



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

This month, I will discuss "Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur". My talk will be based on the recent ARRL book of the same name. It collects a lot of information in one place, and, as the name implies, is focused on amateur radio stations. The book offers a lot of concrete, practical suggestions, and does a good job of presenting a complex topic. I hope you find the information as interesting as I did.

Thanks, Dave. AC4A

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NEXT MEETING **March 26, 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 March 26, 2018. The program will be presented by Dave McLin AC4A who will speak on grounding and bonding for the radio amateur.

NBC NEWS LEFT FIELD REPORT SAYS HAMS “COULD SAVE OUR LIVES” IN A DISASTER – A team from NBC News’ nascent digital news unit Left Field was in Hawaii to visit with some radio amateurs to produce a report when the false nuclear missile alert happened on January 13.

Left Field’s report points out how much we rely on cell phones and 21st century technology...and what we would do if these suddenly were no longer available. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/nbc-news-left-field-report-says-hams-could-save-our-lives-in-a-disaster>

(source: ARRL website)

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TRANSITIONING TO NEW ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM – The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will phase out the traditional ARES report forms later this year in favor of an online system called ARES Connect, a volunteer management,

communications, and reporting system. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-emergency-service-transitioning-to-new-online-reporting-system>

(source: ARRL website)

[Radio Amateurs Pitch In to Help as "Hat Trick" of Major Coastal Storms Hit Northeast](#) (3/20/18) --

Amateur Radio volunteers with [WX1BOX](#) at the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts, and various ARES groups had their hands full during March, as Mother Nature's hat trick of nor'easters brought severe weather conditions and a lot of snow to the northeastern US. The storms caused the Cape Cod ARES team to extend activations for [SKYWARN](#), WX1BOX, and regional shelter operations. "This has been a very active period of significant severe weather for the region after a relatively quiet stretch from late January through the end of February," observed Rob Macedo, KD1CY, the Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN.

ARE YOU BENEFITING FROM THE ARRL WEBSITE?

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

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 ©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 – No Board meeting in March

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 2018

February GARA Meeting
Cooper's Ale House
2-26-18

President Scott Toth began our February meeting at 7:15pm and asked for introductions.

Board Member Reports:

President, Scott Toth mentioned we would have a raffle after the program to help fund the replacement of the D Star Repeater. Also Scott asked us to begin to think about Field Day and picnic.

Vice President, David McLin is working on presentations for the year.

Engineering Chair, Matt Trull showed us pictures of the new server rack and said Spectrum, our new ISP is up and running.

Finance, Chan White presented us the corrected 2018 Financial Forecast for the club.

Secretary, Greg Ray asked everyone to sign the GARA attendance sheet.

Monthly Program:

Steve Blackford, K4SQI gave us an informative presentation on "The Carolina Link".

Raffle:

A BaoFeng UV-B5 hand held donated by John Strandberg was won by Steve Lewis KF4WMZ .

Scott Toth made a motion to adjourn; Jonathan Davis KM4UOB seconded the motion and the February GARA meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectively Submitted by
Greg Ray
GARA Secretary

From the President's Shack

March 2018

Last month, since we heard from Steve Blackford, K4SQI about the Carolina Link, I was prompted to share my outlook about the future of digital radio and our club's involvement in it. Apparently a number of you agreed because the raffle of the Baofeng VHF/UHF HT (which was donated by John, W4DX who also gave an additional cash donation) raised \$120 towards the D-star repeater replacement project at our February meeting. To take it one step further, Peter Prendergast, W2PP offered to donate a substantial sum towards this project in exchange for some tower work. In response, a number of club members met Peter at his QTH and completed the work which generated additional funds that will be used for the upgrade.

Additionally, the club recently received an anonymous donation of \$750 towards this repeater project which brings our total to over \$1470 that has been given to make this project a reality. With an estimated cost of ~\$1450 (including new repeater, controller and amplifier), we now have the funds to move forward towards improving and expanding digital UHF coverage in our area. I want to extend sincere gratitude to Steve K4SQI, Peter W2PP, John W4DX, our anonymous donor, and everyone who worked at Peter's for your generosity in time and money. These investments will pay dividends into the future and will help our club, and the Greensboro area, continue to be known for our innovation and forward thinking. Please know that the GARA Engineering Committee is working towards the acquisition and implementation of the new setup and aspires to provide the very best value and performance for our association. You will be hearing more about their progress soon.

GARA has traditionally offered at least one major operating event annually. Our biggest gathering normally happens at Field Day in June where members organize and setup stations and where anyone can come and participate regardless of license status. I would like to issue a challenge to all GARA members to consider how you might be involved in planning and operating Field Day this year. I know it's quite early yet, but in the spirit of innovation, give some thought to how we might be able to include some new methods, modes, antenna setups, etc. in our activities. Even if we don't use all of the innovations for our official stations, it would be fun to showcase new ideas and demonstrate them to each other and to the public.

Finally, I realize that a relatively small proportion of our club's membership is able to come to our monthly meetings each the fourth Monday night, but if you haven't attended in a while, I'd like to personally invite you to join us for dinner and conversation at Cooper's this Monday. There are a number of new faces who would love to get connected to experienced amateurs and learn all about our hobby, and having you there could help make that happen. Besides that, there's a good possibility that you'll learn something interesting yourself while making new friends or enjoying old ones. Make attending a priority this month. Thanks for your continued support and I hope to see you on March 26.

Best, Scott ND4L

March Engineering Report

They say that March winds and April Showers bring May flowers, but if you have a dipole strung between two trees it also means you watch nervously whenever the wind really starts to howl. Lucky for me mine is still secure. Hopefully you all have fared as well so far.

As you read in Scott's report we are making strides on the DStar upgrade plan thanks to several of our club members. This will be another major accomplishment for the club. Speaking of repeater site work, I would like to put in a 16 port network switch, gigabit preferably. If anyone has a spare they would like to donate, please let me know.

Matt Trull, KX4GG

Why ARRL is Recommending Enhanced HF Privileges for Technicians

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW privileges. ARRL believes the additional digital privileges will attract younger people to Amateur Radio.



The proposed additional HF phone privileges are 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. Technicians already have HF privileges on parts of 10 meters.

Some in the Amateur Radio community have questioned the need for expanded Technician privileges or to express other perspectives. ARRL has responded to point out some of the key advantages of its [petition](#), which recognizes the tremendous technological advances and changes in Amateur Radio. Some key points:

- A thorough review of operating privileges available to the entry-level license has not taken place since the late 1970s, when the Novice-class license -- the entry-level license at that time, and no longer issued -- was modified to allow Novices access to a limited portion of 10 meters. This included the first HF phone privileges for Novices.
- The 2-year process that led to the development of ARRL's petition includes *significant* input from the Amateur Radio community. The two surveys that the ARRL board's Entry-Level License (ELL) Committee conducted on this issue drew more than 8,000 responses from ARRL members.
- The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population, yet the Technician-class license no longer serves its original purpose from 18 years ago. Many Technicians do not participate actively, pursue on-air and public service opportunities, renew their licenses, or upgrade. An uncomfortably large attrition rate exists among Technician licensees. Technician licenses are not upgrading, because they don't find their operating privileges interesting enough to keep them in the hobby.
- The proposed addition of 275 kilohertz of HF phone privileges, spread across 80, 40, and 15 meters, would allow Technicians the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of HF propagation. In addition, this proposed change would allow

Technician licensees to participate in public service-oriented, emergency, and Section traffic nets on 75 meters, from 3900 to 4000 kHz, where primary state/Section-wide public service activities often take place.

- Additional operating privileges for Technicians will not limit their incentive to upgrade. ARRL points out that Technicians now have access to 850 kilohertz of spectrum in four HF bands. ARRL proposes an additional 275 kilohertz on three of those bands, so the total under this proposal is 1,125 kilohertz on four bands -- 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Compare that to current General-class HF privileges: 3150 kilohertz across nine HF bands -- 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. In addition, Generals have access to the five 60-meter channels and to the two newest bands, 2200 and 630 meters. The incentive to upgrade from Technician to General is a tripling of the available HF spectrum; upgrading to General allows access to eight additional bands, including the prime daytime bands of 20 and 17 meters. Also, Technicians upgrading to General or higher are permitted the maximum amateur power level of 1500 W PEP.

Two Ham-Astronauts Return Safely to Earth

Two ham-astronauts were among three members of the International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 54 crew returning to Earth on February 27 after about 6 months in space. Astronauts Mark Vande Hei, KG5GNP, and Joe Acaba, KE5DAR, landed in Kazakhstan in a *Soyuz* spacecraft, along with cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin.



(L-R) Astronaut Joe Acaba, KE5DAR, cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin, and astronaut Mark Vande Hei, KG5GNP, relax in Kazakhstan after returning from the ISS. [NASA Television]

head to the ISS on March 21.

Their time on station marked the beginning of the first long-term increase in crew size on the US segment, enabling NASA to double the time dedicated to science. Research highlights included investigations into the manufacturing of fiber optic filaments in microgravity and measuring the Sun's energy input to Earth.

Vande Hei logged 168 days in space on his first mission and conducted four spacewalks. Acaba completed one spacewalk and has now accrued 306 days in space on three missions. Both participated in Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contacts and other educational events.

Now operating the station are Expedition 55 Commander Anton Shkaplerov and Flight Engineers Scott Tingle, KG5NZA, and Norishige Kanai. Astronauts Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU, and Drew Feustel and cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev

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 April 14th 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, 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

No testing results for the month of March.

SILENT KEY

GREENSBORO Reverend **Allen Daniel Minter**, AI4NG, 93, passed away on February 16, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles E. Minter, Sr. and May B. Minter, a sister Corinne Spencer and a brother Charles E. Minter, Jr. He is survived by a son, Allen Minter, Jr. (Trish), a daughter, Janet Minter, his wife, Shirley J. Minter, and her four daughters, Joyce Williams (Noah), Jadell McPherson (Bill), Adena Seitz, and Jeanene Milanak, eighteen grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, a sister, Flora Grahm, and two brothers, Richard (Helen), and Jimmy. He was a World War II Army veteran and served in India, China, Guam and Okinawa with B-29s. Upon graduation from Randolph-Macon College, he entered the ministry of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, where he ministered for 38 years. He served Mechanicsville, Irvington-Lancaster, Westmoreland, McKenney, Parkview in Newport News, Providence in Richmond, Charles Wesley in McLean, and Dunn Loring. Allen was an Eagle Scout and served for two years as a district scout executive, serving eight counties in Virginia. After retiring from the ministry, Allen served as a police communication assistant with the Fairfax County Police Department for 14 years.

Calendar of Events

Mar 26	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B", Greensboro)
Mar 31	North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest http://www.rarsfest.org/)
Apr 9	GARA Board Meeting
Apr 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Apr 21	Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton, NC (http://cvhamfest.com)
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 http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest/)
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/
July 28:	WCARS Hamfest, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC, http://wcars.org
Aug 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Aug 11	20th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC http://www.cfarsnc.org)
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 http://shelbyhamfest.org)

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 kc2bfn@att.net.

ARRL BOARD MEETING MINUTES POSTED – The minutes of the 2018 ARRL Annual Board of Directors Meeting held January 19-20, 2018, are now available on the ARRL website. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-meeting-minutes-posted> (source: ARRL website)

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 Apr. 2018 to July 2018

Apr. 14, 2018

May 12, 2018

June 9, 2018

July 14, 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

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www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA