



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad



Julia Toth, Editor

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This Month's Program

Greetings from Italy. I am working on getting my Italian call sign (IS0...), but it takes a while when you have to deal with the Italian bureaucracy. Hopefully I can get it before I go back to Greensboro. This month's presentation will be a video about what is involved with setting up a DXpedition. I hope you enjoy it.

Dave, AC4A

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NEXT MEETING

August 26, 2019

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at Sarah's Kabob Shop in Greensboro on August 26, 2019.

MEETING TOPIC:

Navassa Island DXpedition

Important Update for this Monday



GARA Meetings Have a New Location!

**5340 W. Market St.
Greensboro, 27409
(336) 355-9260**

It's been a while since GARA changed meeting locations, but considering the challenges we faced at our old location, the Board decided it was time for a fresh start. A number of GARA members, as well as some Board members, suggested trying **Sarah's Kabob Shop** taking into consideration the way food is ordered, the available meeting space, the restaurant's location, and other factors. After talking to the owner and getting the meeting times on their schedule, we're happy to announce the new location. Meeting times and format will remain the same. Thanks for helping us to make this a successful transition!

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

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GARA Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2019
Cooper's Ale House

Member at Large and Past President, Chris Thompson began our July meeting at 7:13pm and asked for introductions.

Officers Present:

Matt Trull
Greg Ray
Chris Thompson

Board Member Reports:

Chris Thompson asked for committee reports:

- Secretary, Greg Ray asked everyone to sign the GARA attendance sheet.
- Engineering Chair, Matt Trull reported nothing.

Program:

Matt Trull gave a review of 2019 Field Day. We had 687 QSO's and scored 2954 points.

Chris Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn; Patrick Moore and Mark Siepak seconded the motion and the July GARA meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectively Submitted by
Greg Ray, KK4MHY
2019 GARA Secretary

From ARRL... **ARRL Contest and DXCC Rules Now Prohibit Automated Contacts**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-contest-and-dxcc-rules-now-prohibit-automated-contacts>



08/19/2019

Following the direction of the ARRL Board of Directors, ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts. These changes also apply to the Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), VHF/UHF Century Club, and Fred Fish, W5FF, Memorial awards. The changes are effective immediately.

A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to "growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed" for contest and DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact.

Initiation of a contact may be either local or remote.

From the President's Shack

I have to tell you that I love radio. I've always loved radio before I even know what it was capable of. I like shortwave, AM, FM broadcast - you name it. Sometimes there are big wars over what actually constitutes ham radio. The way I figure it, if RF is used in part or in all, then it qualifies. That's why I appreciate HF, VHF/UHF, digital modes like Fusion and D-star, FT8, CW, EME, Hamnet - all of it! Even though we can measure the effects of RF and have a good understanding of how it works, there's still something magical about a force in nature that can send information and meaning completely outside of our ability to perceive it. I'm sure most of you feel the same way, and I believe that feeling is what motivates us to be inventive, to spend time and effort learning, and to spend huge amounts of money on DXpeditions.

If you've forgotten about the magic that is radio, I hope you'll come out to our new meeting location this coming Monday, August 26 and rekindle it. Our plan is to watch a video of a talk together about how the Navassa Island DXpedition came to be and what it took to get on the island to give hams a chance to work the world's #1 most wanted entity. Setting up the gear may take some logistical maneuvering since we will be in a new location and haven't tried something like this there yet, but I'm confident we'll all learn something together.

I really hope you'll come out, and if not, I hope you won't be a stranger on our VHF repeater. Join us on our weekly net on Sunday evenings at 8:30pm and get to know other local amateurs and what they have going on. It's a great time to learn and share.

See you Monday!

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

As you may be aware, we are working to restore operations of the UHF repeater. We had several devices at the site which failed, either due to an equipment malfunction or a power surge. The devices themselves were all plugged into a UPS system, so it is possible that something came in over the cable modem. The next steps will be to perform more testing and swap out the controller system, which is based on a Raspberry Pi. More to come soon!

73,
Matt Trull, KX4GG

Spotlight on a Member

John Strandberg W4DX

My father was first licensed as a ham at the age of 13. His interest led to him to serve as a radio technician in WWII, earn a degree in electrical engineering and start his own electronics business. I am still active in this business. After I became active in ham radio, I was able to see how much of the business actually came out of his ham radio experience.

During the 70's, there were no cell phones but CB radio was big. I had one and got over that pretty quickly. My father was not active in ham radio at that time but some guys at work were and I became interested. I studied for both novice and technician class licenses and finally earned my novice license in 1984 with call sign KB4HKG. As I began raising a family of four kids, I forgot about and let it expire.

In 2007, I found some interest and time and earned my technician, general and extra class licenses. My first extra call sign was AJ4BT and in 2010 I won the lottery for W4DX. I enjoy chasing DX using SSB and CW. I also enjoy some of the contests, field day and other activities.

73,
John W4DX

From ARRL... So Now What? Podcast

<http://www.arrl.org/news/so-now-what-podcast-7>



8/22/2019

"Contesting," with ARRL Contest Program Manager, Paul Bourque, N1SFE, will be the focus of the new (August 22) episode of the So Now What? podcast for Amateur Radio newcomers.

If you're a newly licensed Amateur Radio operator, chances are you have lots of questions. This biweekly podcast has answers! So Now What? offers insights from those who've

been just where you are now. New episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the ARRL The Doctor is In podcast.

So Now What? is sponsored by LDG Electronics, a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products.

ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, co-host the podcast. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas. Listeners can find So Now What? on Apple iTunes, Blubrry, Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. Episodes will be archived on the ARRL website.

From ARRL...

Efforts Continue to Enhance ARES Program, Add Resources

<http://www.arrl.org/news/efforts-continue-to-enhance-ares-program-add-resources>



8/22/2019

The ARRL Board of Directors, committees, and Headquarters administrative staff are continuing efforts to enhance the venerable Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) program. A major ARES Plan has been adopted, providing new direction going forward. In addition, a standardized training plan has been adopted and a new ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book approved and published.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board considered the report of its Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG). A "change log" was proposed for the Task Book that will highlight changes made as the document is periodically revised and updated. ARES position guidelines were posted to the online ARES Workbook and a major revision and update of ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communications course — now designated as IS-001 — has been completed.

The course is now available at no cost to any ARES registrant, and a "tutor-less" format has been added as a parallel path for completing the course. Additional tutors were recruited to assist in handling the initial surge of interest. A "challenge" path directly to the final exam is also being implemented. An update and introduction of IS-016 — Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs — will follow in the next few months.

Veteran Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, has been brought on board to assist in implementing ARES Connect and to field questions about the new software package from users. ARES Connect is a volunteer management system covering event signup, reporting, and roster management, to simplify managing volunteers and events.

Some modest revisions to procedures have been made to the Ham Aid program.

Most recently, the PSEWG has begun an extensive examination of the future role of the National Traffic System (NTS) in concert with ARES. It's hoped that a brief survey of selected Section Managers, Section Traffic Managers, and Section Emergency Coordinators will provide a starting point for a more extensive analysis of the program.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board authorized the EmComm Manager Selection Committee to specify the position requirements for a new Director of Emergency Management at Headquarters. This individual will lead the team responsible for supporting the ARES program and will work with ARRL staff to develop standards, protocols, and processes to support the Field Organization.
— Thanks to The ARES E-Letter

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 September 14th 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 August 31st 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

High Point VE Session - July 27, 2019

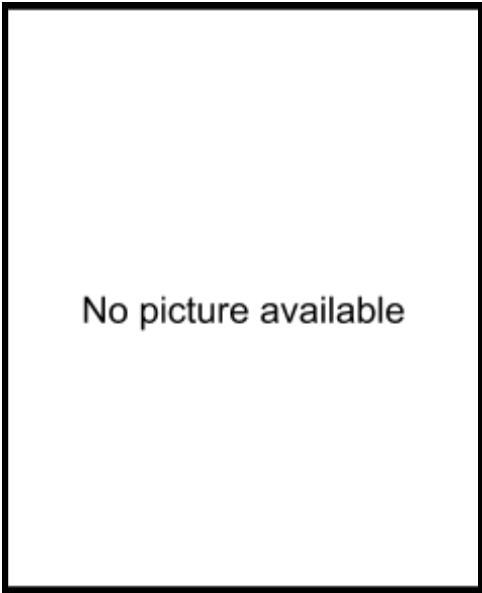


Steven W. Cranfill, KN4VZO
Winston-Salem, NC
Earned Technician



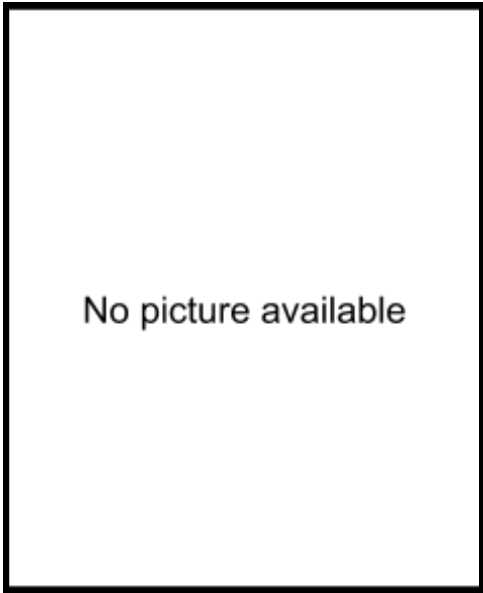
Craig S. Linville, Jr., KN4VZU
Kernersville, NC
Earned Technician

Greensboro VE Session - August 10, 2019



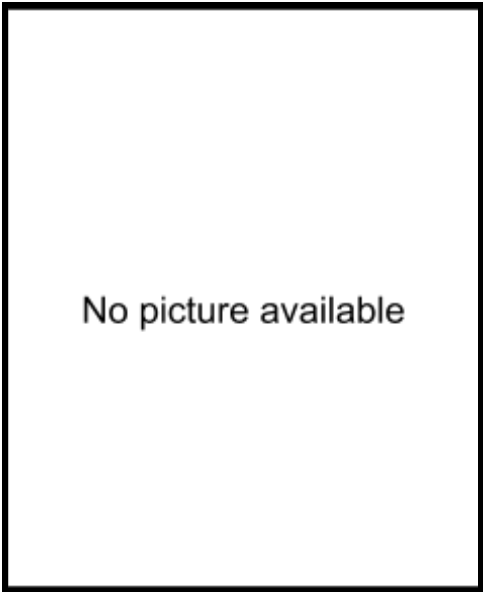
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Todd T. Burris, KN4WKC
Earned Technician



No picture available

Matthew D. Cox, KN4WKD
Earned Technician



No picture available

Camille J. Taylor, KX4TP
High Point, NC
Earned Extra

Open Invitation

FreeGate 2019 - Greensboro NC - September 21, 2019

The Qorvo (Formerly RFMD) Amateur Radio Club presents FreeGate 2019. A FREE tailgate swapfest! Yes, that's right FREE – NO ADMISSION FEE!

Conveniently located off of NC 68 just south of I-40. Saturday, September 21st from 8:00AM to 11:00AM -- This is NOT a rain or shine event. Please check our website at kd4rf.org if the weather looks suspect.

Qorvo (formerly RFMD) Headquarters -- Building A -- BACK parking lot ONLY please
7628 Thorndike Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27409

Talk in frequency - 145.150MHz PL 100.0 Hz

NO admission fee, NO space rental! All profit is yours! You do NOT have to be a member of the Qorvo Amateur Radio Club to buy, sell, visit, chat, etc. All are welcome! We provide a paved parking lot, on-site ATM, and indoor restrooms. You provide everything else: tables, canopies, power, drinks, food, and merchandise. Vendors: TBD. Please ... NO firearms, NO pornographic material permitted on site!

For more information: info@kd4rf.org or visit www.kd4rf.org

From ARRL...

Somalia Operation Set for September

<http://www.arrl.org/news/somalia-operation-set-for-september>



08/20/2019

Kenneth Opskar, LA7GIA, will return to Somalia and be active as 6070 September 14 – 28 on all bands 160 – 10 meters, mainly CW. Activity on other modes (SSB, FT8) will be limited.

"This trip has proved to be very difficult to plan, but finally after three site visits all details are sorted out," Opskar said on his website. "I have all permits in hand and look forward to returning to Somalia after 18 months. I will particularly focus on working North America this time, as well low bands." His last activity from there was in January 2018 as 6060.

Opskar said he's really looking forward to the trip, but that planning a trip to Somalia involves many limitations and challenges with respect to obtaining permissions, logistics, operation, safety, and security. "I have some additional security related expenses like armored car, armed guards, etc." He said his location in Somalia will be better than the one he had in 2018, with more room for Beverage antennas. QSL via M00XO. Logs will be uploaded to Club Log. — Thanks to OPDX via Southgate Amateur Radio News

Calendar of Events

Aug. 26	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Aug. 30	Shelby Hamfest (http://shelbyhamfest.org)
Aug. 31	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Sept. 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Sept. 23	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Sept. 28	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Oct. 5	Rock Hill Hamfest (http://www.ycars.org Rock Hill, SC)
Oct. 12	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Oct. 12	W4NC Fall-Fest (http://w4nc.com Winston-Salem, NC)
Oct. 26	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Oct. 28	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Nov. 9	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Nov. 17	JARSFEST (http://jars.net Benson, NC)
Nov. 25	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Dec. 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)

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.

Blue Ridge Microwave Society



**Blue Ridge
Microwave
Society**

There is a new local ham organization dedicated to microwave work: the Blue Ridge Microwave Society (BRMS). This group is to promote VHF/UHF and Microwave activity with emphasis on frequencies above 1 Ghz. This group is new so there's not too much on the site yet, but there are a number of ham currently active on 23 cm, 6 cm, and 10 ghz who would like to promote more activity on the microwave bands. The BRMS just recently put together a group page located here: Contact Stan Dillon, K4RCA, with interest or questions. You can reach him at k4rca@aol.com.

FEEDLINE

FOURTH MONDAY – at 6:30 p.m., the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association has a regular monthly meeting at Sarah's Kabob Shop, 5340 W. Market., Greensboro, NC 27409. 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 Newline. 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 Sept. - Nov. 2019

Sept. 14th

Oct. 12th

Nov. 9th

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