooking the Po River Valley. “The priests didn’t interfere with us, and we didn’t interfere with them. I went over to the Anzio beach-head just to look around — the shell holes were so numerous, I don’t see how a human body could have kept from being hit.” Trusting the statute of limitations, Battle shared another story from Italy:

“Down near Salerno, several of my communications buddies and I found a sizeable cache of fully charged camouflage canisters. Envisioning what a huge smokescreen this would float out over the seashore, we lined them up and fired them off. “What we took as hilariously funny was not well received by the camp commanding officer — the wind shifted and caused operation black-out for quite a while,” he said. “Five of us were involved. I figured at least one would confess. None did — the five of us became a band of brothers, but not the band the book was written about.” By V-E Day he had accumulated 83 points. “It took 85 for a ticket home, so I was assigned to the Army of Occupation in Austria, where I finally reached 87 points,” he said. “The 600-mile ride on a French ‘40 and Eight’ railcar over war-torn tracks to Le Havre, France, was wild and wiggly, but no one complained. We were going home!”

He had earned five combat campaign stars and a good-conduct ribbon.

While his three-year tenure from Africa to Austria wasn’t atypical, how he went from enlistment to the war zone in less than three months begged the question: How about basic training and communication schools?

“Basic training happened,” he said. “However, communications school was bypassed when it became obvious I

knew more about electricity, electronics and radio than did the instructors. After earning my amateur radio license in 1939, I had lived and breathed working and experimenting on radios. It became part of my life.”

Even though Battle was born in Oklahoma, he grew up in California. His father, a World War I artillery instructor in France, commanded civilian conservation camps in Oklahoma and California and served as provost marshal at Camp Hahn during World War II.

“I was an only child — and loved every minute of it,” he said.

It was back to school for Battle after his discharge — this time at UCLA, where he earned a degree in economics and marketing. His first years of employment were with a chemical company, but most of his career was in the field he loved — marketing electronic connectors.

“My company had morphed into the Bendix Corporation by the time I retired as regional manager of military markets,” he said.

Divorced from the mother of his two children, Battle made a business call to Gilbarco in Greensboro. On this trip, he met an Atlantic Aero employee he thought attractive and personable — Jewell Dorsch. They married in 1984. The Battles owned property in Greensboro but lived in Washington and Marietta, Ga., before moving to Greensboro in 1991. Jewell Battle died in 2008.

Battle spent 15 years with the Civil Air Patrol, advancing to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He has had a private pilot’s license for many years and recently took helicopter-pilot instruction.

“It seems if it’s very expensive, I tend to gravitate towards it!” he observed.

“Ham radio is still in my blood, but since my station is on the second floor, I don’t make it up there as much as I used to,” Battle said. “Actually, from 1939 until 2016, I think I’ve called everyone I need to call and said about all that needs saying.”

That doesn’t mean he is asleep at the wheel. “I fly a quadcopter (drone) in my living room and at Lewis Center on Wednesday evenings.”

Battle is an active member of St. Francis Episcopal Church. He has a son, Rick, and a daughter, Cheryl Lynn. Battle also has five grandchildren.



News & Record 07.27.16

60th ANNUAL SHELBY HAMFEST/ARRL NC STATE CONVENTION (9/2-4) – The 60th Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL NC State Convention, sponsored by the Shelby Amateur Radio Club – W4NYR, will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 2nd to the 4th, at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 1751 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150. On Friday, the hours of operation are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. On Saturday and Sunday, the gates open at 7:00 AM. The inside Dealer Buildings will be open 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM on Sunday.

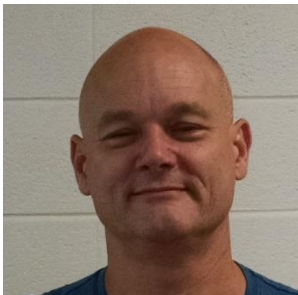
Talk-In: 146.880 MHz (-), no tone, W4NYR Repeater. WCARS is providing the VE testing for a cost of \$10.00. For more information on VE testing, please contact chairman@shelbyhamfest.org Forum presentations are scheduled for Saturday (9/3). Please visit the ARRL Booth and participate in the letter-writing campaign for HR 1301 and S 1685 The Amateur Radio Parity Act. For further information on the Shelby Hamfest, including forum times, VE testing, flea market, vendors, camping, accommodations, tickets, and prizes, see <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/> (source: Shelby Hamfest website)

Congratulations! You passed.

Testing results from July 30th – Greensboro

Ruth N. Crawford, Purlear, NC <i>She is 12 years old</i>	KM4VRN	Earned Technician
Samuel P. Turner, Winston-Salem, NC	KM4VRO	Earned Technician
John O. Cowan, Mt Airy, NC	KM4VRP	Earned Technician
Robert L. Holmes, Greensboro, NC	KM4QCP	Earned General
Kenneth M. Mills, Granite Quarry, NC	KM4VRQ	Earned Technician
Simon R. Ledbetter, Raleigh, NC	KW4WU	Earned Extra
Robert G. Draughan Jr., High Point, NC	KM4UHU	Earned General

August 13th – Greensboro, NC



James A. Barnwell III
Burlington, NC
Earned Technician
No call sign yet



Anita M. Prendergast
Kernersville, NC
Earned General
KM4UYF



Ronald E. Biddle
Kernersville, NC
Earned Extra
KM4VAS



Zachary M. Marshall
Greensboro, NC
Earned Extra
KM4UOC

If you recall last month's Feedline, you will note that Zachary passed the General exam.

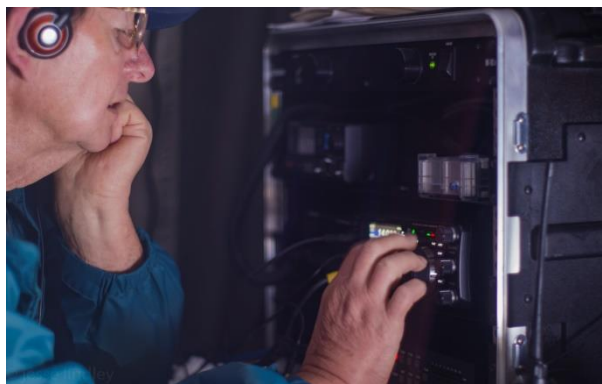
Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able

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, 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.

Field Day Pictures



Calendar of Events

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 24	FreeGate 2016 (Greensboro, NC, Qorvo Amateur Radio Club, http://kd4rf.org)
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 11	JARSfest 2016 (Benson, NC, Johnston Amateur Radio Society, http://www.jars.net)
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)
Jan 9	GARA Board Meeting
Jan 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jan 23	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Jan 28	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Feb 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Feb 13	GARA Board Meeting
Feb 25	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Feb 27	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Mar 10	Charlotte Hamfest (Concord, NC, MARS, http://www.charlottehamfest.org)
Mar 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Mar 13	GARA Board Meeting
Mar 20	GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
Mar 25	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)

The purpose of this calendar is 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 Sept. to Dec., 2016

Sept. 10, 2016

Oct. 8, 2016

Nov. 12, 2016

Dec. 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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA