



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line



Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad

Betty Williams , KC2BFN Editor

www.w4gso.orginfo@w4gso.org

This Month's Program

Well, it's been a great year with a lot of interesting presentations, fun special events, and good times enjoying ham radio and each other.

I'm looking forward to another great year in 2018, but first, we need to decide who will lead the club. Thankfully we have at least one person running for each board position, but we need everyone who is able to attend the meeting on Monday, November 27 to make sure that we have enough eligible members to make a quorum. We had that problem a couple of years back and needed to postpone the vote until January.

Please make every effort to be at this meeting so that we can go into the new year strong! I look forward to seeing you then.

Thanks!
Scott

GARA ELECTIONS

Election of officers for 2018.

List of candidates inside the Feedline. Page 4

Be at the meeting to make your
voice count.

NEXT MEETING November 27, 2017

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at the Cooper's Ale House on Swing Road in Greensboro on Nov. 27, 2017. The program will be the election of 2018 club officers.

The annual "**Ham Radio Christmas Social**" will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017

LOCATION: Libby Hill Seafood Restaurant, 3011 Randleman Rd., Greensboro, NC

Arrival time this year is **6:00 p.m.**

At this time, I have not secured musical entertainment for the event. The two groups which have performed for us in years past are not available this year. If any of you have contacts with any group or individual musician who would possibly perform for gratuities and a meal, contact me by email or phone (336-314-0167)

There is no admission fee for this event. We ask that you bring some canned goods or other non-perishables which will be donated to the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

All amateur radio operators, their families and/or guests are invited. This notice is being sent to the G.A.S. and G.A.RA. members on my email list and there may be some newer Hams who will not be notified. So, please mention this event to any ham who you think may not know about it.

We have a nice large private room reserved. Upon entering the restaurant, go to your right and the room is straight ahead.

Jim Hightower
W4jlh@bellsouth.net

ARE YOU BENEFITING FROM THE ARRL WEBSITE?

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW
 Vice-President Scott Toth, KV4UP
 Treasurer Jaimie Restrepo, N4JAI
 Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
 Financial Chandlee White, KJ4ADX
 Engineering Chair Jesse Lindley, K4AX
 Operations Chair John Strandberg W4DX
 Members-at-Large:
 Chris Thompson, K4HC
 Gregory Ray, K4MHY
 Appointed Positions:
 Public Information Officer
 Newsletter Editor
 Betty Williams KC2BFN

A few topics to consider:

- Logbook of the World
- International Operating
- Tutorials
- Special Event Stations
- Contests
- QSL Services

Explore the website www.arrl.org and learn something new or refresh something old.

The Feed Line is ©2017 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

GARA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – November 2017

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on November 13 2017 at the Coopers Ale house located at 415 swing road in Greensboro. The members present were; Cameron Conover AJ4TW, Scott Toth KV4UP, Chan White KJ4ADX, Chris Thompson K4HC, Greg Ray KK4MHY and Greg Spencer KG4UQV.

The meeting started at 7:15

We discussed the antenna for the 145.150 VHF Repeater. AT&T will be working on the tower soon and they have offered to help us repair out antenna issue.

We discussed how difficult it is to get people to volunteer their time to support their club.

We discussed nominations for 2018 club officers. The slate of officers is

Scott Toth KV4UP president
Dave McMillan AC4A vice president
Jaime Restrepo N4JAI Treasurer
Chan White Financial Officer
Matt Trull KM4QPU Engineering
Chris Thompson K4HC member at large
Greg Ray KK4MHY Secretary

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 2017

The Greensboro Amateur radio association held their regular monthly meeting on October 23rd 2017 at Coopers Alehouse located at 415 S. Swing Road in Greensboro.

The meeting started early and was already under way when I arrived so I do not have the minutes for the meeting.

The Presentation was given by Jonathan Davis KM4UOB on wireless networking.

The meeting closed at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted by;
Greg Spencer KG4UQV
GARA Secretary

Report of the Nominating Committee

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

For the Annual Election of Club Officers – November 2017

The nominating committee, consisting of Matthew Trull, KX4GG; and Patrick Moore, K2CPR; was constituted at the monthly club meeting on 23 October, 2017, for the purpose of seeking out and presenting a slate of nominees for the role of officers of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association for the calendar year of 2018.

The officers to be elected are: President; Vice-President; Engineering Chair; Financial Chair; Operations Chair; Treasurer; Secretary; and (2) Members-at-Large. The duties and responsibilities of each officer are detailed in the club by-laws.

The below listed persons, being members in good standing at the time of election in the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association; each having agreed to serve in the nominated positions for the 2018 calendar year for the club, are presented to the club, subject to the addition of nominees from the floor for any and all positions for club officer during the Annual Meeting in November. Members so nominated must either be present and agree to serve if elected, or provide written agreement of same to a member of the nominating committee if not present at the election. Nominees must be current members in good standing of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association, be a licensed amateur, and be at least 18 years of age.

Voting for club officers will occur at the Annual Meeting on Monday, November 27th, 2017. The meeting will take place at Cooper's Ale House, Salon "D", or another meeting space so designated by the Cooper's Ale House staff, 415 S. Swing Rd, Greensboro, NC 27409. The meeting begins at 7:15 pm.

Members unable to attend and desiring to vote may present their selections to a member of the nominating committee prior to the election, preferably by E-mail to matt.trull@gmail.com and/or patrickmoore13@gmail.com.

FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT	Scott Toth, ND4L
FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT	David McLin, AC4A
FOR THE OFFICE OF ENGINEERING CHAIR	Matt Trull, KX4GG
FOR THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL CHAIR	Chandlee White, KJ4ADX
FOR THE OFFICE OF OPERATIONS CHAIR	John Strandberg, W4DX
FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER	Jaime Restrepo, N4JAI
FOR THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY	Gregory Ray, KK4MHY

FOR THE OFFICE OF MEMBER AT LARGE
(Vote for two)

Chris Thompson, K4HC

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Trull, KX4GG

Patrick Moore, K2CPR

From the President's Shack

November 2017

Well, this is it. It's my last Feedline as your President of GARA. I must say it has been an honor to serve on the board of directors of this awesome club for the past four years. I may one day return to the service of this club in an official capacity, but for now I need to focus on some other things in my life.

I am proud of what we as a club have accomplished over the last four years. We have a cool new website that is easy to update and edit. We have some new events we like to do, GARA Field Day and North Carolina QSO party, and we have some modern equipment in the radio house at the tower site. There is also our non-profit status and our new fund raising efforts with donated equipment, Amazon Smile, and GARA swag sales. I think it's been a productive four years from this group of volunteers who serve the club. All that stuff could have been done without my help, and a lot of it really was, but the point is that it's a group effort, no one board member or club member can really make it happen without the help of others. I intend to continue to serve the club as a member of both the Engineering Committee and the Operations Committee. I am looking forward to the new perspective and energy that the new board members will bring to GARA. I am also looking forward to seeing the participation from the membership of GARA continue to grow.

I can't wait to see the record setting turn out on Monday night for the GARA elections! I hope you all will join me in supporting the new board and giving of your time and talents when the opportunity arises.

Thank you, GARA!

Cameron, AJ4TW

November Engineering Report

November has flown by and as I write this I'm chasing down late night DX on 40/80m on Thanksgiving Day, trying to fill out the log and get 200 DXCC mixed confirmed and 100 DXCC entities confirmed on 40m. A goal I've been chasing for a while! A big contest is coming up this weekend and maybe that will happen. This month I have not been on HF as much as I'd hoped, but the new JT8 mode has lured me back in a bit, as well as a camping trip that gave me some time to do some HF portable ops with my Yaesu FT-857 and a 31ft fiberglass pole to support an end fed wire.

I also spent some time researching Outernet this month, a free satellite based data service that is RX only and datacasts information such as news, weather, news, and other information that comes across a website

interface. It's in the Sat L band 1539.8725 MHz and can be picked up with simple antennas and a RTL SDR receiver. <https://store.outernet.is/> has a RTLSDR receiver that is custom made for better reception of the service, with a bandpass filter and preamp built in. They also have a couple of antennas with and without preamps and bandpass filters built in to use with the receiver they sell or an unmodified RTLSDR. Unfortunately I've not had the time to get fully into it, but I have gotten as far as receiving the signal and plan to have it setup with a Raspberry Pi or CHIP computer soon to make a Wi-Fi hotspot. I figured I'd pass the info along and maybe do a better write up in the future.

145.150 VHF FM/C4FM

The VHF repeater has been a real bother this month, in that it has stopped repeating a few times, usually on around the first of the week but other days as well, and more so in the morning. A remote reboot gets it going again but we have been chasing this down for a while now. On the 23rd members of the Engineering committee went out to the repeater site and swapped the repeater to our backup DR1x, which is newer and has a different firmware branch than our DR1x that is about a year older. Scott ND4L reported that he found a loose connection on the power to the Scom controller, and the UPS needs a replacement battery. The crew also de-racked the older equipment that will not be used in the future to clean up the install in the cabinets. It will be interesting to see if we have the same issue going forward after the work was done.

Also our repeater antenna was once again blown over in the strong storms that came in late October or early November. A tower crew that serviced the AT&T cell antennas at the site set it straight and tightened up the mount.

UHF 442.8625 Dstar repeater

The Dstar repeater has been working fine yet for another month. Steve K4SQI maintains the Dstar gateway for us, and keeps our installation up to date. We still have not converted our gateway to the newest Dplus installation, and that may happen in the future as we have the software and briefly tested it. However at the time we couldn't get it working with our custom controller so it's been on the back burner. We are also looking at getting a multimode option put in place of the Icom equipment that would allow us to keep Dstar but also add DMR and C4FM. Sometime in the future we hope to test it to see if it's a viable solution to replace the aging Dstar repeater, and the two ten year old computers required to run it with just a Yaesu DR1x, MMDVM board, and a Raspberry Pi or other single board low power computer running Linux.

This brings up an important note for the future, the engineering committee is a group of people volunteers to help any engineering chairman get things done. All of us have a full time job, and can't always be available to get something done immediately. However having several members available with different abilities and areas of expertise really helps. I plan staying on board the committee, but not as chairman, and I hope the new chairman for 2018 will be helped as much as I have been. My main goal as Engineering Chairman was simplify things, and get equipment that could be checked over, and programmed/changed, with manufacturing support if needed. So, in the future as others take the position, they are not stuck with equipment that is 40 years old that has no official support.

I have really enjoyed serving the club as Engineering Chairman and will look forward to helping the new Chairman for 2018!

Jesse Lindley K4AX



Foy Flowers, W4FOY, SK



Foy F. Flowers, 76, passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the Hospice Home in High Point. Foy was born on August 12, 1941 in Mecklenburg County, NC, the son of Horace Foy and Ollie Beavers Flowers. He was employed with Gilbarco in the assembly division until his retirement. Foy was an active member of Friendly Ave. Baptist Church for the past 21 years. He was a Ham Radio operator, W4FOY, and a member of the Gate City Lions Club. Foy family was very important to him and he always enjoyed time spent with family...

Foy's funeral will be held at Friendly Avenue

Baptist Church ([4800 W. Friendly Ave. Greensboro, NC 27410](#)) this Sunday, November 26. Visitation will begin at 1:00 PM followed by the Celebration of Life in the church sanctuary at 2:00 PM interment will follow the service at the Lakeview Memorial Park ([3600 N O. Henry Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27405.](#))

VE Testing

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 December 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, 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.

Look Who Passed

From High Point, NC – 10/28/17



John E. Goggin, KN4GOP
Summerfield, NC
earned General

Richard J. Murdock
Thomasville, NC
earned Technician

From Greensboro, NC – 10/14/17

John E. Goggin, KN4GOP earned his Technician ticket in Greensboro

Alan A. Duke, KN4GOO, earned Technician, Greensboro ***No Picture available.***



Daniel E. Francis III, KN4GOQ, Liberty, NC, earned Technician

ASHEVILLE RADIO MUSEUM

Room 315 Elm Building, Victoria Road, A B Tech Community College
Asheville, NC 28801

Asheville Radio Museum Annual Fund Drive

We teach. We preserve. We demonstrate. We inspire. All with a small group of unpaid volunteers who do it for the love of radio.

Admission is always free. With no source of funding, other than infrequent sale of duplicate equipment, we need your help.

North Carolina hams, please stand with us! Use the Donate button on our [home page](#) (www.avlradiomuseum.org). It accepts Paypal or a credit card. Or, mail your check to The Asheville Radio Museum, 315 Elm Building, 340 Victoria Road, Asheville NC 28801.

Help keep the spirit of ham radio alive in North Carolina. Thanks for your support!

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY was established in 1999 by National Weather Service and ARRL to celebrate the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN amateur radio operators made to public safety during threatening weather. During this event amateur radio operators man radios at participating National Weather Service sites, and contact other Hams around the world. This year's SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2017.

During SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY, National Weather Service stations maybe be on the air, December 2, 2017, from 0000 to 2400 UTC (actual on air time may vary depending on the site). The object is to contact as many National Weather Service stations as possible during the allotted time.

FEEDLINE

Modes used during the event are; SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31.

Bands used during the event are; 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters.

The exchange is; call sign, signal report, QTH, and a description of the weather at your location which includes an one or two word description of the weather (“sunny”, “partly cloudy”, “windy”, etc.).

The list of National Weather Service stations participating in SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY and their possible frequencies is normally not published until about three to four days before the event. For more information on SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY visit these sites: <http://www.arrl.org/skywarn-recognition-day> and

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Weather_Service_Weather_Forecast_Offices

For your information: The oldest continuously Operating Weather Station in North America is the Blue Hill Observatory, located in a castle-like building on top of Blue Hill, Milton, MA. If you are interested in contacting the Blue Hill Observatory. They will be on the air, Dec 2, from approximately 0900 to 1500 (EST). Their call sign is WX1BHO. The station will be manned by members of the Boston Amateur Radio Club. They are planning to run three radios stations with one deicated for CW on 15 meters.



Established in the February 1, 1885, Blue Hill Observatory, Milton, MA is oldest continuously operating weather station in North America.

The ARRL Regulatory Information Branch is responsible for interpretations of Amateur Radio regulatory issues. These include:

- Concerns about FCC rules and regulations,

- Applications for a new or renewed amateur licenses,

- Changes of address

- Vanity call sign applications and operations overseas

Calendar of Events

Nov 27	GARA's Election (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Dec 2	SKYWARN Recognition Day (http://www.arrl.org/skywarn-recognition-day)
Dec 2	Christmas Social, Libby Hill Seafood Restaurant, Greensboro, (Jim w4jllh @ w4jllh@bellsouth.net)
Dec 9	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Dec 11	GARA Board Meeting (transition meeting)
Dec 25	No GARA General Meeting this month
Jan 6	Winston-Salem FirstFest (5422 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, NC)
Jan 8	GARA Board Meeting
Jan 13	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jan 22	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Jan 27	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Feb 10	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Feb 12	GARA Board Meeting
Feb 24	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Feb 26	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Mar 9	North Carolina Section Convention (Charlotte Hamfest) http://charlottehamfest.org
Mar 12	GARA Board Meeting
Mar 17	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Mar 26	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Mar 31	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Mar 31	North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest http://rars.org/hamfest)
Apr 9	GARA Board Meeting
Apr 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Apr 23	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Apr 28	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
May 12	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
May 14	GARA Board Meeting
May 26	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
May 28	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Jun 9	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jun 11	GARA Board Meeting
Jun 23-24	Field Day
Jun 25	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Jun 30	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Jul 9	GARA Board Meeting
Jul 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Jul 16	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Jul 21	Mid-Summer Swapfest (Cary, NC) http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/
Jul 28	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 GARA Sunday evening net. This features a rag chew followed by News and Information including Amateur Radio Newsline. It is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Scott Toth, ND4L and Cameron Conover, AJ4TW are always looking for net controls.

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 145.150, W4GSO repeater until further notice. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

THURSDAYS – at 9pm, The Guilford County ARES Net meets on the 145.150

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 Staryhgbbucks at Edney Ridge Rd.

The W4VEC Testing Schedule Dec. 2017 to Mar. 2018

Dec. 9, 2017

Jan. 13, 2018

Feb. 11, 2018

Mar. 17, 2018

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

repeater (100 Hz. tone).

GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz. tone

442.8625 MHz. + offset, Digital D-Star



Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 39829

Greensboro, NC 27438

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA