



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Julia Toth, Editor

www.w4gso.orginfo@w4gso.org

This Month's Program

It's time to start firm up our plans for Field Day. For this month's presentation, I will cover what has already been done, this year's rules, and what we need to do to get ready. I hope you will be able to participate in this year's Field Day.

At last month's meeting, I mentioned a few possibilities for other club activities throughout the year, and I would like your feedback or suggestions so we can start planning.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Dave McLin, AC4A
Vice President

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Meeting Minutes

President's Message

Engineering Report

Treasurer's Report

New Hams

Calendar of Events

NEXT MEETING **April 22, 2019**

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at the Cooper's Ale House on Swing Road in Greensboro on April 22, 2019.

MEETING TOPIC:
Field Day

From ARRL...

DXpeditioner Kenneth Opskar, LA7GIA, is Recipient of Intrepid Spirit Award

<http://www.arrl.org/news/dxpeditioner-kenneth-opskar-la7gia-is-recipient-of-intrepid-spirit-award>



04/16/2019

Kenneth Opskar, LA7GIA, the radio amateur who was detained in Chad for several days after his TT8KO DXpedition was shut down, has won the Intrepid Spirit Award from the Intrepid-DX Group. The honor was announced over the weekend at the annual International DX Convention in Visalia, California.

"This award is to recognize Ken's outstanding efforts to activate Malawi — 7Q7GIA; Comoros — D67GIA; Equatorial Guinea — 3C7A; Central African Republic — TL8AO; Congo — TN5E; Somalia — 6O6O, and Chad — TT8KO," the group said. "We acknowledge Ken's pursuit of operating excellence in making these difficult activations."

The Intrepid Spirit Award memorializes James McLaughlin, T6AF, an Intrepid-DX Group member, who died in Afghanistan in 2011.

"The award is intended to recognize and honor those individuals or teams that boldly activate rare entities where their own personal safety is secondary to their pursuit of providing contacts to the DX community," the award announcement said. "While we do not encourage DXers to go into harm's way, we recognize that circumstances sometimes require that and we recognize those intrepid DXers with the Intrepid Spirit Award." — Thanks to Paul S. Ewing, N6PSE, President and Founder of the Intrepid-DX Group

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Scott Toth ND4L | **Vice President** Dave McLin AC4A | **Treasurer** Drew Paschal WB4IHY | **Secretary** Gregory Ray KK4MHY
Financial Committee Chair John Strandberg W4DX | **Engineering Chair** Matt Trull KX4GG | **Operations Chair** Open
Members-at-Large: Chris Thompson K4HC and Jesse Lindley K4AX
Appointed Positions: Public Information Officer/Newsletter Editor Julia Toth

The Feed Line is ©2019 by the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and published monthly. Our address is P.O. Box 39829, Greensboro, NC 27438. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide the club and prospective members information about the club and amateur radio in general. Material and information should reach the editor by the first Friday of the month for the next edition of the newsletter. Opinions expressed in "The Feed Line" do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, directors, editor or members of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association. Material may be reproduced, provided proper credit is given to GARA.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes

No board meeting this month

Regular Meeting Minutes

Cooper's Ale House
March 25, 2019

President Scott Toth began our March meeting at 7:15pm and asked for introductions.

Officers Present:

- Scott Toth
- Matt Trull
- David McLin
- Greg Ray
- Jesse Lindley

New Business:

- Operations Chair is still open. The monthly Feedline comes from communications@w4gso.org.
- If you make purchases thru Amazon Smile, we receive a small percentage of the sale.
- The club has GARA branded merchandise for sale on our website, go to: about GARA, GARA gear, and then to Merchandise.

Board Member Reports:

- President Scott Toth asked for committee reports:
- Vice President, David McLin has a goal to increase participation by club members. David's suggestions included: Winter Field Day, NC QSO Party, NA QS Party, ARRL DX Contest SSB, Open House and a cookout. Let David know of any ideas, this will be revisited at the April Meeting.
- Engineering Chair, Matt Trull thanked Jamey Hill KN4QHR for the drone pictures of the 2-meter antenna. The mounts are intact. Matt said to hire a crew for one day and climb the antenna to make repairs is \$3500.
- Secretary, Greg Ray asked everyone to sign the GARA attendance sheet.

Monthly Program: HF Nets

- Speakers were Donnie Hurst (KG4ZOD) and David Parks (W4VU). They spoke about HF nets and how to participate in them. A handout was given out about "The 3905 Century Club". They offer a free domestic QSL Bureau and nets on 20, 40, 75, 80, and 160 meters operating with a mixture of SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK-31 modes. The website is <http://www.3905ccn.com/>

Scott Toth made a motion to adjourn; Jesse Lindley and Linda Worland seconded the motion and the March GARA meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectively submitted by,
Greg Ray, KK4MHY
GARA Secretary

From the President's Shack

Most people are very familiar with our 145.150MHz W4GSO VHF repeater, but did you know that GARA has **two** repeaters? I know that I've mentioned it here before specifically in relation to the new MMDVM equipment that was installed last year, but I think a lot of us forget about the capabilities that we have now. Our UHF repeater has the ability to connect to both D-star **and** Yaesu System Fusion reflectors which means you can use your existing radios to converse with people all over the world even if you don't have a personal hotspot that supports both of those modes. Thankfully the setup also has the ability to be expanded to include DMR and P25 in the future if there is enough interest. Even if you don't have any desire to communicate outside of Greensboro, the GARA UHF repeater supports local conversations just as well and is a great place to learn about your Fusion or D-star rig. I hope that you'll take advantage of the great setup we have now and use it to the fullest.

GARA is still looking for an Operations Chairperson. This role is primarily responsible for organizing the local nets that are hosted on our repeaters and helping to organize club events including Field Day, club picnic, etc. This is an appointed position, so if you have any interest in joining the GARA board and contributing to these aspects of our community, please let me know directly. You can send me an e-mail at president@w4gso.org and I will be happy to discuss the details with you. I appreciate any consideration you can give. This organization is yours to make it what you want, and this is a great way to get involved in a meaningful way.

As a side note, it has been awesome to see so many new faces at our recent monthly meetings. If you're new: thank you! We are all grateful to make your acquaintance and to have you join us. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, would you consider joining us and meeting some new people? You'll definitely enjoy the conversation and have an opportunity to learn about interesting experiences.

Have a great Easter and I will see you on Monday, April 22.

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

Not much to report this month. Field Day is fast approaching. If you have any gear you would like to donate to Field Day activities, please let us know.

Matt Trull, KX4GG
Engineering Chair

Treasurer's Report

Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

BALANCE SHEET

As of March 31, 2019

| | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| Business Money Market (3290) | 8,232.17 |
| PayPal Bank | 1,693.49 |
| Primary Business Checking (6535) | 2,728.85 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$12,654.51 |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Undeposited Funds | 0.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | \$0.00 |
| Total Current Assets | \$12,654.51 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$12,654.51 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Total Liabilities | |
| Equity | |
| Opening Balance Equity | 11,219.61 |
| Retained Earnings | 949.26 |
| Net Income | 485.64 |
| Total Equity | \$12,654.51 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$12,654.51 |

From ARRL...

Djibouti J20DX IOTA DXpedition Thwarted by Bureaucracy

<http://www.arrl.org/news/djibouti-j20dx-iota-dxpedition-thwarted-by-bureaucracy>



4/18/2019

Djibouti J20DX IOTA DXpedition operators Col McGowan, MM0NDX; Jonathan Bowes, MM0OKG, and Christian Cabre, EA3NT, have thrown in the towel on their efforts to operate from two infrequently activated African islands – Moucha Island (AF-053) and the very rare Sept-Frères (AF-059). Their J20DX operation was set to run from April 16 – April 21, but McGowan's and Bowe's radio

equipment was impounded by customs upon their arrival at the airport, despite the fact that Cabre had cleared customs smoothly 2 days earlier. The team had "official radio licenses being issued by Djibouti Telecom" permitting them to operate radio without any conditions, they reported on the J20DX website.

The operators were told that the Djibouti security agency would make a decision on whether they could obtain necessary authorization to retrieve their equipment, but time wore on along with official inertia. Due to time constraints, the delay quashed plans to activate AF-059.

"Nobody is more disappointed about that than us," they said on their website Wednesday, expressing optimism that they would still be able to be active from Moucha or Maskali Island AF-053 and remain until Friday evening or Saturday morning. "Of course, this depends on the aforementioned bags being released by custom officials," they added.

Still without all their gear, on April 18, they made the crossing to Moucha Island, picked a location to set up, and immediately assembled antennas for 20, 17, and 15 meters.

"Literally 5 minutes before the first CQ from AF-053, we received a phone call from National Security saying signatures were needed for the authorization letter to permit us to collect our impounded gear," the J20DX team recounted. "This same letter would also allow us to depart Djibouti without any more issues at airport customs. However, we had to return to the mainland to get the letter."

With the weekend in Djibouti being Friday and Saturday, this Thursday would be their last chance to obtain the important authorization letter prior to heading home. "Before we had even started, teardown began. Yes, we left the island 2 hours after arriving. AF-053 is now also cancelled," they announced.

Upon reaching the National Security offices, the team said, unfortunately, "no authorization letter [was] to be seen."

VE Testing

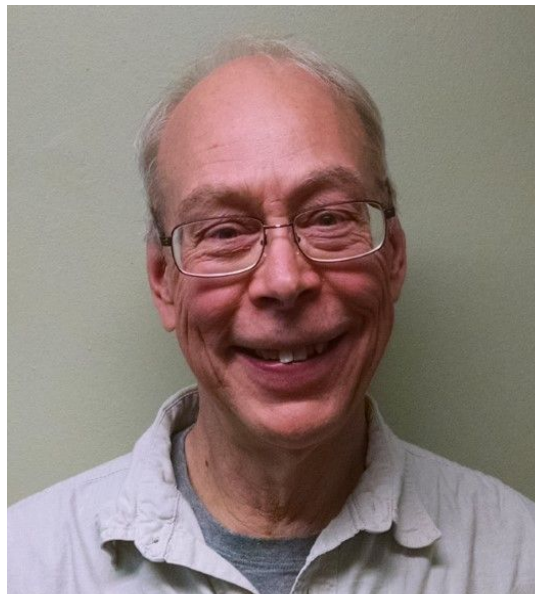
Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, and his team of volunteer examiners for taking time out of their busy schedules each month to help new or upgraded hams in our area.

The next testing session in Greensboro will be on May 11th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd., Greensboro 27407, at 9 a.m. While walk-ins are welcome, contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, cell (336) 420-9424.

The next testing session in High Point will be on April 27th at Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr. Drive), High Point 27262 at 10 a.m. **Pre-registration is required. Contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, (336) 420-9424 at least two days prior to the session.** David's email: aj4tf@arrl.net.

Look Who Passed

Greensboro, NC VE Session - April 13, 2019

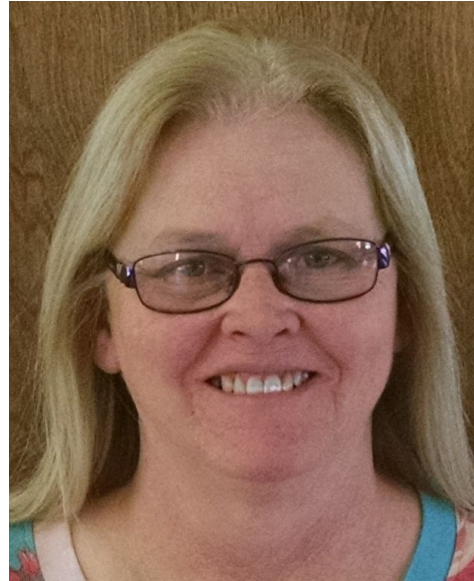


Allen "Warner" Phelps, KN4POG
Jamestown, NC
Earned General

High Point, NC VE Session - March 30, 2019



Eastridge Jr., Paul A.
Danville, VA
Earned Technician



Eastridge, Sheena G.
Danville, VA
Earned Technician



Withrow, John S.
KN4RYU
Greensboro, NC
Earned General



Seaman, Jeff T.
Concord, NC
Earned Technician



Worley, Noah G.
Sophia, NC
Earned Technician

From ARRL...

ARRL Rolls Back Outgoing QSL Bureau Rates to 2011 Prices

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-rolls-back-outgoing-qsl-bureau-rates-to-2011-prices>



04/15/2019

ARRL is rolling back Outgoing QSL Bureau rates to 2011 levels. Effective May 15, 2019, the new rates will be:

- \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.
- \$3 for 11 – 20 cards in one envelope, or
- 75 cents per ounce for packages with 21 or more cards. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards – 24 ounces, or about 225 cards – will cost \$18.

No transaction service fees. Any cards received before May 15 will be charged the current rate. There will be no adjustments for cards received before May 15.

Calendar of Events

| | |
|---------|--|
| Apr. 20 | Raleigh Hamfest (http://rars.org/hamfest) |
| Apr. 22 | GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House, Greensboro) |
| Apr. 27 | RV Radio Network Rally (https://rvradionetwork.com) (Linwood, NC) |
| Apr. 27 | VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point) |
| May 11 | VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro) |
| May 11 | Rockingham County ARC Swapfest (http://n4iv.org) |
| May 25 | VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point) |
| May 27 | GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House, Greensboro) |
| June 8 | VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro) |
| June 22 | GARA Field Day (Hagan Stone Park, Pleasant Garden) |
| June 22 | GARA General Meeting CANCELLED for Field Day |
| July 6 | 34th Annual Firecracker Hamfest (http://www.rowanars.com/events) Salisbury, NC) |
| July 13 | VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro) |
| July 20 | Mid-Summer Swapfest (http://www.qsl.net/n4nc) Cary, NC) |
| July 22 | GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House, Greensboro) |
| July 27 | VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point) |
| Aug. 10 | VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro) |
| Aug. 10 | 21st Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Swapfest (http://cfarsnc.org) |
| Aug. 26 | GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House, Greensboro) |
| Aug. 30 | Shelby Hamfest (http://shelbyhamfest.org) |
| Aug. 31 | VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 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 the Board of Directors at info@w4gso.org.

From ARRL...

Honda Portable Generators Recalled Due to Potential Fire Hazard

<http://www.arrl.org/news/honda-portable-generators-recalled-due-to-potential-fire-hazard>



4/15/2019

American Honda has announced that it's voluntarily recalling some 200,000 of its portable generators sold in the US due to a potential fire and burn hazard. The recall includes the EU2200i, EU2200i Companion, and EB2200i generators. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says the affected portable generators can leak gasoline from the fuel valve. Users should stop operating the recalled generator and contact an authorized Honda dealer for a free repair.

Honda is also contacting users directly. For more information, [visit the CPSC website](#). A similar recall has been issued in Canada.

Area Happenings

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 p.m., the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association has a regular monthly meeting at Cooper's Ale House, 415 S. Swing Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Please plan to gather at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 p.m.

CLUB NETS:

SUNDAYS – at 8:30 p.m., the GARA Sunday evening net. This features a rag chew followed by News and Information including Amateur Radio Newsline. It is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Scott Toth, ND4L is always looking for net controls.

TUESDAYS – at 8:30 p.m. The Triad SkyWarn Net meets on the 147.225, K4ITL repeater, no tone required

TUESDAYS – at 9 p.m., the D-Star Net meets on 442.8625 (W4GSO B and Reflector 54C)

WEDNESDAYS – at 8:45 p.m., The Guilford Amateur Society Rag Chew Net holds their weekly net on the 145.250 W4GG repeater. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

FIRST MONDAY – The Guilford County ARES monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7 p.m.

THIRD MONDAY – The Guilford Amateur Society is currently looking for a new venue for their meetings. When found, that information will be posted here.

THURSDAY – at 11:15 a.m., 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 8 p.m. (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks at Edney Ridge Rd.

The GSO W4VEC Testing Schedule May - July 2019

May 11th
June 8th
July 13th

9:00 a.m.
Hinshaw United Methodist Church
4501 Gate City Blvd.
Greensboro, NC

Contact:
David Macchiarolo
(336) 420-9424
aj4tf@arrl.net

GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz tone, FM and Fusion

442.8625 MHz + offset, D-Star and Fusion



Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 39829

Greensboro, NC 27438

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA