



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Betty Williams, KC2BFN Editor

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GARA Events and Info

FIELD DAY IS HERE!!!!!!

Are you operating or just observing?

Are you participating in the club Cookout?

**Whether it's one or the other or both,
come out and support GARA in this annual
event.**



This Month's Program

Field Day 2016 is almost here! As you've already heard, this year we're combining the annual Cookout with Field Day activities at Tannenbaum Park in Greensboro. Due to the activities there won't be a normal GARA meeting in June at Captain Bill's. Also, as a reminder, please RSVP at www.w4gso.org/cookout-rsvp before Friday, June 24 if you plan on attending so that we can make sure to have the right amount of stuff. The Cookout will go from 4:30 until 6:30 pm at the same location as the Field Day setup, but be sure to bring chairs so that you can enjoy dinner outdoors with friends. Restrooms and an indoor facility are located nearby. Feel free to pull up a rig and rack up some points for Field Day before, during or after the Cookout. Thanks for supporting this event, and we hope to see you all on Saturday!

- ❖ GARA has new name badges. If you do not have yours, you can get your name badge at any meeting.

NEXT MEETING Monday, June 27th

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, June 27th, at Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27409, between Guilford College Road and Swing Road. Due to the Field Day activities the meeting portion of the evening will be shortened.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes May, 2016

The Greensboro Amateur radio association held their regular monthly meeting on May 23rd 2016 at Captain Bills seafood located at 6108 W. Market Street in Greensboro.

Cameron Conover AJ4TW called the meeting to order at 7:15PM

Cameron asked that everyone identify themselves.

We had several new members as well as some visitors with us tonight.

Cameron spoke about Roy smith N4BYU resigning as trustee and operations officer. Cameron said that John Strandberg W4DX has agreed to take over as trustee and operations officer. Bob mays KE4MOW made a motion to accept John Strandberg for Trustee and operations. Tommie Lauer K4MTL seconded. The motion passed.

David Bond KK4VCG gave the treasury report and said that the taxes have been filed.

Patrick Moore K2CPR spoke about the equipment that has been donated to GARA.

Tom Bertolino KB1P thanked Betty Williams KC2BFN for taking over publishing the feed line.

Patrick gave the presentation on Field day and proper techniques for working a contest. Patrick also said there is a field day planning meeting coming up at 7:00PM on Thursday May 26th at the Glen McNairy Branch of the Greensboro public library located at 4860 lake Jeannette road.

Cameron said he would like to run the repeater in full auto mode. Cameron Conover AJ4TW made a motion to switch the repeater controller to auto/auto on a trial basis until the July meeting where members can report how they like it or dislike it. Patrick Moore K2CPr seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting ended at 8:14PM

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

Tour to Tanglewood Needs Operators

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Cameron Conover, AJ4TW
Vice-President Scott Toth, KV4UP
Treasurer David Bond, KK4VCG
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV
Financial Patrick Moore, K2CPR
Engineering Chair Jesse Lindley, K4AX
Operations Chair John Strandberg W4DX
Member-at-Large Ed Miller, AD4YB
Member-at-Large Thomas Bertolino, KB1P

Appointed Position:
Public Information
Officer

Newsletter Editor
Betty Williams KC2BFN

The Feed Line is ©2016 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 National MS Society is gearing up for their annual Bike MS: Tour to Tanglewood on September 17-18! This ride is out of Clemmons, NC and will cover up to 100 miles on each day (various routes of different distances will be offered). They are in need of Ham radio operators for the ride and would love the club's help.

The link to register and learn more is

http://bikenct.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=27694&pg=entry.

If you have any questions, contact Caroline Duncan at caroline.duncan@nmss.org. She will be happy to answer them.

Board Meeting Minutes - June, 2016

The GARA board of directors held their monthly meeting on June 13th 2016 at the Glen McNairy Library located on Lake Jeanette road in Greensboro. The members present were; Cameron Conover AJ4TW, Scott Toth KV4UP, David Bond KK4VCG, Patrick Moore K2CPR, Tom Bertolino KB1P, John Strandberg W4DX and Greg Spencer KG4UQV

Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Greg stated that he has mailed the paperwork for changing the trustee to W4VEC.

David bond gave the treasury report and stated that he ordered the real time clock upgrade for the repeater controller. The Taxes have been filed and 501C3 paperwork renewed. We discussed field day/picnic food expense and who will purchase food.

We discussed changing the internet service supplier at the repeater site.

We discussed preparing a financial statement at the next board meeting for presentation at a club meeting.

Jesse was unable to attend the meeting but he emailed a report to the board which will be in the feed line.

The board welcomed John Strandberg W4DX to the board. John will be taking over the Operations and Trustee positions from Roy Smith N4BYU who has resigned from those two positions.

Scott Toth Said the June presentation will be about field day and in July we hope to have Bob Hiel via Skype.

Cameron said he will get together with Scott after field day to decide on what to do about the Collins gear that was donated to GARA.

Cameron said he met recently with Joe Rotundi of The Forge in Greensboro about the possibility of putting a club ham shack at their facility. We may have our next board meeting at the Forge in order for the rest of the board to see what is possible there.

Tom reminded us that tomorrow June 14th is Flag Day and also the birthday of the US army.

Tom Bertolino KB1P made a motion to buy 3 sets of inexpensive lights for use at field day and N4G, Scott Toth KV4UP seconded All were in favor and the motion carried.

The meeting came to an end at 8:24PM

Respectfully submitted by Greg Spencer, KG4UQV, GARA Secretary.

From the President's Shack

I can't wait to get to Field Day, your fellow club members have put a lot of work into Field Day this year, and there is still more that will come. I hope that each and every one of you will come by the field Day site even if just to say hello. We are going to have a total of five radios on the air for field day including the VHF station and the GOTA station. There will be plenty of opportunities to operate, so don't be shy, jump in there. I am really looking forward to it, I haven't had a lot of time to operate HF so far this year so this will be a much needed dose of radio time.

I would also like to thank our new Operations Chair and Callsign Trustee, John Strandberg, W4DX, for stepping up in a time of need to help out the club. I know that John will prove to be an excellent choice for the role. We've had one board meeting since John joined us and I can already tell that his presence will be very positive for the club.

Come to Field Day, we are trying some new things this year, I really think it's going to be great. See you there.

73 Cameron AJ4TW

June, 2016

May Engineering Update

From Jesse Lindley, K4AX

June is here and it's once again almost time for Field Day! Just like last year we will have three stations on the air, in addition to the GOTA (Get On The Air) and VHF/UHF station, so W4GSO will be running 3A again. As of this week I'll be getting the things together to put a station on the air and having it ready to run CW, Digital Modes, Voice, and cat control, along with making sure a laptop is ready to go with the N1MM networked logging software. It never really seems like it takes that much to get a multiband Field Day station on the air at a new location until I start loading the car with everything. I look forward to seeing everyone there as I know we will have a good time as always!

UHF Dstar repeater

Most of the attention that's been paid to Dstar as of late has not been on the RF side at all, but the internet connectivity, and IT housekeeping of the Linux based Dstar gateway computer. I've outsourced this to Steve KB7SQI and Scott KV4UP. Both of them are far more knowledgeable on keeping things updated, secure, and running smoothly on the Linux Dstar Gateway than I am. Steve has the Linux box updated, and keeps the various packages updated to keep the Gateway running smooth.

Recently we installed IP power strip at the site that allows remote control of powering on and off items plugged into the strip. Also for our DSL modem, the strip will ping and make sure the internet connection is working, if it does not get a response it will reset the modem automatically after a set amount of time.

The RF side of the Dstar machine seems to be doing well, I've not tested power out this month but plan on doing so before July at some point. The footprint seems unchanged from the 40/85 split, Winston Salem, VA border, and into High Point/Thomasville.

Repeater State Of Repairs Yaesu VHF

As of a few weeks ago we switched the Yaesu repeater to AUTO|AUTO allow FM traffic in, FM traffic out, and digital traffic in digital traffic out. Other than getting on and explaining to everyone after sending out a few emails about setting tone squelch initially it seems to have been a smooth transition. When the C4FM users are using the repeater, all it takes is for anyone to transmit in FM to switch everyone to FM. We have seen this happen a few times. We think this is the best course of action, to make sure all users of the machine have access. If the digital users do get switched to FM, and ask if another station wants to join in on the conversation in FM and the station doesn't respond, it should be up to the users of the machine to determine if they want to continue the QSO in FM or C4FM.

RF performance of the Yaesu repeater and amp after getting it fixed seems to be really good. As I've noted before the RX of the repeater is extremely hot, and well beyond what the actual noise floor is at the site. It will hear down to -134dbm, but we noted the daytime noise level on the antenna to be around -125dbm. The Mastr II machine with its preamp was good to -126dbm versus -134dbm of the Yaesu, a huge difference for a repeater that doesn't even have a preamp.

The machine has been tested to the fringes to the north, east and west as best I know, and it's done as good as or better than the previous one. When the C4FM mode is used, and with the added error correction the range and quality is yet increased even further. A noisy FM signal to the point you don't even want to talk to the user will be perfect on C4FM. The Digital Narrow mode of C4FM seems to be the best digital voice mode I've used with the voice quality and its weak signal performance versus Dstar and DMR. Before I would have given the nod to DMR but the quality of C4FM is really impressive. One recent example is a quick test with Patrick K2CPR recently. He was driving to Greensboro from Winston, in the Kernersville area he was on his HT in the car just using the rubber

Engineering (continued from page 4)

duck antenna. On FM he was workable, lots of picket fencing typical of a weak FM mobile and white noise, but he could be heard though with a bit of strain on the listener. He then switched to the digital narrow mode C4FM mode, which also has a good amount of forward error correction. The switch was very dramatic, 100% full copy, loud clear audio. The ability of C4FM to work so well on the fringes of coverage is amazing.

My goal is to get the Arcom controller installed at the site this month. This will greatly help in cleaning up the squelch tail, increase hang time to several seconds and will give us courtesy tones just like before noting normal use, net times, announcements, etc.

The main thing I'm waiting on to get cracking on the install is the Real time clock option from Arcom to install in the controller, it was ordered and arrived in the last week. It will keep the clock going after power losses and keep the schedule and macros on track after losing power. It also increases DVR memory storage on the controller.

Scott K4VUP donated a Dell computer and it is currently installed at the site, the plan is to use it for anything the VHF machine needs a computer for. We can remote into it currently with Team Viewer to control the IP switch to bring either repeater down, or power cycle them or anything plugged into the switch. Also the Arcom controller programming software is installed on this machine, and programming changes can be made remotely instead of driving to the site or sending long DTMF string commands over the air to make changes. In the future I HOPE we can get Newslite playing through one of the ports on the controller from this computer when needed, maybe Echolink, and Wires X linking one day if we desire.

I would like to extend once again a thanks to the engineering committee for all the work they have done to keep the G.A.R.A. repeaters on the air, they do a great job, it's thankless work for the most part as you mostly only hear complaints and not much else from repeater users, but please extend a hand to Scott KV4UP, Steve KB7SQI, Patrick K2CPR, David KK4VCG, and Cameron AJ4TW when you see them for their time and effort spent on the Engineering Committee.

FCC Information

FCC QUESTION POOL REVISED FOR JULY 1, 2016

The FCC question pool for Amateur Radio Extra license exams has been revised and will be effective for exams conducted on or after July 1, 2016. ARRL will produce new study materials in preparation for the new Extra exam. Manuals will be available the first week of May at the [ARRL store](#).

FCC GOES PAPERLESS

In order to streamline procedures and save money, the FCC stopped routinely printing and mailing licenses in February 2015. There are a number of ways a license holder can obtain an official FCC copy of their license. Licensees can find complete instructions on our [Obtain License Copy](#) web page.

Congratulations! You passed.

The following people passed their test but no pictures were taken:

FROM MAY TESTING:

Melinda (Mindy) Riewe, (11 year old daughter of KM4RQM), High Point – Technician

Ira Baker Jr., KM4TPP, King – General

John (Austin) Cooper Jr., Lexington – Technician

Joshua Nozzi, W4JLN, Danville, VA – General

Robert Draughan Jr., High Point – Technician

Dean Bounds, W4SWQ, Elon – Extra

Marvin Maynard, N8NPM, Jamestown - Extra



*Bobby Wilson, KM4DMJ
Pleasant Garden, General*

*Gregory Ray, KK4MHY
Winston-Salem, Extra*

*Jaime Restrepo KM4PPL
Greensboro, Extra*



*Vincent Zecchinelli N1VN
Vermont, Extra*

*Linda Worland, new
Call KW4UD, Extra*

FROM JUNE TESTING:



*Raymond Herndon KM4ENE
Upgraded to Extra*

*David C. Ross KM4TDA
Upgraded to General*

*Yochwa Bonilla KM4UNZ
New Technician*

*Preston Martindale KM4UOA
New Technician*



*Jonathan Davis KM4UOB
New Technician*

*Zackary Marshall KM4UOC
New Technician*

*Delaney Marion KM4UOV
New Technician*

*Sharon Reddick KM4UOE
New Technician*

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 June 11th 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 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

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 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, phone (cell), 336-420-9424.

The Virginia Beach Hamfest will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. All Clubs and Net Managers are encouraged to remind local hams about this event at meetings and on the air during nets and other activities. The Hamfest is a great place to hold a net or group reunion. Again this year any club or individual who purchases ten (10) advanced tickets will be awarded a free vendor table at the event. Furthermore, if a club or individual wishes to distribute tickets without an advanced purchase we will "consign" blocks of tickets to any interested parties. The only obligation is to turn in money for any sold tickets or return any unsold tickets at least one week before the event. Please see our web-site at VBHAMFEST.COM or contact Bill, WA4EUL at wa4eul@arrl.net for further information.

Calendar of Events

- Jun 25-26 ARRL Field Day
- Jul 09 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Jul 09 31st Annual Firecracker Hamfest (Salisbury, NC, <http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest>)
- Jul 11 GARA Board Meeting
- Jul 16 Mid-Summer SWAPFEST (Cary, NC, <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>)
- Jul 25 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Jul 30 WCARS Hamfest (Waynesville, NC, <http://wcars.org/>)
- Jul 30 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Aug 08 GARA Board Meeting
- Aug 13 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Aug 13 18th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest (Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org/>)
- Aug 22 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Aug 27 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Sep 03 North Carolina State Convention (Shelby Hamfest, Shelby, NC, <http://shelbyhamfest.org>)
- Sep 10 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Sep 12 GARA Board Meeting
- Sep 24 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Sep 26 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Oct 8 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Oct 10 GARA Board Meeting
- Oct 24 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Oct 29 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Nov 12 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Nov 14 GARA Board Meeting
- Nov 26 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Nov 28 GARA Elections/General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Dec 10 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Dec 12 GARA Board Meeting
- Dec 31 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)
- Jan 9 GARA Board Meeting
- Jan 14 VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
- Jan 23 GARA General Meeting (Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, Greensboro)
- Jan 28 VE Session (Red Cross Building, High Point)

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 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 News Line and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Patrick Moore K2CPR 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 Oct., 2016

July 9, 2016

Aug. 13, 2016

Sept. 10, 2016

Oct. 8, 2016

Location: Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 High Point Road, 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