



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

www.w4gso.org

info@w4gso.org

GARA Open House

by Brian Wilson, NX4U

It is time for the Annual GARA Open House and Radio Expo. This event has taken many forms through the last few years and many people have been exposed to amateur radio through the volunteer efforts of some of the GREAT members of GARA. Each year, the membership, with the direction of the Board of Directors and few others committed to making this a great event, spend many hours in preparation and six (6) hours on a Saturday, and showcase this wonderful hobby in which we are all involved.

From ARES and D-STAR, to SKYWARN and antenna building, people get to experience different aspects of ham radio in one building on one day. So you may ask, what can I do? Well, I am glad you asked, because there are two things you can do that would be a great help. First, plan to attend and bring someone who has never seen amateur radio in action, or has been asking questions regarding the hobby. After all, new people are the life-blood of the hobby.

Second, volunteer to assist with one aspect of the Open House, or prepare to have your own "booth" exhibiting what make the hobby special to you. If you will contact John Strandberg, W4DX, at w4dx@arrrl.net he will be happy to answer any questions you might have, and help you with your volunteer efforts.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Open House



This Month's Program

Our July meeting will be held on Monday, July 28th at 7:15 pm in Captain Bills Seafood & Steakhouse located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. Come early have dinner and catch up on the latest club info, gossip and connect faces to call signs.

The presentation topic for this month is "Show & Tell/ Open Meeting" hosted by Tom Bertolino, KB1P. After the GARA business section of the meeting the "Show & Tell/Open Meeting" will begin. There is no formal structure to this meeting. You can ask Ham related questions, bring in your special project to show it off or just socialize with other members.

Some reminders:

- If your ARRL membership is up soon or you want to join ARRL, you can do it through GARA. Renewal/ Join forms are available at this meeting. Craig Bondy, N8STA, GARA's treasurer will have the forms with him.
- Don't forget GARA's Technical Forum held every Sunday night at 7:30 pm. The Forum is hosted by Layman Idol, KK4LLY.

NEXT MEETING Monday, July 28

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, July 28th, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. The program for this month's meeting will be our annual "Show & Tell" meeting.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes July, 2014

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on June 23, 2014, at Captain Bills Seafood Restaurant located at 6108 West Market Street in Greensboro. Tom Bertolino, KB1P, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

CLUB BUSINESS and OFFICER REPORTS

Roy Smith, N4BYU, spoke of a change in FCC rules concerning getting relicensed after a two year lapse in your license. A general or extra can take the technician exam and be grandfathered back to their original license class.

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, gave the engineering report and stated that the engineering committee did some routine work at the repeater site. David said that he noticed what appears to be a clamp that has come loose holding the VHF feed line to the tower. David said he is unsure how long it has been like this. David spoke about the repeaters. There was some discussion about the D-star repeater's receive ability, as well as, the noise issue on VHF.

Tom said that next month we will not have a presentation at the meeting but we will have a "show and tell" period where you can bring a project that you would like to show others.

Tom listed the scheduled events for the next few months.

Tom also said he is looking for a Public Affairs Officer.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Thomas Bertolino, KB1P
Vice-President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW
Treasurer Craig Bondy, N8STA
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Todd Smith, AK4TS
Engineering Chair David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF
Operations Roy Smith, N4BYU
Member-at-Large Fred Lomax IV, KV4PI
Member-at-Large Jesse Lindley, K4AX
Appointed Position:
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor
Brian Wilson, NX4U

The Feed Line is ©2014 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.



The presentation topic was on Field Day operations by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, and Field Day history by Tom Bertolino, KB1P.

Patrick Moore, K2CPR, made a motion to adjourn; Mark Siepak, KJ4VSM, seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting ended at 8:10pm. .

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

For Sale

I have the following items for sale:

Diamond CP6 vertical antenna. \$250; Icom ID-880H D-Star radio. \$325; Rohn Heavy Duty 56' Tower. \$625; Hygain TH3MK3-S Thunderbird 3 Element 20-15-10 Beam. \$250.

Thank you.

Tom, KQ4BR - thomas.j.willis@earthlink.net

Board Meeting Minutes - July

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on July 14th 2014 at Captain Bills. The members present were: Tom Bertolino, KB1P; Cameron Conover, AJ4TW; David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Jesse Lindley, K4AX; Roy Smith, N4BYU; Todd Smith, AK4TS; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV. Layman Idol, KK4LLY, was also in attendance, visiting.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

OFFICER REPORTS

Cameron said that he has some ideas for presentations.

Greg gave a summary of the last board meeting

David said he will step down as engineering chairman at the end of this term. David said the board needs to start organizing a nominating committee soon, also.

Fred said he is looking at a possible presenter for a future meeting.

Jesse said he has a lead on a presentation, also. Jesse spoke about the Field Day exercise.

Tom said the July meeting will have a “show and tell” session instead of a presentation.

Tom said that the GARA Picnic will be held at Hagen Stone Park, shelter 5 on May 15th 2015.

Tom said the Open House and Ham Radio Expo will be held on October 11th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church. There will be a VE session at the Open House, also.

Todd spoke about what is required to put a Pay Pal link on the W4GSO website. The board discussed what should be payable through Pay Pal. Todd did a demo of using Pay Pal to accept a credit card.

Todd also spoke about the Adopt-A-Highway program, and the board discussed some options. Roy made a motion to bring it up at a club meeting and see what kind of interest there is among the membership, Fred seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

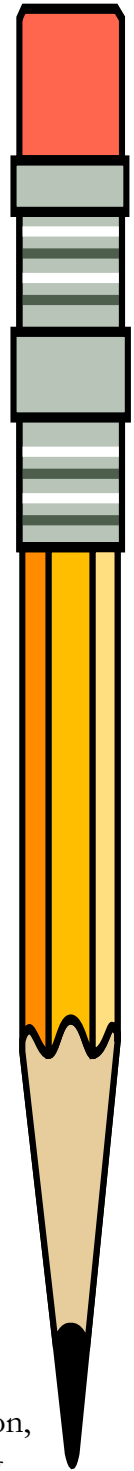
Tom said he brought up the subject of a Public Affairs Officer at the last club meeting, but he did not get any response.

Tom showed the board some GARA name tags that he made and said it would be something the board can give to all members and include it in the welcome packet for new members.

The board discussed some ways to promote the open house /expo.

Tom said he would like to see the website updated or replaced. After some discussion, Tom made a motion that by the end of this year the board locate a person who is willing to build a new website, Cameron seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.



From the President's Shack

It is time for an update. In April, I stated that the board was working on the following: becoming a tax-exempt corporation, establishing a way the membership can pay dues on line, and reducing the club's combined phone and internet bill.

The board has replaced Bellsouth/AT&T's phone line with Basic Talk resulting in an average savings of around \$60 per month.

The 501(c)(3) certification paperwork is complete, however filing has been put on hold. During the process of completing the required forms, we discovered that GARA has two EINs (Employee Identification Numbers). We asked the IRS in April to determine which EIN GARA should use on the 501(c)(3) paperwork. The request should have taken 45 days. Two days before the 45 day dead line, the IRS contacted GARA and told us they would need an additional 45 days before it makes a ruling. We have not heard from the IRS yet.



We now have a PayPal account and are in the process of placing a PayPal link on GARA's web site so that you may pay your annual dues and other items via PayPal.

While trying to update some sections of GARA's web site, we have determined that the current format of the website difficult for some to update and is in need of a fresh look. Both the board and GARA's web master Brian Wilson, NX4U, agreed the web site and the club would benefit from a total redesign of the club's website. The Board hopes to have a new and improved web site up by the end of the year.

We now have a date for GARA's Open House. This year's Open House will be held on the second Saturday in October (the 11th) at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, 27407. The Open House will be held in conjunction with VE Testing. The plan is to hold the VE session upstairs at 9:00 am and the Open House in the hall on the first floor. The open house will start at 10:00am and end at 4pm. We are still determining what exhibits will be shown. If you want: to present an exhibit, help with setup or help someone with their exhibit, please contact John Strandberg, W4DX. His email address is w4dx@arrl.net.

I hope to see you at this month's meeting.

Tom Bertolino, KB1P
President, GARA



Congratulations! You Passed!

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 Roy Smith, N4BYU, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

In July, there were two (2) who passed their test(s), and earned either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on August 9th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, 27407, at 9am. While walk-ins are welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Roy Smith at (336) 312-0647 or by email at n4byu@arrl.net

If you cannot make it to this test session, W4VEC holds a second test every month in this area. Test sessions are held at 10am on the last Saturday of each month at the Red Cross High Point Chapter, 815 Phillips Ave., High Point, NC 27726. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact information is Bob Williams, KB4TWG, email robwilliams@northstate.net, phone (cell), 336-812-5500.

Photos Courtesy of Tom Bertolino, KB1P, and/or Roy Smith, N4BYU



***Richard Pridemore, KK4HWJ
Passed General***



***Richard Colter, KM4CFH
Passed Tech***

Engineering Update for July, 2014

From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

I hope everyone enjoyed Field Day. This year, as usual, I operated from the W4UA station (High Point Amateur Radio Club) as one of three operating positions, using my Elecraft K2, and LDG Z11-ProII tuner, along with a 130 ft doublet wire antenna. I did get my inexpensive (< \$8) digital voice recorder module working as a voice keyer. Look for an article on this soon.

UHF (D-STAR) REPEATER

As of this writing (July 13th), we are still operating on the borrowed power amplifier, and it is still working well. I'll let you know when I get the original amp back and get it installed. Our gateway computer's SSL (secure socket layer) certificate expired on 6/30/2014, so when accessing the gateway you might get an "invalid certificate" warning. It's OK, you can accept that and continue. I have requested a new certificate from the domain holder (Robin, AA4RC) but I have not received it yet.

A recent complaint about reduced sensitivity on the receiver input is being investigated. I am concerned about a condition reported by other D-Star repeater owners where over time, the ICOM radio gets into a condition where it randomly begins to trigger its Receive Enable state, even with no applied signal, and sometimes does not receive transmissions. To this date, there has been no solution to this from ICOM, other than power cycling the radio. At this point I cannot say definitively that this is occurring on our radio, but we will keep watching for it. You can see a good video showing this condition by Michael, VK5ZEA, here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJoocHd9hv8> I have spoken to Michael, and he has not solved this issue on his repeater to date.

VHF REPEATER:

From time to time, we have received reports of interference being heard on the input of the VHF repeater, and I have heard it myself. Those of you who have been around for a while know that this happens periodically, and we have never been able to track down the exact source. During a site visit on June 21, we swept the area again for interference, and again heard some relatively strong interference emanating (apparently) from the Verizon equipment shelter that is at the site, similarly to what I described back in March. So, the detective work continues...

Layman, KK4LLY; Tom, KB1P and myself visited the repeater site on June 21st to make backups of the D-Star computers, and to measure the SWR of the VHF repeater antenna system. It is still satisfactory, below 1.2:1 at the duplexer connection to the feedline.

NEW PROBLEM REPORTING SYSTEM:

The club has been working on an on-line problem reporting system that will be available to members to submit reports of repeater operation. http://w4gso.org/repeater_form.html

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your club repeaters, either VHF or D-Star, or any other technical topic, please contact me at aj4tf@arrl.net.

73 from the GARA Engineering Committee!



HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act Of 2014 and the ARRL Grassroots Campaign

Recently, there have been 2 announcements from the ARRL regarding HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. This bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives and it calls on the FCC to apply the “reasonable accommodation” three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions, such as neighborhoods with antenna restrictions enforced by Home Owner Associations (HOAs). Antenna relief in neighborhoods with private Covenants, Codes, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) is critical in North Carolina because, according to the North Carolina Home Owners Association, 62% of housing units in the state fall under HOAs, and the 2007 state antenna law does not apply to HOAs. HR 4969 would overturn private CC&Rs.

HR 4969 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel’s Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. According to the article which was posted on June 26th, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB said the most urgent task now is to get additional co-sponsors to sign onto HR 4969. For further information on the first announcement, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/house-bill-would-require-fcc-to-extend-prb-1-coverage-to-restrictive-covenants>

In July, a follow-up article was published regarding a grassroots effort, which was underway to encourage radio amateurs to promote co-sponsorship of HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act. The grassroots campaign is focused on contacting Members of Congress or their staffers at or through their district offices. The article discussed strategies for making such contacts. The primary point that needs to be communicated is that the greatest threat to Amateur Radio volunteer emergency and public service communications is restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antenna systems. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/grassroots-campaign-underway-to-promote-co-sponsorship-of-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Supplemental information regarding the HR 4969 grassroots campaign has been posted on the ARRL website. The link is located on the homepage under the heading, “What’s Popular”. Click on “HR-4969” and you will be directed to the webpage, <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>. On the HR-4969 webpage, you will find information on: the bill and what it will do; how you can help get the bill passed; who is your Congressperson; where your letter should be sent; and, the key “talking points” you should know when discussing the bill. It is my understanding that updates on HR 4969 and the grassroots campaign will be posted on this webpage as they become available.

Other links regarding HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014 include:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-president-issues-call-to-action-to-gain-support-for-hr-4969-amateur-radio-parity-act> which provides a link to a video call to action to gain support for HR 4969 by ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN; and, <http://www.arrl.org/news/centennial-convention-provides-springboard-for-amateur-radio-parity-act-hr-4969>

From the standpoint of clubs and individual members, it is recommend that discussions are initiated about HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act, that decisions are made about the grassroots actions that could be pursued, and that letters are prepared. Please note that specific “talking points” need to be included in the letter. Again, the supplemental information at <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969> provides the guidelines that will be needed for the grassroots campaign. You are encouraged to monitor the news section of the ARRL website for updates.

Also, please consider subscribing to the ARRL Legislative Update, which can be done via Edit Email Subscriptions on your ARRL website account.



Silent Key - Tom Hatley, KF4JZD

GREENSBORO Thomas Reid Hatley, 58, died Sunday, July 13, 2014. There will be a celebration of life Saturday, July 19th, at 4 p.m. at Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church, Greensboro. He is survived by his parents Bob and Pat Hatley, sisters Camille Hatley, North Pole, AK, Cheryl Hatley Medlin (David) Stoneville, NC, brother Alan Hatley (Lisa) Summerfield, NC, Special nephews and niece, great niece and nephew. He was a graduate of Page High School. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Gate City Cremations is serving the Hatley family.

“The Hang Out” - Each Friday Night

Years ago local area hams would get together at a local eatery on Friday night. This hasn't been one in years, so I called Captain Bill's and I believe we have set up in a private room from 7-9pm on Fridays.

If we do start again, as of now it will be free, but we should eat or at least leave a couple dollars for the wait staff. It will keep them happy and help us keep it free. This will be the new group in Guilford County.

The Friday Night Hang Out at Captain Bills, later to be shortened to “The Hang Out.” No officers, no dues, no bylaws. Just come and hang out. \$2.00 for the help, please.

THE GREENSBORO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FREE!

YOU'RE INVITED

TO AN OPEN HOUSE

Saturday
October 11, 2014
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
at
Hinshaw United Methodist Church
4501 High Point Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27407

GARA
GREENSBORO AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION

W4GSD-STAR
442.8625 MHz

- Displays of Amateur (Ham) Radio
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Skywarn - Storm Spotting for the National Weather Service
- On-air demonstrations
- New and modern radio technology
- Information about obtaining/renewing your license
- Representatives from various amateur radio organizations

Whether you're a formerly or presently licensed amateur, or a complete newcomer to the hobby, this will be a chance for you to catch up on technology and what's going on in the Amateur Radio hobby.

If you have any questions please e-mail us at:
info@w4gso.org

Our web site is:
www.w4gso.org

Talk-in:
145.150 Mhz. 100 KHz tone
D-Star - 442.8625 Mhz.

Ham Radio
in the 21st Century

SKYWARN



Are you receiving GARA emails?



GREENSBORO AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION

GARA sends periodic emails with club news and announcements. If you use Gmail, you may be overlooking our emails! Gmail has added a new feature called **Tabs** to your inbox. This feature is designed to make your inbox easier to manage by using different tabs to automatically organize your incoming mail into categories. This new organization causes emails from GARA to end up in the **Promotions** tab, rather than in the **Primary** mailbox. Here's a tip you can use to help ensure your email is delivered to the **Primary** tab.

- ① Go to the Promotions tab
- ② Find an email sent from "GARA-Greensboro Amateur Radio Association", (or sent from "events@w4gso.net")
- ③ Left-click and hold on the email, and drag it from the Promotions tab over to the Primary tab
- ④ Release the mouse and the email will drop into the Primary tab
- ⑤ Gmail will display a yellow box asking if you want to make this change permanent. Click **YES** to ensure that all messages from GARA appear in the Primary tab going forward.

DID YOU TAKE OUR SURVEY ?

GARA wants your feedback and opinions about possible future meeting program topics, or other meeting comments. If you did not yet take our brief survey, please do so by visiting

<http://tinyurl.com/GARAsurvey>

Calendar of Events

- Aug 9 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Aug 11 GARA Board Meeting
- Aug 23 16th Annual CFARS Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC) <http://www.cfarsnc.org/>
- Aug 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Aug 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Aug 30 North Carolina State Convention (Shelby Hamfest)(Shelby, NC) www.shelbyhamfest.org
- Sep 8 GARA Board Meeting
- Sep 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Sep 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Sep 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Oct 11 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 11 GARA's Open House/Ham Radio Expo (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 12 Maysville Hamfest (Rotary Park Community Center ,704 8th Street Maysville, NC)
- Oct 13 GARA Board Meeting
- Oct 25 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Oct 27 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Nov 8 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Nov 10 GARA Board Meeting
- Nov 24 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Nov 29 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Dec 8 GARA Board Meeting
- Dec 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Dec 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)

This 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.

Area Happenings

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409. Please plan to gather at 6:30pm for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15pm

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – at 7:30pm, the **Technical Forum** on the 145.150;

- at 9pm, 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.

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 8:30pm, **The Guilford Amateur Society Rag Chew Net** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. 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 – at 6:15pm **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at Tex & Shirley's Restaurant in Friendly Shopping Center. Eat at 6:15pm and the business meeting begins at 7pm.

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 July to Dec. 2014

August 9, 2014

Sept. 13, 2014

Oct. 11, 2014

Nov. 8, 2014

Dec. 13, 2014

Location: Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407,

Time: 9:00am

Contact: Roy Smith

Phone: (336) 312-0647

E-mail: n4byu@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 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA