



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

I hope everyone had a great summer. I certainly have so far. This month's presentation will be by our own Scott Toth (ND4L) about building/setting up a zoomspot hotspot.

With the proliferation of cheaper digital handheld radios, it has become much more affordable for hams to connect through the internet to others around the world. However, the repeaters that used to be required to do this haven't gotten cheaper. With the advent of "digital hotspots," amateurs are now able to talk with other hams worldwide without needing to rely on a repeater at all. In this month's GARA presentation, you'll learn what to buy and how to build an inexpensive hotspot that will put all of your digital radios to use even when you're not near a repeater.

Should be interesting. I hope you can attend.

Dave McLin AC4A

INSIDE THIS EDITION

President's Message

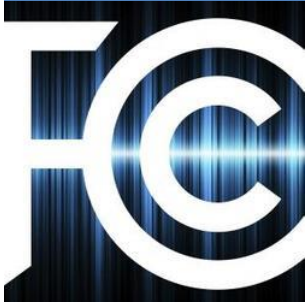
Engineering Report

New Hams

Calendar of events

NEXT MEETING Sept. 24, 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 Sept. 24, 2018. The topic: Building/setting up a zoomspot hotspot by Scott Toth ND4L.



The FCC has launched a new podcast series, [More Than Seven Dirty Words](#). The new media outlet will feature interviews with FCC officials and staff in addition to others in the communications arena. The podcast aims "to share untold stories, explain important policy issues, and maybe even do the impossible -- make telecom interesting," the FCC said in announcing the new media outlet. "One of the wonderful things about the digital age is the many ways to share information, so we're excited to launch this new FCC podcast," said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, who shares some banter in an introductory segment with program host, FCC Policy Advisor Evan Swarztrauber. Guests will share their personal stories behind FCC news headlines and break down various telecommunications-related issues. The podcast's title is drawn from the first episode's introductory discussion, which touches on the court fight over George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words" and the fallout from the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show. The first podcast, "Puerto Rico se Levanta," runs 22 minutes and focuses on the FCC's response to the 2017 Puerto Rico hurricane disaster. Each episode will be available at fcc.gov, as well as on iTunes and Google Play.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS DURING 2018 – September 29: Everybody's Day, 1300Z-1800Z, NC4AR, Thomasville, NC.

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club. 7.210. Certificate. NC4AR, PO Box 747, Trinity, NC 27370.

www.qrz.com/db/nc4ar October 27: Missiles and More Museum Special Event, 1300Z-2100Z, NC4PC, Hampstead, NC. Hampstead Hams. 28.335 14.235 14.135 7.235. Certificate.

Hampstead Hams, PO Box 117, Hampstead, NC 28443. Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the US Navy Operation Bumble Bee Missile Program from 1946-1948 on Topsail Island, NC. Museum website: missilesandmoremuseum.org. For certificate send SASE or \$2 to QSL information. (source: 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

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 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

Here are the notes from the September 10 board meeting.

In attendance: Chris Thompson, John Strandberg, Matt Trull and Scott Toth

Started at 7:00pm at Nazareth Bread Company in Greensboro.

The board discussed:

- Finding members for the Nominating Committee. Certain GARA members were suggested and will be contacted directly.
- Selling the items that were recently donated to GARA. The list would be sent out to members first, and remaining items will be sold at Freegate on September 22.
- New D-star repeater and getting movement towards installation.
- Adding club activities like a potluck picnic, operating events, etc.
- Boy Scout request for JOTA in October

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 2018

The August GARA General Meeting was held on the 27th at Cooper's Ale House.

Board Members Present: Scott Toth, President; Chandlee White, Finance Chair; Greg Ray, Secretary; Chris Thompson, Member at Large; Matt Trull, Engineering Chair

Scott began the meeting at 7:15pm with introductions.

Scott mentioned, "Get on the Repeater"!

GARA has an upcoming volunteer opportunity assisting with the Boy Scouts of America's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 20th at their HQ on Westover Terrace. <https://www.scouting.org/jota/>

Chan stated there were no changes in the budget.

Matt mentioned a family of a silent key donated a large amount of equipment to the club. Equipment will be offered for sale to members first and then taken to hamfests.

Chris Thompson was the monthly speaker with a presentation named Where **away?** That's a nautical term for questioning which direction something is. In ham radio, that's not always as easy as you might think. We learned about the Mercator projection, Azimuthal Equidistant, Rhumb Line and the Great Circle Route.

After the informative presentation Chris stated Betty Williams our PIO and Newsletter Editor is retiring this fall from her job and will resign her positions at GARA. These positions will need to be filled. Also, Chris stated elections for the 2019 officers occur in November and we need a Nominating Chairperson.

Roger Joyner W4AYO made a motion to adjourn, Chan White seconded the motion, and the August meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Ray 2018 GARA Secretary

From the President's Shack

September 2018

If you haven't noticed (or your shack is in a cave), HF band conditions have been pretty poor recently. There are still contacts to be made and occasionally good conditions will surface that will make operating easy, but things don't look like they'll get any better for quite a while. Our sun likes to go to sleep every so often and it's slumbering quite hard at the moment. No worries though- there are still ways to enjoy radio despite the lack of solar activity: our W4GSO repeaters are always on and ready to go! Of course, the UHF machine is temporarily offline, but I think you'll find the new setup to be more flexible and capable than what we've had. I'm looking forward to hearing it on the air very soon.

I recently had a long conversation with a ham on 145.150 who was displaced to Greensboro during Hurricane Florence. I learned a lot of things about him and really enjoyed our conversation. I also know that there are a number of newly licensed amateurs in the area who would love to get to know experienced hams and learn about all the interesting possibilities that are available in the hobby. What better way is there to keep our repeater warm, meet new people, and mentor newcomers than to throw out your callsign and see who's around? And if you're monitoring the repeater and hear someone call, be bold and answer! You never know who you'll meet or what you'll learn that could take your amateur radio experience to the next level.

Many thanks, once again, to Matt Trull, KX4GG, Steven Blackford, K4SQI, Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, and Jesse Lindley, K4AX for their work to get the new digital setup operational and keep our existing systems working optimally. We're very fortunate to have the knowledge, experience and dedication of these fellows to give us the great repeater setups that we enjoy and rely on every day.

I hope to hear you on the repeaters soon!

73,
Scott
ND4L

September Engineering Report

As you are probably aware, we have experienced a recent failure of our D-Star controller. The failure appears to be the hardware that runs the controller software. The good news is that we are making progress on the replacement solution. Steve Blackford, K4SQI, has configured a UDRC II board to use as a controller with the new repeater for the time being. There is still the installation and some additional configuration to be performed, but we are working to get that done soon. In the future we will likely swap from the UDRC board to a MMDVM which will give us some additional capabilities. For now, just know that we are working to restore D-Star services as quickly as we can.

I hope to see you out at Qorvo for Freegate on Sept 22nd, weather permitting. Freegate is a great local resource: you don't have to drive far, it's only a half day event, and admission is free! Bring your items you wish to sell. Come support GARA and help to spread the word about this local hamfest. Check <http://kd4rf.org> for details and updates in the case of inclement weather.

-Matt, KX4GG

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Like everyone else, you have all read in the news about ID theft being more prevalent than ever. W4VEC is concerned about it as well. As you know, the FCC requires either an FCC registration number (FRN) or a SSN from any candidates who sits for an exam.

We are recommending that candidates for license exams who don't have an FRN obtain one, so that W4VEC does not have to handle your SSN. Please update any of your net scripts or newsletter items as follows: If you are unlicensed, we recommend obtaining an FRN before coming to a test session. To do this, simply use your favorite Internet search engine and search for "Obtain an FCC FRN" to locate the FCC Commission Registration System, or CORES. From there you can follow the on-line instructions to create an FRN. Of course, if you are licensed and are testing for an upgrade, your FRN is found on your license.

Let me know if you have any questions.

73, David AJ4TF

VE Testing

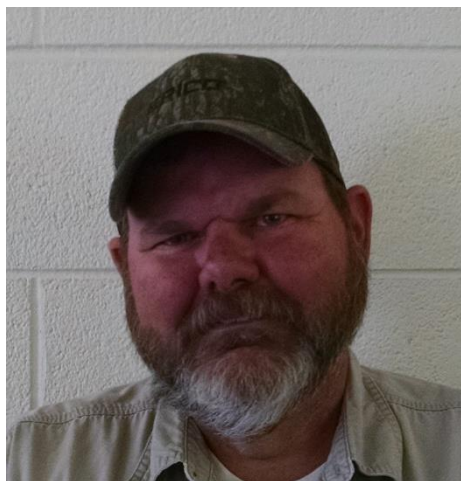
Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, and his team 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 Oct. 13th 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.

New location for High Point VE testing: Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr. Drive), High Point NC 27262. ***No testing in November or December. 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.

Look Who Passed

High Point, NC August 25, 2018



Donald H. Bulla, KM4CZL
Star, NC – earned EXTRA

Greensboro, NC – September 8, 2018



William D. Barham KN4LMC
Greensboro, NC – earned EXTRA

Kenneth R. Moore
Asheboro, NC – earned TECHNICIAN



Nicholas J. Rice

Elon, NC – earned TECHNICIAN

Paul A. Riffe

Greensboro, NC – earned TECHNICIAN

US Coast Guard Warns of LED Lighting Interference to Marine Radios, AIS Reception

The US Coast Guard says it's received reports from crews, ship owners, inspectors, and other mariners regarding poor reception on VHF radiotelephone, digital selective calling (DSC), and automatic identification systems (AIS) when in the vicinity of LED lighting systems. This could include interior and exterior lighting, navigation lights, searchlights, and floodlights found on vessels of all sizes.

"Radio frequency interference caused by these LED lamps [was] found to create potential safety hazards," the Coast Guard said in an August 15 [Marine Safety Alert](#). "For example, the maritime rescue coordination center in one port was unable to contact a ship involved in a traffic separation scheme incident by VHF radio. That ship also experienced very poor AIS reception. Other ships in different ports have experienced degradation of the VHF receivers, including AIS, caused by their LED navigation lights. LED lighting installed near VHF antennas has also shown to compound the reception."



ARRL has determined a wide range of interference-causing potential from consumer lighting devices. "While some are relatively quiet, other devices -- even those that meet the required FCC emissions limits -- can still cause harmful interference," said ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG. "My best recommendation is to try LED lights before you buy, especially if there is a possibility that the device will be used while you're operating. Once you have determined that a particular LED device is quiet, then purchase as many as you need from that same store."

Over the past few years, ARRL has provided the FCC with reports of LED and other lighting systems that are not in compliance with FCC regulations. In several instances, these devices greatly exceeded the FCC's emissions limits, in one case by as much as 58 dB, creating as much noise as 650,000 legal devices, Gruber said. "Several recent FCC enforcement actions involving LED manufacturers have been encouraging," he added. "These actions can and will make a difference."

Gruber said ARRL remains committed to working with both the FCC and manufacturers to help facilitate that positive difference in every possible way. "It is possible for LED and other lighting technologies to coexist with both amateurs and other users of the radio spectrum," he said. - *Thanks to gCaptain.com and Frank Smith, WS1MH*

Calendar of Events

Sep. 24	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B" Greensboro)
Sep 29	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Oct. 8	GARA Board Meeting
Oct. 13	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Oct. 22	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B" Greensboro)
Oct 27	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Nov. 10	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Nov 12	GARA Board Meeting
Nov. 26	GARA Election Meeting (Cooper's Ale House in Salon "B" Greensboro)
Dec. 8	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Dec. 20	GARA Board Meeting (transition meeting)
Dec.?	Area Ham Christmas (holiday) Party TBA

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.



The ARRL Contest Branch has announced a new [ARRL Contests Portal](#). ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, calls it "a one-stop shop for all of your ARRL contest interests, offering access to everything from the starting bell of a contest to your post-event hard-fought certificate of accomplishment." Use the navigation tabs on the left to locate information about specific contests. Use the tabs at the top to submit logs, manage club eligibility lists, download certificates, and view other information for all contests. The new portal is still under construction. Information on specific contests and other contest-related content is being added every week.

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 145.250 W4GG repeater. 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

Oct. 13, 2018

Nov. 10, 2018

Dec. 8, 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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA