



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line



Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad

Betty Williams, KC2BFN Editor

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)[info@w4gso.org](mailto:info@w4gso.org)

## This Month's Program

Welcome to the New Year! To kick us off, Chris Thompson (K4HC) has agreed to give us a presentation on DX Etiquette, how to work a pile up, and how to avoid being a lid. I'll also present some suggested topics for the rest of the year for your consideration. Suggestions are welcome. I hope to see you there!

Thanks!

Dave

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### NEXT MEETING

January 22, 2018

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at the Cooper's Ale House on Swing Road in Greensboro on Jan. 22, 2018. The program will be presented by Chris Thompson K4HC on DX Etiquette.  
Meeting starts at 7:15 PM.



The Mid-Atlantic's  
Largest Winter Hamfest!

Join us at Frostfest, the largest hamfest in the Mid-Atlantic, held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

[www.frostfest.com](http://www.frostfest.com) is the place to find all the information about this great hamfest!

**IMPORTANT INFO:** Tables are close to selling out, don't wait until the last minute - otherwise you'll be selling ham-gear out of your trunk instead of the warmth & comfort **INSIDE** Frostfest!

Reminder: We've got a great rate at the Holiday Inn, use the link below or call 804-236-1111, use code FRO (or Frostfest) when making a reservation by phone.

Check out all the details at [www.frostfest.com](http://www.frostfest.com)

Discounted Group Rate: Holiday Inn - Airport(New Location), \$95/night. [Hotel Reservation Link](#) Pre-Show "Meet & Greet" will be held in the hotel restaurant/lobby, Friday @ 7:30pm.

## ARE YOU BENEFITING FROM THE ARRL WEBSITE?

### The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Scott Toth KD4L

Vice-President Dave McLin AC4A

Treasurer Jaimie Restrepo, N4JAI

Secretary Gregory Ray KK4MHY

Financial Chandlee White, KJ4ADX

Engineering Chair Matt Trull KX4GG

Operations Chair John Strandberg W4DX

Members-at-Large:

Chris Thompson, K4HC

Jesse Lindley K4AX

*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](http://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 – January 2018**

**PRESENT:** Scott Toth - N4DL, Matt Trull - KX4GG, Chris Thompson - K4HC; Jaime Restrepo - N4JAI; David McLin - AC4A, Cameron Conover - AJ4TW, Jesse Lindley - K4AX, and Chandlee White - KJ4ADX.

**EXCUSED:** Greg Ray - KK4MHY

These notes were taken by Chandlee White, KJ4ADX in Greg's absence.

Scott Toth called the meeting to order and started getting reports.

Treasurer Jaime Restrepo - N4JAI reported that the membership process using the application on the W4GSO website and the link to PayPal is working very well. We now have 42 members that have paid their dues to date. There have only been about three people who sent in an application but did not follow up with a check or use PayPal. Jaime also reported that he has expanded the Membership Spreadsheet in Google Docs to show additional information. This spreadsheet shows all members, whether their dues are up to date or not. Jamie may explore whether there is a way to use PayPal to send a reminder to delinquent members.

The board members present briefly discussed recent intermittent interference issues. Tabled pending additional information.

Matt Trull - KX4GG told board members about recent work on the internet connection at the repeater site and proposed the board consider upgrading the internet to a connection with higher bandwidth and speed. Options are remaining with AT&T but moving to a **Business (12MB down/ 1.5 Mb up) connection** for about \$70 per month or changing to Spectrum Business Class (100 Mb down/ 10 Mb up) at \$70 per month. This connection would provide a Static ID. We would need to seek city approval to run the cable into the repeater shed. Matt recommended whatever plan we choose; we should establish GARA ownership of the account.

**ACTION:** Chris Thompson moved that Matt continue his research on best way to upgrade our internet connection for the repeater site. Seconded by Jaime, **APPROVED** by all board members present.

The board then discussed the possibility of providing GARA emails for officers and directors, using the server that the website currently resides on.

Matt Trull continued his report on work out at the repeater site. He has installed a new rack for equipment and now needs to clean up the cabling and 13.5 v power cables, etc. He asked for a budget of no more than \$200.00 to buy cables and a PowerPole connector block to help route all the power to various units in the rack.

**ACTION:** Chris Thompson moved the Board approve a budget of up to \$200 for Matt to move forward on the purchases noted. **SECONDED:** Jaime and **APPROVED** by all board members present.

The board then discussed various ways to start planning for replacement of the D-Star repeater and control unit, servers, etc. Jesse said that research should be done about buying a refurbished Yaesu DR-1 (X) that might be configured to do both D-Star and other digital modes.

**ACTION:** Chris Thompson moved we adjourn and Scott Toth seconded. All board members present **APPROVED**. Time 7:49 PM

There was a brief discussion about whether and where GARA might participate in the NC QSO Party this February, Jaime offered his back yard as a possible site.

## Regular Meeting Minutes – November 2017

No minutes were taken as this meeting was election of 2018 club officers only.



**World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 ([WRTC 2018](#)) has named [65 referees](#) (63 on site and 2 alternates).** These individuals will be monitoring the two-person competing teams during the competition July 14-15 in Germany. A referee will be at each station site to verify compliance with the rules and make decisions on any rule questions competitors may have. "The referees must be top-level contesters, because they must simultaneously listen to the audio from both operators for the entire 24 hours of the WRTC 2018 competition," WRTC 2018 said in making the announcement. Managing the referee application and verification process was Ulf Ehrlich, DL5AXX. More than 130 applied, and the selection process considered many factors, including geographical area, language skills, and SO2R ability. The Judging Committee of WRTC 2018, which Ehrlich heads, made the final choices.

### **Vietnam Vet, Radio Amateur Granted Dying Wish to Get on the Air One More Time**

Vietnam War veteran John Nugent, WA2EQJ, got on the air for what likely will be his final time earlier this month, thanks to help from the Amateur Radio community. The 75-year-old US Army Signal Corps veteran, who has cancer, lives at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois. Licensed since he was 16, he told a social worker at the facility that one item on his "bucket list" was to operate on ham radio one last time. Staffers at the facility got in touch with the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission, and replies came from the American Legion Amateur Radio Club, the North Shore Amateur Radio Club, and [Lake County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service](#) (RACES), among others.

# From the President's Shack

January 2018

Welcome to 2018! It's strange to write that date because feels like yesterday that we were just welcoming in the new millennium. Things move so quickly now that it's almost impossible to keep up with it all and it's no different in ham radio. Our options for new things to try increases daily, we can talk around the world without wires or with them, and prices keep falling which helps entice new enthusiasts into the hobby. Even with all of that, one thing remains: ham radio is as much about people as it is about technology. Without people, the technology is useless, and part of what makes amateur radio fun is meeting and getting to know new faces and learning new things from them. This is where a local club like GARA can have the biggest impact: bringing together diverse people who have a common interest and allowing us to develop strong relationships that broaden our horizons and help us to learn new things.

If you can't tell, I'm optimistic about where GARA is going, but so much of where we are is due to the people who have led us in the past. I'm very thankful to the outgoing board members who worked hard over the past year (and some for many years): Cameron Conover, AJ4TW who, as president, helped a number of visions become reality, especially in developing events where our club members can operate radios together among other things; Greg Spencer, KG4UQV who for so many years was the club's faithful secretary, rarely missing a board or general club meeting; and Jesse Lindley, K4AX who will stay on as Member at Large, but who, as Engineering Chair, dedicated a few years to maintaining and upgrading our repeater systems so that they are as stable and useful as possible. Please pass along your gratitude to these members when you see them.

I think you'll find that the new board is dynamic and creative and we already have a lot of ideas that should help this year to be one of the best yet. We're hoping to have a number of club operating opportunities, would like to update and improve our digital repeater setups (and believe it or not, a lot has already been done with that!), and want to reach out to more hams to join us on our journey. With that last point in mind, I would like to ask everyone to give some thought about what we can do to recruit new members while serving our existing membership better. You can always e-mail me with ideas or suggestions, or catch me on either GARA repeater.

Thanks for your continued support and I hope you all have a very Happy New Year! I'll see you on Monday at Cooper's.

Best,  
Scott

# January Engineering Report

Greetings GARA members! I am your newly elected Engineering Chair, Matt Trull KX4GG. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the club and have an active role in club business. Jesse Lindley, K4AX, will continue to be very active with the Engineering committee. This year we have several projects in the works that will benefit the club.

The first major project we have undertaken is the installation of a new server/equipment rack at the repeater site. Through my place of work I was able to secure a donation of a Dell 42U server rack, along with a sliding keyboard/monitor/KVM, server rails, power distribution units, and a few other things. This is a larger cabinet with ventilated doors and top to help with airflow and heat dissipation. Since the newer radio equipment we are using is smaller than the older GE equipment, we were able to consolidate it all into this one rack. We have some work to do with cable management to neaten up the installation, but things are already looking great. In the near future I hope to record a video walk-through of the site and installation once we finish things up. The new rack solution looks great and will be much more serviceable.

Our repeater controller for the 145.15 repeater has been updated to the latest firmware, including an updated speech library. This update is supposed to help clarify how the "S" sounds when used for voice messages.

We have been looking at options for upgrading our internet service at the repeater site. Currently we are on a DSL connection that is rated at 6Mb/s down and only 512Kb/s up. As many of you are aware we recently had an extended outage of this internet service. Replacing the DSL modem seems to fixed the issue for now. Upgrading the service would allow us the opportunity to extend our capabilities of the repeater system and provide for better remote administration. The biggest limiting factor right now is our upload bandwidth. I hope to have some movement on this soon.

Matt Trull KX4GG

## **Summary of the W4VEC test sessions for 2017 (Greensboro/High Point VE Teams)**

Number of sessions in 2017: 19

Number of licenses granted/upgraded:

Technician: 45

General: 20

Extra: 8

Number of VEs participating: 16

Average number of VEs per session: 6

Special Recognition to VEs that supported more than 75% of the sessions:

AJ4TF      KB1P      KW4GU      KW4UC      KW4UD

David AJ4TF



## *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 February 10<sup>th</sup> at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd., Greensboro, 27407, at 9am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net), phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

Unfortunately, the High Point-Greensboro W4VEC team has lost its venue (High Point Red Cross Building) for amateur radio exams, so there are no scheduled sessions for High Point, NC in 2018 at this time. The VEC team is actively looking for a replacement site in the High Point area, so when a site is located, exams will be scheduled as soon as possible. Please see the Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Thomasville and Salisbury listings for other nearby sessions.

## *Look Who Passed*

### GREENSBORO, NC 11/11/17



John E. Goggin KN4COP  
Earned Extra

Richard H. Alexander KN4HMP  
Earned Technician

Charles H. Werner KN4HMQ  
Earned Technician

Richard Alexander KN4HMP earned General in Greensboro, Dec. 2017  
Charles Werner KN4HMQ earned General in Greensboro, Jan. 2018



John S. Benware KN4HMS  
Earned Technician

Williams R. Pullen KX4HB  
Earned Extra

Paul R. Runkle KN4HMR  
Earned General

**HIGH POINT, NC 11/25/17**



Michael M. Sprague KN4HYS  
Stokesdale, NC  
Earned General

Hemraj Inderdeo KN4HYT  
Cary, NC  
Earned Technician



Jason S. Vaughn KN4HYC  
Radford, VA  
Earned General

Joel A. Moore KN4HYU  
Salisbury, NC  
Earned General

**GREENSBORO, Dec. 2017**



Anthony D. Carter  
Earned Technician

Johan M. Grundlingh  
Earned Extra

John F. Trull Jr., Summerfield, NC  
Earned Technician



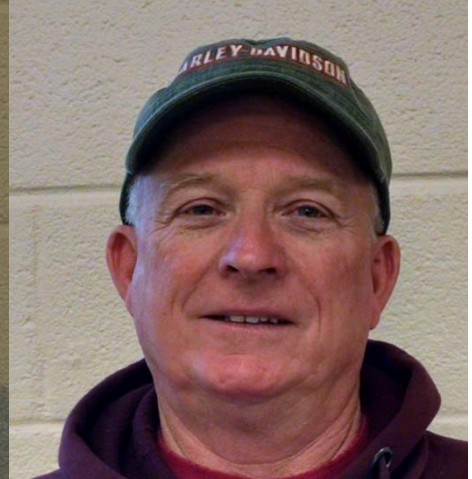
**GREENSBORO, JAN. 2018**



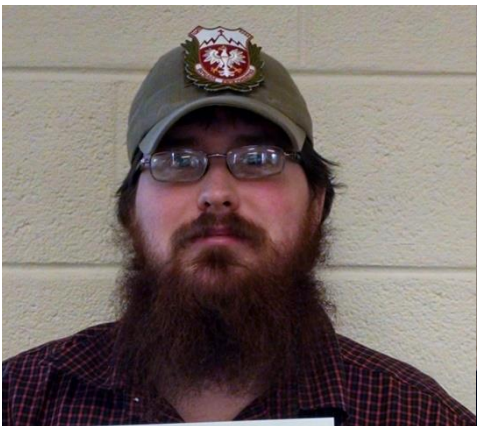
Andrew C. Fuller  
Greensboro, NC  
Earned Technician



Harrison C. Kelley  
High Point, NC  
Earned Technician



Van B. Martin, III N4KEB  
Mayodan, NC  
Earned General



Travis R. Nelson  
Wentworth, NC  
Earned Technician



Michael Silverman  
Greensboro, NC  
Earned Technician

**NOT PICTURED:**

Dale E. Terry, Clemmons, NC

Earned Technician

**Roanoke Division**

I invite all to read a communication from our President, Rick K5UR:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/a-note-to-members-from-arrl-president-rick-roderick-k5ur>

Jim Boehner, N2ZZ  
Director – Roanoke Division

# Calendar of Events

Jan 22	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Feb 10	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Feb 12	GARA Board Meeting
Feb 25	NC QSO Party ( <a href="http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/">http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/</a> )
Feb 26	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Mar 9	North Carolina Section Convention (Charlotte Hamfest <a href="http://charlottehamfest.org">http://charlottehamfest.org</a> )
Mar 12	GARA Board Meeting
Mar 26	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Mar 31	North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest <a href="http://www.rarsfest.org/">http://www.rarsfest.org/</a> )
Apr 9	GARA Board Meeting
Apr 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Apr 21	Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton, NC ( <a href="http://cvhamfest.com">http://cvhamfest.com</a> )
Apr 23	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
May 12	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
May 14	GARA Board Meeting
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)
Jul 7	33rd Annual Firecracker Hamfest (Salisbury, NC <a href="http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest/">http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest/</a> )
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) <a href="http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/">http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/</a>
Aug 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Aug 11	20th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC <a href="http://www.cfarsnc.org">http://www.cfarsnc.org</a> )
Aug 13	GARA Board Meeting
Aug 24	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Aug 31	Roanoke Division Convention (Shelby Hamfest) (Shelby, NC <a href="http://shelbyhamfest.org">http://shelbyhamfest.org</a> )

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](mailto:kb1p@arrl.net).

**For Sale:** Hy-Gain 4 element 20 meter Yagi Beam (BA204) complete with factory recommended matching balun. All mounting hardware and original factory manuals included. Hy-Gain 3 element 15 meter Yagi Beam (BA153) complete with factory recommended matching balun. All mounting hardware and original factory manuals included. Pick-up in the Greensboro, NC area.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW

336-643-6468

nc4ew@att.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 Newslines. It is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Scott Toth, ND4L is 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 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** – The Guilford Amateur Society is currently looking for a new venue for their meetings. When found, that information will be posted here.

**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 Feb. 2018 to May 2018

Feb. 11, 2018

Mar. 17, 2018

Apr. 14, 2018

May 12, 2018

Location: Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd., 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](http://www.w4gso.org)

### FIRST CLASS MAIL

*The Official Publication of GARA*