



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

At the beginning of last month's meeting we had a short presentation by Kenny Grabarczyk, KK4HAO about a new National Traffic System net that he is trying to establish in the Triad.

Since there was a good bit of interest in this topic, and since we didn't have time to go through all of the details, Kenny has offered to return this month to provide more insights into the net and show us how it will work.

This is your opportunity to learn about NTS, ask questions, and find a way to become involved.

I hope to see you all there on Monday, September 25!

Thanks!
Scott



More Shelby Hamfest pictures inside!!

NEXT MEETING September 25, 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 Sept. 25, 2017. The program will be The National Traffic system presented Kenny KK4HAO. Come for dinner at 6:30 PM; meeting starts at 7:15 PM

QST UPDATE

What is a digital edition?

The digital edition of *QST* is an electronic form of the journal. All ARRL members have access to the digital edition of *QST*...a way to read and interact with the current issue of *QST* anytime, anywhere. Each issue includes unique, digital-edition-only content such as video, audio features and extra content. Members can also access the digital archive for access to previous issues.

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The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

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 Appointed Positions:
 Public Information Officer
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 Betty Williams KC2BFN

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

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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.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – September 2017

There was no Board meeting in September.

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 2017

The Greensboro Amateur radio association held their regular monthly meeting on August 28th 2017 at Coopers Alehouse located at 415 S. Swing Road in Greensboro.

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

Cameron asked that everyone identify themselves.

Cameron asked for volunteers to help man the tables at the Shelby hamfest this coming weekend.

Cameron presented the 2nd place award that GARA won in the NC QSO party to John Strandberg W4DX who hosted the event at his business.

Cameron spoke about the Shelby Hamfest.

Kenny Grabarczyk KK4HAO from Alamance County spoke about the piedmont traffic net which is used a lot during hurricanes and other disasters. It can be heard on the 146.82 repeater nightly at 9:30PM. Kenny spoke about what NTS is and how it works. Patrick Moore K2CPR spoke about his experience with NTS as a teenager and the value of it. Chan White invited Kenny to come to an Auxcomm meeting.

Scott Toth N4DL Gave the presentation on computer networking.

The meeting closed at 8:47PM

Respectfully submitted by;
Greg Spencer KG4UQV
GARA Secretary

From the President's Shack

September 2017

I just got home from FreeGate at Qorvo, it was really fun to see everyone there and share ideas and trade some parts around.

I'm actually very surprised that I didn't see more of you out there, it's right in our back yard, it doesn't cost a dime to drive right up and have a look around, if you want to sell some things on your tailgate, that doesn't cost a dime either. It's FreeGate. I hope we have a great turn out next time, I'm thankful for what Qorvo as a company and what KD4RF as a club do for our local ham radio community with FreeGate.

I also want you to be thinking about elections. We have a really good group of dedicated people on the board right now, and everyone seems to be working together great. But, I don't think we will all be able to return for 2018. I hope that some of you are willing to take up the mantel. We need some more people who care about the future of GARA who are willing to step up and help maintain and guide our great club. So please think about how you may be able to help GARA in the coming year. And, thank you very much to those who have served in 2017, it has been a real pleasure working with the board this year.

I will see you all Monday night, looking forward to another great meeting. I appreciate all the feedback we got from last month's meeting and I think this month will be building on that momentum.

73, Cameron, AJ4TW

September Engineering Report

We had fun this month setting up a table at the Shelby Hamfest. Regrettably the show attendance was down, due to rising gas prices/shortages at the beginning of the month and questionable weather that turned out to be great on Saturday. The GARA table sold a decent amount of equipment that will help with future expenses the club endures.

This year I will not run as Engineering Chairman for the club again. I've always believed that GARA board positions should not be filled by the same people constantly, that others should serve on the board and to help run the club. I will stay on the Engineering Committee to help out if needed. I've really enjoyed doing this over the past few years and I'm happy I was able to get a few things done that will help out others that take on the job in the future. The biggest strength of the Engineering Committee is it's members and all skill sets they bring to the table, the communication with each other, and the desire to get things done when needed at a moment's notice when things go south. I've found myself unexpectedly at the repeater site many times over the past few years, with someone helping me out at a moment's notice to keep our equipment on the air. It's been a pleasure working with everyone and I look forward to still doing so, just not as Engineering Chairman. My work schedule has kept me from a lot of board and club meetings and I feel that someone could probably do a much better job as Engineering Chair.

Continued on page 5

Engineering Report – continued

On the repeater month it has been a bit slow, like last month everything has been chugging along just fine. As always we have things that need to be done and plans for the future, more controller programming for additional features, AR newslines played from the repeater controller itself, and downloaded and played by a macro controlled by net control instead of being played by a remote user. We are also looking at what to do with the Dstar repeater if we suffer a future failure and how to keep Dstar on the air since we currently have a computer based custom controller that is no longer supported by its maker and is coming up on 10 years old with a locked in feature set.

On another note I hope as many people as possible can join the Carolina Link Net test that K4SQI and a few others have set up for this coming Thursday, September 28th @9pm on the Dstar XRF054c reflector that the W4GSO Dstar repeater will be linked to, if on DMR the BrandMeister DMR talk group 31254, or Yaesu C4FM on FCS003/ room 33 with your hotspot or local repeater if they are linked up.

Jesse K4AX
Engineering Chair

Pictures from Shelby Hamfest



Carolina Link Digital Net

Please join us on Thursday, September 28th, at 9:00 PM for the first ever Carolina Link Digital Net! We're encouraging check-ins from everywhere to help us test & celebrate the Carolina Link, the Carolina's first all-digital multi-mode link system. Currently we have D-Star, DMR, and Fusion (C4FM) tied together. The Carolina Link went from an idea to reality within a short time thanks to several people including Steve, KA4YMY, Roland, W9HPX, Ray, KI4UDZ, Mark, W4BOG, Ken, KC4YOZ,, Jesse, K4AX, Scott, ND4L and input/assistance from several others including, Doug, W4DGB of the Alabama Link, Bill, KC8YQL, and Pascal, VA2PV. I'd like to personally thank all of you for helping me make this possible! Here's how you can join us for the net:

On the BrandMeister DMR network, using your hotspot or your local repeater, please use Talk Group 31254.

On D-Star, please join us on XRF054B.

On Fusion (C4FM) please join us on YSF Reflector "US BM TG 31254/Carolina Link" or via FCS003/33.

Ray, KI4UDZ will be your net control. He'll be hosting the net from a booth at the Stanly County Fair, demonstrating Amateur Radio to the public. How about we give him a good turn out? Thanks again & 73 de K4SQI!

Steve, K4SQI

Hurricane Redux: Amateur Radio Community Fires Up for Maria

Caribbean Island residents and the Amateur Radio community hardly had a chance to catch a breath from Hurricane Irma, as recovery operations continue, before Hurricane Maria was knocking on the door. The Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) activated September 18 on 14.325 MHz and on 7.268 MHz (after dark). The [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) activated the same day to track Hurricane Maria and its potential impact in the Caribbean. [WX4NHC](#), the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center, activated to receive weather information from both nets, while the Caribbean Emergency Weather Net ([CEWN](#)) was called up on September 18 on 3.815 MHz (and/or 7.188 and 7.182 MHz as propagation dictates) to provide round-the-clock coverage during the passage of Hurricane Maria and in the storm's immediate wake. It has been handling health-and-welfare traffic in and out of Dominica and is accepting [inquiries](#) via e-mail. (Indicate your name and location, as well as that of the party sought).



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened 60-meter interoperability nets on September 19, using Channel 1, 5.330.5 MHz (primary voice traffic) and Channel 2, 5.346.5 MHz (digital traffic). These will remain active until the storm has passed and the need for these nets no longer exists.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) has been on Delta II extended monitoring status on its 14.265 MHz frequency. "Although the US Virgin Islands were heavily damaged, it was apparent that they had some limited communications capabilities and other resources," SATERN National Liaison Bill Feist, WB8BZH, said on September 21. "Puerto Rican operators reported that there was an island-wide power and communications blackout. It was

reported that Amateur Radio seemed to be the only communications that were operational, and that was somewhat limited, as many 2-meter repeater systems were still not operational."



The Hurricane Maria 5-day "Cone of Probability." [NOAA graphic]

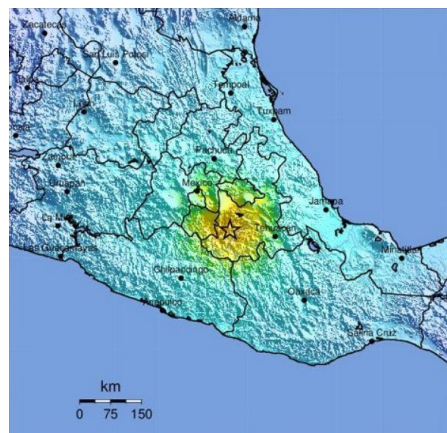
The Hurricane Watch Net, the VoIP Hurricane Net, and WX4NHC stood down on September 20. The HWN was active for about 60 hours.

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW at ARRL Headquarters resumed its normal schedule of transmissions on Thursday morning, although the station has not yet been reopened to visitors. W1AW will continue monitoring active nets and 60-meter interoperability channels as needed. The station was helping to support the communication response to Hurricane Maria, monitoring the HWN, SATERN, the VoIP Hurricane Net, and the Caribbean Emergency Weather Net ([CEWN](#)), as well as checking Winlink2000 e-mail and providing interoperability support by keeping various frequencies open for hurricane traffic. The station was staffed around the clock during the communication emergency.

Visit the ARRL website for updates on [Hurricane Maria](#) and [Hurricane Irma](#) news and information, as well as the ARRL [news page](#).

Amateur Radio Emergency Net Active in Wake of Earthquake in Central Mexico

The FMRE National Emergency Net (Red Nacional de Emergencia or RNE) activated Tuesday on 7.060 MHz following a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in the central Mexico state of Puebla at 1814 UTC. The epicenter was some 75 miles southeast of Mexico City, which also felt the temblor and suffered damage.



FMRE President Alfonso Tomez, XE2O, said participation from Mexican radio amateurs has been excellent, and two mobile communication units have been deployed, one south of Mexico City, where communication problems have been reported, and the other in communities surrounding the city, where communication problems exist. A FMRE representative has been stationed in the emergency operations center in Mexico City as well. Most of the traffic, Tomez said, has involved missing persons.

The FMRE National Emergency Net also may use 3.690 MHz and 14.120 MHz as well as IRLP reflector 9200 channel 08, and *EchoLink*.

Tomez said communication problems persist because of the heavy volume of calls and message traffic over the cell telephone networks. Around 300 people have been killed and 30 buildings collapsed, he said. The earthquake came 32 years to the day after a 1985 magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck Mexico City, killing some 9,500 people in and



around the capital city. Just one week ago, a magnitude 8.1 earthquake struck off Mexico's southern coast, killing more than 60 people and causing considerable damage.

JOTA 2017 Organizers Urge Scout Stations to Register Now

Scouting's Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI) event takes place over the October 20-22 weekend, and organizers are urging Scout stations planning to participate to [register](#) now. The world JOTA-JOTI team has activated its online sign-up system.

"Our number one message at this time is to register their station and get ready for [JOTA](#)," JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, told ARRL. "It's time for Scout groups to bring together their open action items -- ordering patches, printing handouts, gathering equipment, reminding staff members, verifying location, and getting the word out to the Scouts to be prepared for a fabulous experience talking with other Scouts across the country and hopefully around the world."



JOTA is the world's largest Scouting event, held annually over the third full weekend in October, and Scouts of any age can participate -- from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, male and female. During JOTA, Amateur Radio links Scouts with other Scouts and hams, locally and worldwide. Since the first JOTA in 1958, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event to exchange ideas and share experiences via ham radio. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in enduring friendships and connections.

According to the World Scout Bureau, the 2016 JOTA had nearly 1.3 million Scout participants from more than 30,000 locations, and reached 156 countries.

The World JOTA-JOTI team has published a [Participant's Guide](#) to help Scouts to get on the air and the internet for the largest Scouting event in the world. They've also published a brief history of the [60 years of Jamboree on the Air](#) as well as the [Top 10 Challenges and Activities in 2016](#) that might provide ideas for your event this year. An [online scheduling tool](#) is available too.

For participating via *EchoLink*, two conference nodes now have been designated for Scout contacts -- *JOTA-365* (node 480809) and *JAMBO* (node 832996). Visit the K2BSA Radio Scouting page for [more information](#) on frequencies, including D-STAR, DMR, and IRLP.

Two DHS Apps of Interest to ARES Operators

Here are two good apps from the US Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (DHS-OEC) of interest to ARES members:

<https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/enifog-mobile-app>

<https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/casm-mobile-finder>

Look Who 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 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 14th 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.

Results from High Point VE Session, August 26th

NO PICTURES WERE AVAILABLE ON THE NEW HAMPS FROM HIGH POINT

Carter, Micah A. K4GCS, WINSTON SALEM, NC, Earned EXTRA

Douglas, Scott B. KN4FNY, Charlotte, NC, Earned TECHNICIAN

Hutcherson, Marina D. KN4FOC, Winston-Salem, NC, Earned TECHNICIAN

Phillips, Bonnie M. KN4FNZ, Asheboro, NC, Earned TECHNICIAN

Phillips, Terry G. KN4FOA, Asheboro, NC, Earned TECHNICIAN

Reed, Alfred C. KN4FOB, Roanoke, VA, Earned TECHNICIAN

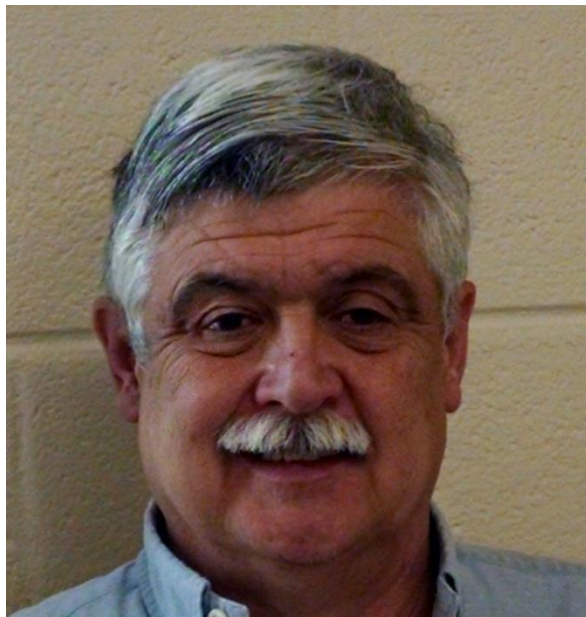
Results from Greensboro VE Session, Sept. 9th



LEWIS, ZACH I. KN4FSJ
GREENSBORO, NC
Earned TECHNICIAN



PAUL, CHRISTOPHER B. KN4FSK
MADISON, NC
Earned TECHNICIAN



TERRY, MARTIN V. KN4FSL

DURHAM, NC
Earned TECHNICIAN



YORK, JOHN-DAVID KN4FSM

GREENSBORO, NC 27407
Earned TECHNICIAN

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

October 14: Make A Wish, Trailblaze Challenge, 1100Z-2200Z, WA4TRS, Fairview, NC. The Road Show Amateur Radio Club. 28.365 14.270 7.275.

Certificate. The Road Show ARC, 57 Echo Lake Dr, Fairview, NC 28730.

wa4trs@gmail.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)



ARRL Now on Snapchat: ARRL is now on the Snapchat social media platform as ARRLHQ. Only used on mobile devices (iOS and Android), Snapchat is a way to share photos, videos, or a combination -- called "snaps" - which remain available for viewing for 24 hours. [Information](#) on how to get started on Snapchat, so you can follow ARRLHQ, is on the Snapchat website, along with [additional details](#).

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Fall Classic Set for First Weekend in October

The main weekend for the 2017 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is only a little more than a month away -- Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8. This primary League-sponsored national emergency exercise is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of ARES® and other organizations involved with emergency and disaster response.

"Every local ARES team and/or ARRL Section will come up with their own scenarios and work with [served agencies and partner organizations](#) during the SET," said ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, who pointed out that not all SETs will take place on the first full weekend of October.

"SETs can be scheduled at the local and Section levels and conducted throughout the fall season to help maximize participation," Ewald said, "and ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting their SETs on another weekend if October 7 and 8 are not convenient."

ARRL Field Organization Leaders -- Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, Section Traffic Managers, District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and all of their Assistants and Net Managers -- are among those tasked with developing plans and scenarios for this year's SET, Ewald explained.



"The SET invites all radio amateurs to become aware of emergency preparedness and available training," Ewald said. "ARES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Traffic System™, SKYWARN, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are encouraged to participate."

The object of the annual nationwide exercise is to test training and skills and to try out new methods. "It's a time to work with partner organizations and served agencies to get to know them better and to determine their needs *before* an emergency or disaster strikes," Ewald said. "Knowing who to contact within partner groups with the planned procedures will help everyone accomplish their goals and succeed in their missions."

To get involved, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. See the [ARRL Sections](#) pages or get in touch with your ARRL Section Manager (see page 16 of *QST* for contact information).

Calendar of Events

Sep 25	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Sep 30	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Oct 8	Maysville Hamfest (704 8th Street Maysville, NC 28555)
Oct 9	GARA Board Meeting
Oct 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Oct 23	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Oct 28	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Nov 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Nov 13	GARA Board Meeting http://www.jars.net
Nov 19	JARSFest 2017 (Benson, NC,)
Nov 25	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
Nov 27	GARA's Election (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Dec 9	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Dec 11	GARA Board Meeting (transition meeting)
Dec ?	Area Ham Christmas (holiday) Party TBA
Dec 25	No GARA General Meeting this month
Dec 30	VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
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 10	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Mar 12	GARA Board Meeting
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 25	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Jun 30	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

June 2017 to .Sep.2017

Oct. 14, 2017

Nov. 11, 2017

Dec. 9, 2017

Jan. 13, 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

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