



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

Matt Trull (KX4GG) will be discussing the FT-8 digital mode. Although relatively new, it has taken the HF digital world by storm. Matt will cover setting up and using the WSJT-X software, FT-8 best operating practices, and hints for maximizing your QSO rate. I hope you'll be there!

Thanks, Dave. AC4A

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### NEXT MEETING April 23, 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 April 23, 2018. The program will be presented by Matt Trull, KX4GG, who will be discussing FT-8 digital mode.



**Two radio amateurs are now on the International Space Station.** With the addition of three new crew members, the International Space Station now has a full complement of six. Astronauts Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU, and Drew Feustel, and cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev headed into space on March 21 aboard a Soyuz MS-08 vehicle, launched from Kazakhstan. The new ISS residents were welcomed as part of the Expedition 55 crew by station commander Anton Shkaplerov and crew -- Scott Tingle, KG5NZA, and Norishige Kanai. During his time in space, Arnold, a former educator, will wrap up NASA's Year of Education on Station, an initiative to engage students and educators in human spaceflight and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. Arnold and Tingle will share Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL](#)) contacts with schools during April.

**The Amateur Radio population has grown steadily over the past decade.**

At nearly 378,000, Technician licensees represented the largest segment, with General (174,206), Amateur Extra (145,034), Advanced (41,938), and Novice (9,056) trailing. Licensee numbers showed continued growth across all classes except Advanced and Novice, which the FCC no longer issues; those numbers continue to drop.

"I'm hopeful that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year," ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. "I would love to see this trend continue!"

**New Licenses 2008 - 2017**

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
28,066	30,144	27,528	24,072	27,082	28,886	33,241	32,077	32,552	32,196

**The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association**

- President Scott Toth ND4L
- 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

**ARE YOU BENEFITING FROM THE ARRL WEBSITE?**

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 ©2018 by the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and published monthly. Our address is P.O. Box 39829, Greensboro, NC 27438. 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**

April Board Meeting 4-09-18 Nazareth Bread Co., W. Market St.

Board Members present: Scott Toth, ND4L, David Mclin, AC4A, Matt Trull, KX4GG  
Chandlee White, KJ4ADX, John Strandberg, W4DX, Jamie Restrepo, N4JAI  
Greg Ray, KK4MHY, Chris Thompson, K4HC, Jesse Lindley, K4AX

President Scott Toth began the meeting at 7:07pm.

Two items were on the agenda, D Star Repeater purchases and a September Picnic.

Scott provided the Board a document listing the purchases for the D Star Repeater project.

Scott mentioned we need a Field Day Committee to plan the activities.

Scott also mentioned he would like to have a GARA picnic later in the year, possible in September.

Matt Trull made a motion that the club would donate the Motorola Repeater.  
Jesse Lindley seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Matt also stated he was going to add the serial numbers of the new equipment to the Club's insurance policy.

Scott asked for a motion to adjourn, Chris Thompson and Jamie Restrepo seconded the motion, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectively submitted by  
Greg Ray, 2018 GARA Secretary

### **Roanoke Division Spring Newsletter**

You may access the Newsletter either by going to [www.arrl-roanoke.com](http://www.arrl-roanoke.com) and clicking on "NEWSLETTER"

or go directly to the Newsletter:

[http://www.arrl-roanoke.com/Roanoke\\_Newsletter\\_Spring\\_2018.pdf](http://www.arrl-roanoke.com/Roanoke_Newsletter_Spring_2018.pdf)

Leading off the newsletter is a very important announcement for the Roanoke Division, so please take a look!

# Regular Meeting Minutes – March 2018

## GARA March Meeting Cooper's Ale House 3-26-2018

President Scott Toth called the March meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Introductions were given.

Reports:

Matt Trull – KX4GG gave the Engineering Report about the orders for refurbished Yaesu DR-1X repeater to replace the current D-Star Repeater for 442.8625MHz which has been in service since September 2008. Also on order is a new Henry UHF 100 W amplifier. With an additional Raspberry controller and other cables, etc. this new repeater will be able to do D-Star, Fusion digital as well as possibly DMR in the future.

Chandlee White – Finance Chair expressed appreciation for the contributions that will make the replacement of the D-Star repeater possible without affecting the regular budget.

Scott led a discussion of the former N4G QXL cards he brought and preparation for field day as well as possible event station set up at the Science Center. Roger Joyner – W4AYO agreed to contact the SC to see if they are willing.

Program: David McLin – AC4A GARA Vice President presented the program about "Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur" based on the recent ARRL book of the same name.

Scott asked for a motion to end the meeting: Chris Thompson Moved and Roger Joyner

Seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

### 2018 ARRL Field Day Gear is Here!

[ARRL Field Day](#) -- the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio -- is June 23-24, and official gear and supplies are now available from ARRL. [Shirts](#), [pins](#), [patches](#), [stickers](#), and -- of course -- coffee [mugs](#) are a great way to acknowledge and commemorate your participation in this annual event. There are two T-shirt color options -- [navy blue](#) and [white](#). Order one, or one of each! Pair it with an ARRL hat of your choice, in [black](#), [khaki](#), or [red and white](#).

Encourage club members, family, friends, and prospective hams to take part in ARRL Field Day with recruitment [posters](#) and attractive "Get on the Air" (GOTA) [pins](#) for those newcomers.

This year, many groups and participants may choose to combine 2018 Field Day with our year-long operating event -- 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase ([IGC](#)) -- working stations in as many grid squares as possible and uploading log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Clubs are encouraged to order early. Place a group order and pay just \$12.50 shipping for all orders over \$50 (while supplies



last). Get your 2018 ARRL Field Day supplies from the ARRL Store online, or by calling 888-277-5289 before 5 PM Eastern Time. Outside the US, call (860) 594-0355.

The complete 2018 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is online. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations using the [FD Site Locator](#).

## From the President's Shack

April 2018

There are a few things to mention, but this month I'm going to try to keep it brief (surprise!). First of all, most of you are aware of the board's efforts to replace our aging D-star repeater and gateway setup. I'm happy to report that all of the necessary funds have been raised (this project is not using any general account funds at all) and all of the new equipment has been ordered and received. We're making fast progress and our engineering team will begin to get things configured and tested soon. We also have ambition to have our repeater duplexers retuned once the new repeater is installed so that both our VHF and UHF machines are working at peak ability.

On a different note, Field Day is approaching quickly. We plan on setting up at Hagan Stone Park like we did last year, but as always, we're looking for volunteers to help organize equipment, logistics, etc. Please consider helping with this and let me or any of the other board members know if we can count on your assistance.

I'm really looking forward to hearing from Matt Trull, KX4GG about FT8 at our meeting this Monday. FT8 is an enticing mode that gives quick results. If you haven't used it yet but want to learn how, this will be an excellent opportunity to hear how to setup your gear and the software for best results Be prepared to get hooked!

Very best,  
Scott, ND4L

# April Engineering Report

Work continues at the repeater site to upgrade our systems and improve both functionality and reliability. In the near future we will be installing a larger battery back up to replace the small APC unit. I am donating the APC Back-UPS Pro 1500 unit, and John W4DX has graciously donated the funds to purchase the needed batteries for this unit. Previously we were using two smaller units, one of which the battery failed a few months ago, and the other has failed within the last week. Rather than replace the batteries in those units we will put in place a larger single unit that has more capacity than both of those combined.

Coming up we will also be able to finish reworking the DC power cables and distribution in the rack. All the necessary supplies have been ordered so that this work can be completed in conjunction with the D-Star system upgrade.

I would like to extend a big Thank You to all of the club members who have donated time, work, and money to make all of these things possible. It's great that we are able to accomplish these things without impacting our normal operating budget.

Field Day is on the horizon. Hagan Stone Park is a great venue and I hope that you will join us this year. If you like to camp, there is plenty of area to set up your tent and you can join us around the fire ring. We could certainly use some more operators this year. This is a great opportunity to operate under full HF privileges and there will be some very knowledgeable operators there for you to engage with. Other club members are a wealth of knowledge and having the chance to talk with them and ask questions is one of my favorite parts of participating. Maybe you are newly licensed and want to get a better understanding of basic wire antennas and operating under contest conditions, maybe you like to check out other station setups and field ops, or maybe you are a seasoned veteran and just enjoy the camaraderie. Wherever your interests lie, I encourage you to join us and I look forward to seeing you there!

Matt Trull, KX4GG

## *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 May 12th 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.

New location for High Point VE testing: Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr. Drive), High Point NC 27262. **Pre-registration is required. Contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, 336-420-9424 at least two days prior to the session.** David's email: [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net).

First test date is Saturday, April 28, 2018, at 10:00 AM.



## Look Who Passed

. Greensboro, NC – April 14, 2018

William D. Barham, KN4LMC, Greensboro, NC – Earned Technician

Richard F. Cole Jr., KN4LMD, High Point, NC – Earned Technician



Lacey Armistead - KN4JOX  
High Point, NC  
Earned General



Bruce Berk Jr. – KN4LMD  
High Point, NC  
Earned Technician



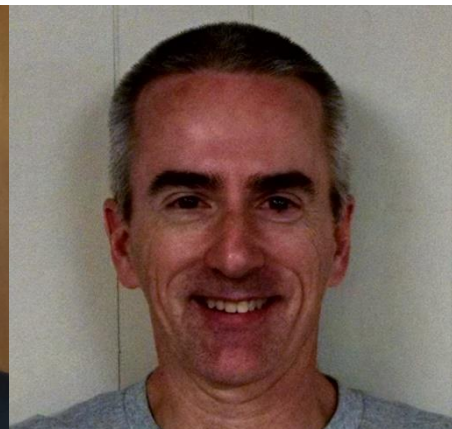
Richard A. Hicks – KN4LNJ  
Thomasville, NC  
Earned Technician



Hermes (Bo) Rose III – KN4LMF  
Greensboro, NC  
Earned Technician



Brian Willard – KN4LMG  
Reidsville, NC  
Earned General



Robert Witt – KN4LMH  
High Point, NC  
Earned Technician

New location for High Point VE testing: Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr. Drive), High Point NC 27262. **Pre-registration is required. Contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, 336-420-9424 at least two days prior to the session.** David's email: [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net).

First test date is Saturday, April 28, 2018, at 10:00 AM.

# Calendar of Events

Apr 23	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Apr. 28	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
May 12	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
May 14	GARA Board Meeting
May 26	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 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)
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>
Jul 28	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
July 28:	WCARS Hamfest, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC, <a href="http://wcars.org">http://wcars.org</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 25	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Aug 31	Roanoke Division Convention (Shelby Hamfest) (Shelby, NC <a href="http://shelbyhamfest.org">http://shelbyhamfest.org</a> )
Sep 29	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Oct 27	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 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 Betty KC2BFN at [kc2bfm@att.net](mailto:kc2bfm@att.net).

## **An upcoming Wake Island operation will make a rare grid available.**

Starting this month, Philip Gairson, N7NVK, will begin working on Wake Island, which is in grid RK39 for those participating in the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase ([IGC](#)). His schedule calls for 3 months on the island, and then 1 month off -- a pattern that will repeat over the course of about a year. Wake is 12 hours ahead of UTC. Gairson does not yet know what days or times he will be on the air, but he plans to post his availability on his [QRZ.com profile page](#) and notify ARRL to include it in its DX bulletin. Contacting him could prove challenging. He's taking along an Elecraft KX3 along with a G5RV or Buddipole for an antenna, running low power. He will operate split, and he asks for patience because he's not used to being the focus of a pileup. Internet connectivity on Wake will be limited, but he plans to use LoTW. -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)





# 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  
May 2018 to Aug. 2018**

May 12, 2018  
June 9, 2018  
July 14, 2018  
Aug. 11, 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)

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*The Official Publication of GARA*