

**New General
Upgrade Class
Slated ...**
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**ARES Antenna
Build Party ...**
Read about it on
Page 5



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Volume 17, No. 1

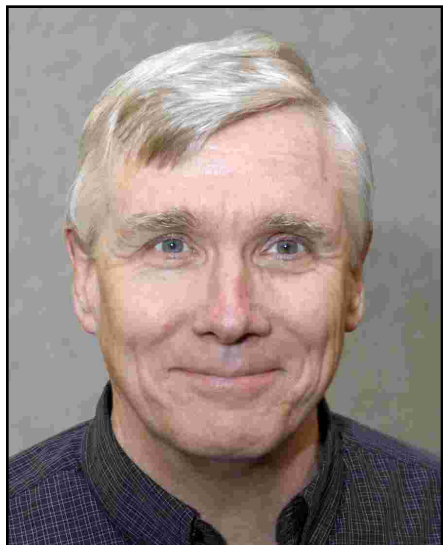
Editor: Tom Forrest, N4GVK

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January, 2008

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Meet Our Members



Robert "Bob" Morris, W0EG, is a relative newcomer to North Carolina. He moved to the local area not quite 2 years ago from Solon, Iowa was recently elected as Engineering Chairman for GARA.

Originally from Long Island, NY, Bob's interest in Ham radio stems from time spent with his father learning to make crystal set radios. His dad gifted him with

a Raytheon CK722 Germanium PNP unit, and Bob was hooked!

Bob earned his novice license in 1962. To get on the air, he scrounged up a donated BC312 surplus receiver, and managed to pick up a Heathkit DX-20 with money he'd earned carrying papers. Starting with his novice, he held the calls WN2BOG, WB2RXZ and KB6EZ prior to his current W0EG.

Current equipment includes a Yeasu FT-101B station with FV-101B and FL2100B amp. He also operates a Kenwood TS-440. From Iowa, he brought with him an R5 vertical antenna on 20m and 15m, as well as a dipole on 40m. He isn't active on HF as of yet, since relocating to Guilford County. Bob enjoys casual DXing, rag chewing and checking onto the Maritime Mobile Services net on 14.300.

Bob holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado, and has certification as an NARTE certified Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer. He is employed by RF Micro Devices as a test engineer. Bob and his wife Karen have a home in Oak Ridge.

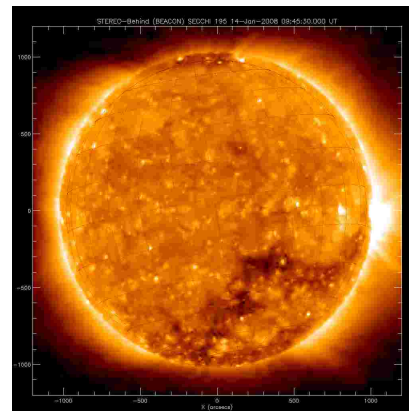
NEXT MEETING - January 28

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Assoc. will be January 28, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave, near Sam's Club.

Dave Touvell, KN4ZO, will present a program on Linux.

Come and bring a friend and don't forget GARA dues are now due.

Solar Cycle 24 On The Way



K7RA Solar Update

We just recently saw eight days of sunspots, but now the solar disk is spot-free. The big story this week is the sighting of the first spot of Solar Cycle 24. The sunspot -- sunspot 981 -- has now faded away, but a new spot is emerging near the solar equator and it has the same polarity as the Cycle 24 spot last week. This is odd, because the spots from the new cycle should emerge at high latitudes, like last week's did.

News reports this week said Cycle 24 has begun, but actually Cycle 23 hasn't ended yet. Cycle 24 spots should gradually increase in number, while Cycle 23 spots fade away. Sometime around solar minimum, we should see the count of Cycle 24 spots equal and then outnumber Cycle 23 spots. I believe that is really the start of the next cycle, when we begin to see more Cycle 24 spots emerging than Cycle 23 spots.

Average sunspot numbers this week

Please turn to Page 3>

GARA Meeting Minutes



Regular Meeting Minutes November 26, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of The November meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association was held on Monday November 26, 2007 at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Landview Dr.

The meeting started at 7:15 PM with outgoing president John Doggett, KI4BMS asking everyone to introduce themselves. John then listed the local "on air" nets held each week.

John asked if there were any sick or injured people that we should know about. Roy Smith, N4BYU said that Rogers Albertson, WA4BPL, of Archdale had become a silent key.

Allen Bradley, KD4IUN spoke about the Soccer tournament that was just held and thanked everyone for their work which he gets all the credit for.

Chris Thompson, K4HC thanked everyone for coming and spoke about the election of officers to be held at the end of this meeting. Chris also thanked Dave Touvell, KN4ZO for his help in nominating the new officers.

Roy Smith, N4BYU stated that Golden Corral does not charge the club for the use of the room and we should all try to

eat there more often before the meetings to show our appreciation for their hospitality.

Ernie Wall, NC4EW gave the treasury report. Al Allred, K4ZKQ, gave the financial report stating that everything looks good with income better than expected and expenses less than expected.

John asked for approval of last months meeting minutes, Roy made a motion to accept and Chris seconded.

Vashti Forrest, KA4DGS, called for a round of appreciation for Carlton's and John's work last year.

John spoke about the Foxhunt that was done for the Statewide Emergency Test a few weeks ago stating that it was a "lot of fun".

John talked about getting a group together to build some of the tape measure beam antennas designed by Joe Leggio, WB2HGL. The cost should be around \$20.00 e-mail Roy Smith at n4byu@arrl.net if you are interested.

Jim Hightower, W4JLH, spoke about the upcoming Ham Christmas party at Bonnie Kay Seafood on December the 13th. This concluded the normal part of the meeting.

Chris Thompson, K4HC, presided over the election of officers for the upcoming year.

After checking to see that we had enough members present to hold a legitimate election he listed the nominated person for each position and asked for any more nominations from the floor. The members took a vote and the new slate of officers were elected as nominated. The new slate of officers for 2008 is:

President- Chris Thompson, K4HC; Vice President, John Strandberg, AJ4BT; Treasurer, Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Finance, Al Allred, K4ZKQ; Engineering Chairman, Robert Morris, W0EG; Operations, Roy Smith, N4BYU; Secretary, Greg Spencer, KG4UQV; Members at Large, Clark Doggett, KG4HOM and Dave Touvell, KN4ZO.

Board Meeting Minutes December 10, 2007

The GARA Board held its December meeting on Monday December 10, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

Our new president Chris Thompson, K4HC said that the board should meet each month.

New business: The board discussed the equipment inventory and the need to get it done soon. Chris made a motion to get the inventory done by January 31; Roy seconded.

The board discussed the need to send a letter to the city of Greensboro letting them know who is on the engineering committee and who has access to the repeater site. Chris spoke about a change the city made regarding access to the repeater building. Chris also said that Charles Lyons NT1J has resigned from the engineering committee because of his employment at East Carolina University. Chris made a motion that Bob Morris W0EG, Roy Smith N4BYU and himself draw up a list of people to be on the engineering committee so that it can be sent to the city. John Strandberg seconded.

Roy spoke about the repeater controllers and stated that "all board members should be basic control operators." Roy also said that we need someone to know how to program both controllers in case there is a problem.

The weather radio needs to be sent back to the manufacturer for a firmware upgrade.

The board discussed the printing and postage costs for the Feedline and voted to reimburse Tom Forrest N4GVK \$40.00 per month for the cost of printing and mailing up to 35 copies. Chris made a motion for the board to bring to the membership at the regular January meeting a proposal to add a line item to the application for \$10.00 extra if the applicant would like a newsletter mailed to them. Roy seconded.

Chris talked about the need for an activity committee to come up with social

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Chris Thompson, K4HC
Vice-President John Strandberg, AJ4BT
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ
Engineering Chairman Bob Morris W0EG
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU
Member at Large Clark Doggett, KG4HOM
Member at Large Dave Touvell, KN4ZO

Appointed Positions:
News letter editor and Webmaster:
Tom Forrest, N4GVK

"The Feed Line" is ©2008 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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Solar Cycle from page 1 ...

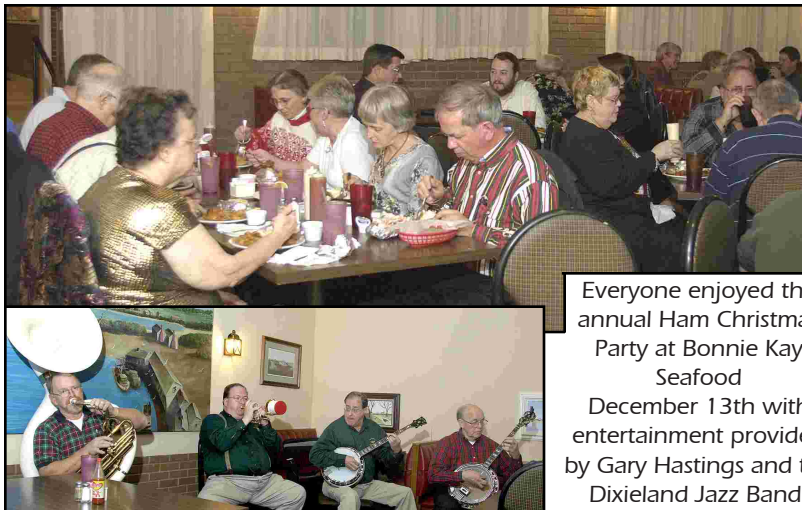
were nearly 10 points above last week's average, at 13.3. Unsettled geomagnetic conditions were observed on January 5-8. Last week, the prediction for solar flux for earlier this week looked optimistic. Go here and click on the December 30 forecast. Note the prediction for solar flux of 85 for January 4-11. Then click back and look at December 31. On that day, it predicted a solar flux of 90 for January 5-7. The January 1 prediction is even higher at solar flux 95 for January 7-8. The next day, January 2, shows flux at 95 for January 7-9. January 3 is less optimistic, with flux peaking at 90 for January 9-11, although some of the dates are mislabeled. January 4 shows flux peaking for one day, January 6, at 85. None of those predictions came to pass, and solar flux was actually below 80 the entire week.

NOAA and the Air Force predict planetary A index values for January 11-

17 at 5, 5, 15, 15, 10, 12 and 10. If you want an updated forecast after 2100 UTC today, use the URL above and go to the January 10 forecast (if January 11 isn't shown yet). Then change a series

of characters in the URL from 011045DF.txt to 011145DF.txt, and hit the Enter key. You should see an updated forecast for solar flux and planetary A index before the link appears on the main page. (ARRL)

December Christmas Party



Everyone enjoyed the annual Ham Christmas Party at Bonnie Kay Seafood December 13th with entertainment provided by Gary Hastings and the Dixieland Jazz Band.

Photos by N4GVK

Board meetings from page 2

and technical activities as well as programs for the club meeting. Chris made a motion to form the committee, Roy seconded. John Strandberg AJ4BT will head the committee.

Dave Touvell, KN4ZO will present a program on the linux operating system at the January club meeting.

Ernie Wall NC4EW, gave the treasury report, noting that we are about \$900.00 below what we had last year at this time, but we have made a new equipment purchase this past year.

Ernie made a suggestion that we have a membership director/recruiter. Roy Smith, N4BYU made a suggestion to have Chris draft a letter to put in the newspaper about club meetings. Al Allred, K4ZKQ gave the financial report and detailed the new equipment cost.

Al will present the 2008 budget at the January board meeting.

Chris would like a list of members who would act as an "Elmer" to new hams or anyone wanting to try something new. Chris will coordinate with Steve Marks,

KE4FCW about holding a General class training series starting on February 05, 2008, which will be held at the EMS training center at 1002 Meadowood Rd. This Training series will be sponsored by GARA. Contact Chris, Thompson K4HC for details.

The meeting closed at 9:50 PM

Board Meeting Minutes January 14, 2008

The January meeting of the GARA board was held on January 14, 2007 at the home of Bob Morris, W0EG. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Chris Thompson, K4HC; John Stranberg, AJ4BT; Ernie Wall, NC4EW; Bob Morris, W0EG; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Clark Dogget, KG4HOM; Dave Touvell, KN4ZO and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV present.

Chris thanked Bob for hosting the meeting at his house this month.

Old business – The equipment inventory is under way and should be completed by late January. The engineering committee members need to be finalized and a list sent to the city for their records. There will be a general class training session starting on 2/05/08 at the EMS Training center on

Meadowood Rd. Contact Chris Thompson K4HC for details.

New business – Chris said he would like to have more construction projects in the next year. Chris also spoke about having a club family picnic sometime this summer. Setting up an Elmers list for club members who need help with ham related projects.

The board talked about various ways of cutting costs and increasing income, such as approaching some corporate sponsors and possibly holding a hamfest / swapmeet. We also need to increase membership so please get back to anyone that you hear calling on the repeater and invite them to a meeting if they are not already a member. Also, if you know of any old members that are not active anymore, encourage them to come to a meeting. We will also be listing the club meetings in the Greensboro News and Record and to advertise the General class training session that we are sponsoring.

Roy stated that ARES has asked the club to fund the ARES website for the coming year. The board discussed this, and Roy made a motion pay for the website for one year. Clark seconded. We voted seven for and one against, the motion carried. The meeting closed at 8:30 PM.

Reports respectfully submitted by
Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, Secretary

General Upgrade Class To Be Held Februray

GARA is sponsoring a FREE class in cooperation with Guilford County Emergency Services to any existing Amateur Radio Operator wanting to upgrade their privileges to General Class. The class will begin February 5th and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in February from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at Guilford County Emergency Services in Greensboro. For more information please e-mail Chris Thompson, K4HC, at k4hc@triad.rr.com.

The classroom training is free, but amateurs will need to purchase their own ARRL study guide, available from the ARRL or from amazon.com. A testing session will follow at the end of the class for those wanting to upgrade their privileges.

Guilford County Emergency Services is located behind Rooms To Go on Meadowood Street off of West Wendover Avenue in Greensboro. The address is 1002 Meadowview Rd., Greensboro, NC.

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new pool of 741 questions and 12 graphics available at:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338> for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012. It can be downloaded from the NCVEC Web site in Word, PDF or RTF formats. If you have any questions concerning the new Amateur Extra question pool, please contact the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee via e-mail at qpc@ncvec.org

New Hams

Congratulations on your new amateur license!

Joe Rash, KJ4BIM

Marcus Johnson, KJ4BIN

Rodney Douglas, KJ4BIO

Jonathan Brentnell, KJ4BIP



NC QSO Party Feb. 24

The 2008 NC QSO party will start at noon local time on Sunday, February 24 and run until 10pm. Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC, the event is one of the most exciting state QSO parties and can be especially fun if you're new to contesting.

The power limit is 100W, so you don't need a big amp to compete. The object of the contest is for out of state stations to work as many NC stations in as many NC counties as you possible. Stations within NC try to work as many NC counties, other states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries.

We need as many counties as possible on the air to give folks contest multipliers! Why not make this a special club event? How about working the contest mobile to get more counties on the air? For more information check out www.w4nc.org.

Get Well ...

GARA wishes a speedy recovery to Carol Marks, wife of Steve Marks, KE4FCW.

According to Steve's Blog, "The doctors believe that she had a form of viral encephalitis. This caused swelling and damage to a part of the brain, which then produced the seizures."

Steve's recent blog notes Carol is doing much better, regaining her strength and moving about the house and short walks about the yard.

Sympathy

GARA would like to offer our thoughts and prayers to the Doggett family in the death of Clark Doggett's (KG4HO) mother, Ruby Doggett, December 14, 2007.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 24: NC QSO Party - www.w4nc.org
- March 2-8: Severe Weather Awareness Week
- March 8-9: Charlotte Hamfest - www.w4bfb.org
- April 6: Down East Hamfest, Kinston - www.downeasthamfest.org
- April 12: Raleigh Hamfest - www.rars.org/hamfest
- April 12: State ARES meeting, Raleigh
- April 19: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton - cvhamfest.com
- May 10: Rockingham County Hamfest, Reidsville - www.rcarc.com
- May 24: DurHAMfest, Durham - www.dfma.org
- May 25-31: Hurricane Preparedness Week
- June 14: Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest - www.w4nc.org
- June 28-29: ARRL Field Day

In Other News ...

One Year later, VISTA Woes Continue, Trouble In Software Paradise

Users who have purchased software specified as "Certified for Vista" are finding that it doesn't always work properly. Software compatibility problems abound all over in some of the very popular programs. Vendors are having difficulty patching their software so it works correctly.

Beware of problems, if you buy a new Vista operating system in a new computer, or install it in one you already have. Unfortunately, the compatibility problems extends into hardware, including printers, that just do not work with Vista when installed and connected to the computer. This is a really sad circumstance. That is what we face in the wonderful world of modern computing. In other bad news, it is being reported that malware is evolving faster than virus protection software can keep up with it.

Solid State Hard Drive For Your Laptop?

1.8" and 2.5" 100 megabyte per second maximum read speed SATA solid state hard drives in sizes of 32, 64 and 128 GB. manufactured by Toshiba are said to be coming in May of 2008. These drives are rugged. Samsung is expected to get into production, as well, lowering the price of these drives. Read more on page 28 of the Feb. issue of PCWorld.

ARES Antenna Construction Party

Guilford County ARES sponsored a "WB2HOL tape-measure" two-meter antenna construction party for local Hams January 12 at the office of John Strandberg, AJ4BT. There were 18 Hams participating in the build project. After all was finished John, AJ4BT, provided a BBQ lunch for everyone. Thanks to John for letting ARES use his office - and for the great lunch!

**Photos by
Tom Forrest, N4GVK**



Jesse Lindley, N4BFD; Rudy Langley, KG4HCT and Mike Kane, N4MJK (far right), work on their antennas.



John Ferrell, W8CCW



Larry Rickard, KT4G



Jesse Lindley helps Jim Waynick, N4JLW, check his antenna.



Chris Thompson, K4HC and his Dad Walt, WA4LT.

Area Activities

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 PM, the **Greensboro Amateur Radio Association** have their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave, near Sam's Club. Please plan to gather at 6:30 PM for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 PM

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – weekly at 9 PM, the **GARA News and Information Net**. This net features NewsLine and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Roy Smith, N4BYU is always looking for net controls. Contact him if you would like to help.

THURSDAYS – The **Guilford County ARES Net** meets on the 145.150 repeater (100 Hz. tone) at 9 PM.

TUESDAYS – at 8 PM, the **2 Meter SSB Net** meets on 144.225 Mhz. USB. Chris Thompson, K4HC is the net control station.

WEDNESDAYS – The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

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 7 PM.

THIRD MONDAY – at 6:30 PM The **Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at the Greensboro Police Western Sub Station at 300 Swing Rd in the community room. Refreshments at 6:30 PM and the business meeting begins at 7 PM.

SATURDAYS – at the K&W Cafeteria on Big Tree Way, hams get together for **Saturday Breakfast** at 7:30 AM. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater, with 100 Hz. tone.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY – at 11:15 AM, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria off Big Tree Way and a Friday lunch bunch is at the K&W Cafeteria off South Holden Road. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone.

EVERY FRIDAY – at 8 PM (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Guilford College (summer location till Daylight Savings time changes)

Richmond Frostfest Date Corrected

The December issue of QST (page 106) and last week's ARRL Letter listed the incorrect date for Frostfest 2008. The correct date is Saturday, February 2. The Richmond Frostfest 2008 will host the Virginia ARRL State Convention. - via ARRL Letter Online, 12/21/07 From more information, their website is at <http://www.frostfest.com/>

News & Info Net Controls

If you would like to help and be a net control for the 9 pm Sunday evening News & Info Net, you can find the script on the **W4GSO** web site at www.w4gso.org/newsnet_text.pdf Your help would be appreciated.

Motorola Completes Tender Offer For Yaesu

On Wednesday, January 16, Motorola, Inc announced that its subsidiary, MI, Inc, has successfully completed its tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard, parent company of Yaesu. The tender offer period expired on January 15 with approximately 5.4 million shares tendered and accepted. On November 5, 2007, Motorola launched the tender offer, in cooperation with Tokogiken (a privately held Japanese company controlled by

Vertex Standard's president and CEO Jun Hasegawa) with the intention of forming a joint venture to develop and sell Vertex Standard products and develop select Motorola products. All regulatory clearances required for the completion of the transaction have been obtained.

Starting on January 22, Motorola will have a total ownership stake of approximately 78 percent of Vertex

Standard on a fully diluted basis (excluding certain stock acquisition rights that are scheduled to be cancelled), following the settlement of the tender offer for approximately 12 billion Yen (almost \$112 million US dollars) in cash. Through a subsequent restructuring process, Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard, while Tokogiken will retain a 20 percent stake.

(From ARRL)

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417



Web:
www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - RENEWAL / NEW - 2008

\$24 per year

(\$2 per month)

Please fill out the following information and mail the address above or hand deliver to the GARA treasurer. Your membership is appreciated!

Call: _____ Renewal? Yes () No ()

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

News Letter requested by: Mail _____ E-mail _____

(Pending membership approval: for all new members, there will be a \$10 extra charge to receive the newsletter by US Mail.)

Phone number: _____

(please advise if this is unlisted and it will not be published on the club roster)

Note: Family memberships are available for persons living under the same roof or if a family member is a school student living away from home - no extra charge.

Is this a family membership? Yes () No ()

If ,Yes, family member name: _____

Call: _____

A new year is starting & there are great things on the horizon for GARA!
Please renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Already renewed?
Pass this sheet along to someone else who might be interested if you don't need it.

Become Radio Active! ***Join GARA for 2008*** ***Progressive & Active Ham Radio*** ***for The Triad***

**We are a diverse group of Amateur
Radio operators providing public
service for the Triad area.**



**If you want to be part of an organization that "Gets It Done,"
join GARA. We are planning a great year for
Amateur Radio in the Triad area.**

If you are a renewing member, we appreciate your continued support!

- Get in on the fun! Come visit a meeting. If you decide to join, membership is only \$24 per year. Our yearly membership period begins January 1. Your membership supports two top-notch repeaters, a first-class area monthly news letter, and a frequently updated web site.
- Radio broken? As a GARA member, you have access to a loaner radio free of charge whenever yours needs to go to the shop!



By joining, you help support two repeaters 145.150 and 442.875. GARA is also the support repeaters for Guilford County ARES and one of the back-up repeaters for Triad SkyWarn.



Visit us on the web at: www.w4gso.org
If you have any questions, please e-mail
us at info@w4gso.org

145.150 left, 100 Hz. tone
442.875 right, 88.5 Hz. tone

Greensboro Amateur Radio Assoc. • P.O. Box 7054 • Greensboro, NC 27417