



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

We've had some great presentations this year but it's time to get down to a little business. This month's meeting will feature the "State of the Association" where we will get detailed reports from club officers to bring visibility to the membership roster, meeting attendance, financial standing, engineering projects and other things to bring everyone up-to-date. This will be a great precursor to the election meeting in November and will be a good time to test out the new meeting location with a relatively low-pressure presentation. Plan to be at the meeting because we will want to hear your ideas for future meeting presentations and opinions about other club functions. I hope to see you all at Cooper's Ale House on October 24.

Thanks again,
Scott

*****New Meeting Place*****

Please make note of the new meeting place.

Cooper's Ale House in the Wyndham Garden Greensboro
in Salon D Room, located at 415 S. Swing Road,
Greensboro, NC. Meal time is 6:30 PM; meeting starts
at 7:15 PM. A link to the menu is listed below:

: <http://coopersalehousenc.com/menu/>

NEXT MEETING Monday, Oct. 24th

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, Oct. 24th, at Cooper's Ale House, Salon D Room, Wyndham Garden Greensboro, 415 S. Swing Rd. Greensboro, NC. This month's program: Club business – "State of the Association."

GARA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – Oct., 2016

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on October 10th 2016 at Coopers Alehouse restaurant located at 415 Swing Road in Greensboro.

The members present were; Cameron Conover AJ4TW, Scott Toth KV4UP, David Bond KK4VCG, Tom Bertolino KB1P and Greg Spencer KG4UQV. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

We discussed who will be running for re-election and who will be stepping down.

We discussed the nominating committee.

We discussed the presentation for the October meeting.

We looked at one of the meeting rooms to see if it was suitable for club meetings.

Scott Toth KV4UP made a motion to adjourn, David Bond KK4VCG seconded and the meeting ended at 8:05 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes – Sept., 2016

The Greensboro Amateur radio association held their regular monthly meeting on September 26th 2016 at Captain Bills Seafood located at 6108 W. Market Street in Greensboro. Scott Toth KV4UP opened the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Scott asked everyone to identify themselves and thanked everyone for coming.

Scott said the officer elections will be coming up soon.

Scott also said we are thinking of combining the Technical net and the information nets into one. This will be for a few weeks or possibly longer.

Scott gave the bank account balances for David Bond KK4VCG who was not in attendance

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 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

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

Scott spoke about the repeater control issues and said we may need to send the controller back to the factory for repair. Betty Williams KC2BFN, Tom Bertolino KB1P and Greg Spencer KG4UQV had nothing to report. Scott gave the report on the CHIRP radio programming software. Linda Worland KW4UD made a motion to accept the minutes as published; Tom Bertolino KB1P seconded. The motion passed. The meeting closed at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by;
Greg Spencer KG4UQV
GARA Secretary

From the President's Shack

President's Shack October 2016

October is my favorite month; I love the weather and the fall foliage. I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy it. It's a great time of year to get outside with your portable set up and have some fun. Go out and catch some NPOTA action, or just set up in the yard and have a rag-chew while you enjoy the beautiful weather and scenery.

October is also nominations season for GARA. We are looking for a treasurer in particular. Someone with the time and skills to take care of GARA's treasury. This is arguably one of the most important jobs on the board, and the treasurer does enjoy the assistance of the entire board, so don't think you'd be in it on your own. If you or someone you know would like to help GARA in this way, please let me or anyone on the board know.

I'm excited to be taking advantage of a new meeting place this month. I hope everyone really enjoys it. Please support Cooper's Ale House with your patronage if you can. Our continued use of this very nice facility depends on whether or not it is worth it to them to continue to set up for us and provide us with wait staff. Even if it's just a drink or desert, please consider supporting our use of this facility in this way. At the very least, consider leaving a small tip for the waiter or waitress that serves our group. Every little bit will help us be able to take advantage of this clean modern facility.

I hope to see everyone next Monday at the new place, you can find location and other information at:

<http://www.w4gso.org/event/gara-club-meeting-october/>

Come on out and have some fun with your fellow radio enthusiasts!

See you soon!

73 Cameron, AJ4TW

Hello, GARA Members.

I am working on wrapping up any loose ends before the end of the year, including hopefully getting EchoLink back up and running smoothly and issue-free so it can be relocated without worry of needing constant hands-on attention. I began working on an anonymous member survey some months ago and then failed to disseminate said survey to the membership. Please click on the following link and take a few minutes to answer the survey as accurately as possible as your answers will assist the board in making future decisions in the best interest of the club.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GARA>

Please do this as soon as possible as the survey will only be available for a limited time. The survey is 100% anonymous. Thank you in advance for helping us help you.

73, Patrick Moore, K2CPR

October Engineering Update

The past month has been another slow month ham radio, and a very busy month at work. Traditionally a busy time of year for us anyway, coupled with a lot of training is making for longer hours. In turn I've been much less interested in radio and more interested in sleep!

I hope to get back on the bandwagon soon, there is still a lot of new DX showing up on the low bands and I've got a lot of things I want to get done for the VHF/UHF bands as well.

One thing I did pick up, in line with my last month's report is the RTL SDR dongle made by FlightAware. Another boutique RTL SDR dongle, made specifically for SDR use instead of DVB-TV reception, it is made by FlightAware for enhanced ABS-D reception. ABS-D is used by aircraft to transmit location on 1090 MHz. In conjunction with software you can plot aircraft location of any of you receive in your area, range depending on your setup. In my personal testing with a indoor portable antenna my average was around 70 miles, with a few further. FlightAware also sells a 1090 MHz bandpass filter that goes inline between the antenna and their dongle for enhanced reception by filtering out of band signals.

The Flightaware dongle is built well, has a built in preamp, and a SMA connector. They be picked up off Amazon.com for 17 dollars. The filter is 20 dollars. If not using their bandpass filter I would highly recommend using at least a FM broadcast band rejection filter to help with the RTL dongles reception.

I normally break my engineering report down to into two reports, one for each repeater. However this month I don't have much to report. I'm awaiting on the processor upgrade on the controller for the 145.150 machine, and the Dstar machine has been running well enough that it's not required my personal attention on the RF side. We did power cycle it once this month remotely which seems to help it on the RX side. Steve K4SQI and Scott KV4UP have been keeping up with the I.T. side of the business with the Dstar repeater, keeping up updated and running smoothly.

I have a few extra days off coming up soon and I plan on going out to make sure power out and SWR are still inline, looking for anything that needs to be done and a general cleaning of the area around the machines. One thing I will be listening for now that we are going into colder weather and lower humidity is if the perennial noise problem that we have on the VHF machine comes back this year. We did not have the DR1x online last winter, and it would be good information to see if something has changed.

K4AX
Jesse Lindley



AO-7 Still Going Strong after Almost 42 Years in Space

In a little more than a month, the venerable [AO-7](#) Amateur Radio satellite will mark 42 years in space. AMSAT says AO-7, the oldest ham radio satellite still in operation, is now switching between Mode A and Mode B on a daily basis, after coming up in Mode A on September 30.

"That suggests that the satellite is now in constant sunlight and receiving enough power from the solar cells for the 24-hour timer to stay on throughout its entire orbit," AMSAT-NA Secretary Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, said. "Expect daily mode switches between Mode A and Mode B to occur for the next 3 months or so. As AO-7's orbit precesses and the periods of constant sunlight become fewer and fewer, there will be less of an opportunity to use Mode A on a yearly basis, so enjoy it while it lasts!"

In Mode A, earthbound amateurs transmit on 2 meters and receive on 10 meters. Stoetzer said the type of 10-meter antenna isn't fussy. "Try whatever you can," he said. When continuously illuminated, AO-7's mode will alternate between Modes A and B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) every 24 hours.

November 15 will mark 42 years since AO-7 was launched into space from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. AO-7 was the second so-called "Phase 2" Amateur Radio satellite that AMSAT-NA constructed and launched into low-Earth orbit. It remained in operation until a short circuit occurred in a battery in 1981. More than 20 years later, however, AO-7 unexpectedly returned to life, its 2-meter beacon showing up on 145.9775 MHz. Satellite experts speculate that AO-7's resurrection occurred when the short circuit in the battery opened up for some reason, allowing the solar cells to power the spacecraft. When the satellite goes into eclipse, it powers down.



Last February Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Arkansas [achieved a distance milestone](#) on AO-7 using Mode B to work Eduardo Erlemann, PY2RN (GG66lw), in Brazil -- a path of 8030.895 kilometers. -- *Thanks to AMSAT-NA, AMSAT News Service*

CLYDE SAWYER, JR, WC9CW, NEW NET CONTROL STATION FOR TAR HEEL EMERGENCY NET – Clyde Sawyer, WC9CW of Albemarle has volunteered to become the Net Control Station for the Tar Heel Emergency Net on Wednesday evenings. Clyde WC9CW has just been appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Stanly County. The Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) is looking for a Net

Manager and additional Net Control Stations. All individuals with ARES appointments – Assistant Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and District Emergency Coordinators – should consider participating as the Net Manager or as a Net Control Station. For further information, see <http://www.ncarrrl.org/nets/THEN/index.html> or contact Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager, at w4chx at arrl dot org. Again, thanks to Clyde WC9CW for supporting the Tar Heel Emergency Net!

(source: NC ARRL website)

Congratulations! You passed.

October 8th VE Test Session Greensboro



Frank T. Cook Jr. Salisbury
Earned Technician

KM4YFN

September 24th VE Test Session (High Point)

H. Anthony Alexander, Thomasville

KM4WXN

Earned Technician

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 October 8th 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 27726. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact information is David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

NORTH CAROLINA HAM WINS ROOKIE PLAQUE IN 2016 CQWW WPX SSB CONTEST – The following information was received from Tom Lewis, N4TL: "... Tucker [McGuire] W4FS from Efland, NC won the Rookie Plaque in the 2016 CQWW WPX SSB contest. His picture is in this month's CQ magazine.

Congratulations Tucker! ..." Thanks to Tom Lewis, N4TL, Vice President, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, for providing this information!

AMATEUR RADIO – MILITARY INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISE SET FOR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1 – An Amateur Radio-military interoperability exercise will take place October 31 and November 1. The event will begin at

1200 UTC on October 31 and continue through 2359 UTC on November 1 on

60 meter channels 1-4 – 5.3305 MHz, 5.3465 MHz, 5.357 MHz, and 5.3715 MHz, respectively. During this exercise, military stations will attempt to make radio contact with stations in as many of the 3007 US counties as possible. Radio amateurs providing "county status" information will receive a US Department of Defense "interoperability QSL card." For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-military-interoperability-exercise-set-for-october-31-november-1>
(source: ARRL website)

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –

November 20: JARSFest 2016, Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Benson, NC, <http://www.jars.net>

January 14, 2017: Winston-Salem FirstFest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC, http://www.w4nc.com/ws_classic_hamfest_2016.htm

We are officially kicking off Frostfest 2017! The largest hamfest in the Mid-Atlantic will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

www.frostfest.com is the place to find all the information about this great hamfest! Sales are open!

Many of your favorite vendors are already committed, and there will be more to come. Get a table or two and sell your excess equipment.

Check out all the details at www.frostfest.com

Discounted Group Rate: Courtyard Marriott Richmond, \$89/night. [Hotel Reservation Link](#) Pre-Show "Meet & Greet" will be held in the hotel lobby, Friday @ 7:30pm.

March 10-11, 2017: Charlotte Hamfest, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Concord, NC,

<https://charlottehamfest.org/> April 15, 2017: Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio

Association, Morganton, NC, <http://cvhamfest.com> April 15, 2017: 45th Annual RARSFest/ARRL

Roanoke Division Convention, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest/>

April 28-29, 2017: 2017 SVHFS Conference, Southeastern VHF Society, Charlotte, NC, <http://svhfs.org>

September 1-3, 2017: 61st Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL North Carolina State Convention, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC, <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org> It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's 2016 hamfest! For more information, see <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events> (source: ARRL website)

Calendar of Events

Oct 24	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", 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 20	JARSfest 2016 (Benson, NC, Johnston Amateur Radio Society, http://www.jars.net)
Nov 26	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Nov 28	GARA Elections/General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", 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	Winston-Salem Firstfest (Winston-Salem, NC http://www.w4nc.com)
Jan 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jan 23	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", 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 (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", 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 25	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Mar 27	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Apr 8	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Apr 10	GARA Board Meeting
Apr 15	Roanoke Division Convention/ Raleigh Hamfest (http://rars.org/rarsfest)
Apr 15	Catawba Valley Hamfest (Morganton, NC, http://cvhamfest.com)
Apr 24	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Apr 28	2017 SVHFS Conference (Charlotte, NC, http://svhfs.org)
Apr 29	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
May 8	GARA Board Meeting
May 13	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
May 22	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
May 27	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 6:30 pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at Cooper's Ale House, 415 S. Swing Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Please plan to gather at 6:30 pm for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 pm

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – at 8:30 pm, 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 8:45pm, 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 Nov. 2016 to Feb., 2017

Nov. 12, 2016

Dec. 10, 2016

Jan. 14, 2017

Feb. 11, 2017

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

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Greensboro, NC 27417

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA