



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Brian Wilson, NX4U, Editor

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## GARA Open House

by Tom Bertolino, KB1P

John Strandberg, W4DX, did another great job organizing the Open House. John assembled exceptional list of exhibits this year. "Job Well Done" goes out to John and to all the presenters. Thank you for making this year's Open House a success. A special thanks goes out to Jim Waynick, N4JLW, and the members of Hinshaw United Methodist Church for making their Fellowship Hall available for our Open House. (Pictures on page 8)

For those of you that attended this year's Open House thanks for coming. For those who could not make it for one reason or another you missed a great time. I hope you can attend next year.



## This Month's Program

Our October Meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th 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: "World Radiosport Team Championship 2014" by Nathan Moreschi, N4YDU, Team Leader of North America 4 East. You can read about Nathan at these links <http://www.wrtc2014.org/n4ydu-nathan-moreschi/> and <http://sb.wrtc2014.org/team.php?tid=48>

Some reminders:

- GARA's annual Elections are next month. There are three board positions that need to be filled for next year. They are; Treasurer, Engineering Chairman, and Member at Large.

- The annual "Ham Radio Christmas Social" is being held on Tuesday Dec. 9th at Bonnie Kay Seafood Restaurant, 22 Spur Rd, Greensboro. If you plan to attend, you need to reply to Jim Hightower by November 30th. His email address is [w4jlh@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4jlh@bellsouth.net).

- GARA's 2015 membership is due by January 1, 2015. You can pay your dues at any meeting.

- GARA has new name badges; you can get yours at any meeting.

- 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, October 27

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, October 27th, 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 The presentation topic for this month is: "World Radiosport Team Championship 2014" by Nathan Moreschi, N4YDU, Team Leader of North America 4 East.

## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting Minutes September, 2014

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association held their monthly meeting on September 22, 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. Tom asked that every one identify themselves.

#### CLUB BUSINESS and OFFICER REPORTS

Tom said he received an email about a special event station K6H coming from the set of the "Last Man Standing." Tom said the Special Event Station will be on the air on September 27 & 28.

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, said the program for next month will be on the World Radio Championship by Nathan Moreschi, N4YDU.

Craig Bondy, N8STA, gave the treasury report.

Roy Smith, N4BYU, spoke about ham radio testing and said it would be nice to see more check ins on the Technical Forum and the News and Information nets.

David said he is looking at a very low cost frequency standard based on GPS signals. David will expand on this topic at a later date.

Jesse Lindley, K4AX, had nothing to report.

Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, had nothing to report.

#### Scheduled Events

October 11th GARA Open House at Hinshaw Methodist Church from 10am-4pm

November 12th Boy Scouts Stem Merit Badge College.

November 24th GARA Meeting – Election of Officers.

Cameron Conover, AJ4TW, gave the presentation on how to work a pile up, as well as, describing the use of filters.

Jesse Lindley, K4AX, made a motion to adjourn, Chan White, KJ4ADX, seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*

#### 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.



## Board Meeting Minutes - October, 2014

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on October 13th 2014 at Captain Bill's seafood. The members present were; Tom Bertolino, KB1P; Cameron Conover, AJ4TW; Jesse Lindley, K4AX; Craig Bondy, N8STA; David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Todd Smith, AK4TS; and Greg Spencer, KG4UQV. Layman Idol, KK4LLY, was visiting with us tonight.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Cameron gave an update on the website update stating that there were some issues getting the committee together at first.

Craig gave the treasury report

The board had a brief discussion on the engineering report that David had emailed us before hand. Jesse spoke about some noise that he heard on the 145.150 repeater.

The board discussed the nominating committee.

David said that he will head up the N4G special event station again in 2015. David said that he has already reserved the call sign.

Tom said that he has the 501(c)3 application ready to mail. Tom spoke of some issues that the board may have to correct before we can get approval.

Cameron said he has Nate Moreschi, N4YDU, lined up to do the presentation for the October meeting.

Tom said that there will be a meeting later this week about the Boy Scout radio merit badge course the club has been asked to help with. Stay tuned for more information to come on this opportunity.

New Business

Elections are coming up and the board has three vacancies to fill; Engineering chairman, Treasurer and Member at large.

Tom said he thought the board should make a donation to Hinshaw Methodist Church as a thank you for letting GARA use their facilities for the open house. Greg made a motion to send a \$150 donation to the church. Jesse seconded and all were in favor. The motion carried.

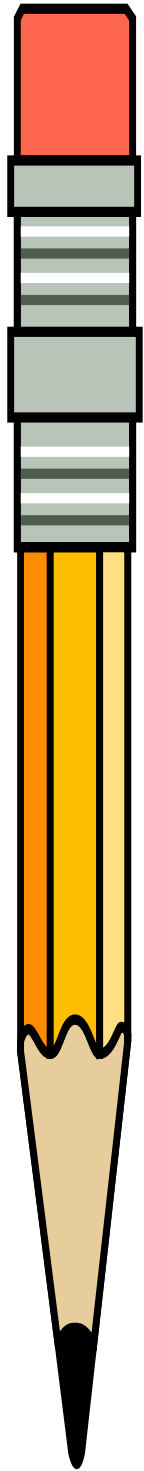
The board discussed starting a FaceBook page for GARA. Tom made a motion that Cameron be in charge of making the FaceBook page for GARA, Cameron seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

Craig said that the board needs to do a review of the club financial affairs at the end of his term.

Layman said that the last Sunday in November will be his last time to host the technical forum.

David made a motion to adjourn, Jesse seconded, all in favor and the motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.*



## From the President's Shack

GARA's board will have a new look starting the first of the year. There are three members on the current board that have decided not to run for reelection. They are: Treasurer Craig Bondy, N8STA; Engineering Chairman David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; and Member-at-Large Fred Lomax IV, KV4PI. All three have cited the added demands of work and family will not allow them to perform



their responsibilities properly. I enjoyed working with these outstanding individuals, and will miss their valued opinions and their support. When you see them please thank them for donating their time and effort to GARA. I hope in the future (if their schedules allows) they will reconsider running for a board position.

We are only one meeting away from GARA's annual elections, and we have some very important positions on next year's Board that need to be filled. If you or if you know someone who has the skills to fill these positions, and they are willing to take an active role in guiding the club through the next year, please contact the Nominating Committee Chairman, Patrick Moore, K2CPR or any board member. Patrick can be contacted by email. His address is [gara.nom.com@gmail.com](mailto:gara.nom.com@gmail.com).

John Strandberg, W4DX, did another great job organizing the Open House. John assembled exceptional list of exhibits this year. "Job Well Done" goes out to John and to all the presenters. Thank you for making this year's Open House a success. A special thanks goes out to Jim Waynick, N4JLW, and the members of Hinshaw United Methodist Church for making their Fellowship Hall available for our Open House.

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Here is a date to mark on your calendar. The annual "Ham Radio Christmas Social" is being held on Tuesday Dec. 9th at Bonnie Kay Seafood Restaurant, 22 Spur Rd, Greensboro. If you plan to attend, you need to reply to Jim Hightower by November 30th. His email address is [w4jlh@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4jlh@bellsouth.net).

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 October, 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 November 8th 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](mailto: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 277262. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact information is Bob Williams, KB4TWG, email [robwilliams@northstate.net](mailto:robwilliams@northstate.net), phone (cell), 336-812-5500.

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



***Clay Morrow - KM4EYA  
Passed Tech***



***Lisa Turner - KM4EXZ  
Passed Tech***

## Engineering Update for October, 2014

*From David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF*

I hope everyone is doing well, and catching those W1AW/X stations. Unfortunately I missed a couple of states, so it will be impossible for me to obtain the certificate. However, I still catch them when I can. I did happen to pick up Montana and Oregon, two states that had eluded me to date.

Last month, I wrote to you about inexpensive (<\$30) GPS receivers that can be used as frequency references. These modules were designed for radio-controlled quadcopter drones, so they are relatively small. Well, I bought one. I haven't had time to do anything with it yet, but look for an article in the future regarding this device.

### UHF (D-STAR) REPEATER

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.

I told you last month about a plan I concocted to use my IC-92 D-Star HT set on its lowest power setting ( $100\text{mW} = 20\text{ dBm}$ ) connected to a 100 dB attenuator string, through the HT antenna, to generate a very low level signal into the repeater's antenna system, while monitoring it at the site. After thinking about this some more, I am concerned about the ability to shield the HT... since the input sensitivity of the D-Star radio is on the order of  $-120$  to  $-130\text{ dBm}$ , it's likely that leakage from the HT would also get into the repeater receiver. However, all is not lost. Ever thoughtful, Arch, KT4AT, built a box some time ago containing a triple-shielded IC-91AD, and some attenuators, to do the same thing that I was thinking of. I spoke to him about this during the GARA open house, and we will rig this test box up soon and try it at the repeater site.

By monitoring what the repeater's receiver is seeing, we should be able to determine if the receiver is working as expected. I'll report when I am able to accomplish this.

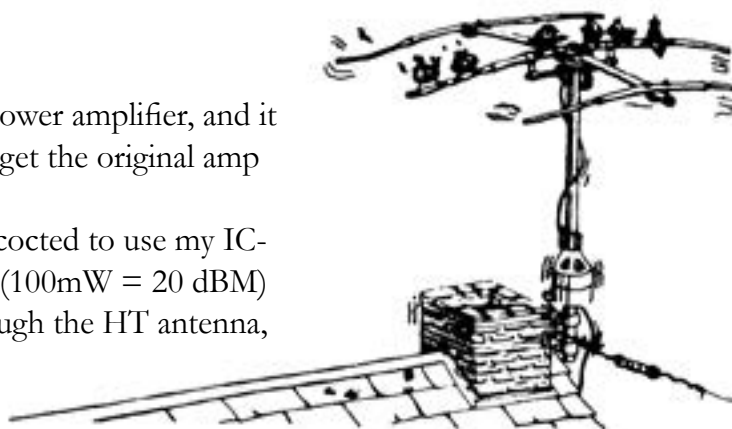
### VHF REPEATER

Although I don't listen to it during the whole day, my impression is that the interference on the VHF repeater has diminished. If someone has a different view, we would appreciate specifics (where were you, time of day, your operating conditions, etc.)

The club has an on-line problem reporting system that is available to members to submit reports of repeater operation or any other concerns. You can find this on the club web site.

Finally this month, it was reported at the last club meeting that I will relinquish the assignment of GARA Engineering Committee Chair in 2015 and let someone else have a go at it. It has been an interesting assignment, there is always something to think about and do. The demands upon my time

see Engineering, page 7



## Engineering (continued from page 6)

outside of GARA have given me less ability to put the time into this assignment, and, after almost 4 years, it's time to 'spread the wealth', so to speak. If you're interested in serving the club in a technical capacity in 2015, see any of the board members to throw your hat into the ring or catch me at a club meeting, or by email (below). Of course, don't do it for the salary... do it because you want to do it! Hi Hi!

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](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net).

73 from the GARA Engineering Committee!

## Annual Hams Christmas Social

*by Jim Hightower, W4JLH*

Hello, and early Seasons Greetings to all!

The annual "Ham Radio Christmas Social" will be held on Tuesday December 9th, 2014

The "SOUTHEAST EXPRESS" will provide the musical entertainment.

There is no admission charged for this event. We ask that you bring some canned goods which will be donated to the Greensboro Urban Ministry. You will, of course, pay for your meal.

All amateur radio operators, their families and/or guests are invited. This notice is being sent to the G.A.S. and G.A.R.A. members on my email list and there may be some newer Hams who will not be notified. So, please mention this event to any ham who you think may not know about it.

Mark your calendar for.....

Ham Radio Christmas Party: Tuesday,  
December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Bonnie Kay Seafood Restaurant

222 Spur Road , Greensboro , NC 27406

(The event will be in the private room on the right side of the building).

Directions to the restaurant: South on Randleman Rd. from I-40 to the flashing caution light which is just past where Elm-Eugene intersects, turn left on Spur Road and the restaurant is ¼ mile on right.

Please respond to this message by November 30th with a number in your party so I can notify the restaurant of the number to expect at the event.

Thanks & 73, Jim





## GARA Open House 2014

Photos Courtesy of Layman Idol, KK4LLY





## Calendar of Events

- 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 17 JARSFEST (American Legion Complex, Hwy 30, Benson, NC, <http://jars.net>)
- 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 9 Ham Radio Christmas Social, Bonnie Kay Seafood Restaurant, 22 Spur Rd, Greensboro
- Dec 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Dec 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Jan 10 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Jan 12 GARA Board Meeting
- Jan 26 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Jan 31 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Feb 9 GARA Board Meeting
- Feb 14 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Feb 23 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Feb 28 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Mar 9 GARA Board Meeting
- Mar 14-15 N4G at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GCNMP), Greensboro
- Mar 21 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Mar 23 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Mar 28 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)

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](mailto: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 Sept. to Dec. 2014

**Nov. 8, 2014**

**Dec. 13, 2014**

**Jan. 10, 2015**

**Feb. 14, 2015**

**Mar. 21, 2015**

**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](http://www.w4gso.org)

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