



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

We had a great time at Field Day this year. We had a lot of participants, a visit from our ARRL section manager, and a scout seeking a merit badge. We had a total of 678 QSOs, and we completed several bonus activities. I will share more details on our performance once we get a chance to review all the data. Thanks to everyone who helped out this year.

Dave McLin, AC4A
Vice President

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NEXT MEETING

July 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 July 22, 2019.

MEETING TOPIC:

TBA

From ARRL: **Pennsylvania Radio Amateur Dies in Tower Installation Mishap**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/pennsylvania-radio-amateur-dies-in-tower-installation-mishap>



06/19/2019

A 62-year-old Union Dale, Pennsylvania, radio amateur — Leland L. “Lee” Parsons III, N3LPJ — was killed on June 14 during a tower installation project when a tower section he was working on collapsed off State Route 2069 in Gibson Township. Authorities said Parsons was apparently attempting to attach a guy wire to the bottom tower section when it went over. Parsons was an ARRL member and the president of the Susquehanna County Amateur Radio Club.

The online Wireless Estimator called the incident “a stark reminder of the dangers present this weekend during Field Day.” The article cited a 2009 Field Day tower collapse that claimed the life of 57-year-old Larry Prelog, KE4PM — an experienced climber — while he was installing an antenna. In that incident, two legs at the base of the tower buckled.

The Wireless Estimator article also recalled the death of the Reverend Paul Bittner, W0AIH, 84, a well-known radio amateur, contester, and Field Day participant, who lost his life last October when he fell from one of the towers at his extensive antenna farm in Wisconsin.

Parsons was among the founding members of the Susquehanna County Amateur Radio Club. He also belonged to the Wayne County Amateur Radio Club.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Cooper's Ale House
May 27, 2019

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

Officers Present:

- Scott Toth
- Matt Trull
- David McLin
- Drew Paschal
- Chris Thompson

Board Member Reports:

- President, Scott Toth, ND4L asked for committee reports:
- Treasurer, Drew Paschal, reported a bill from Mercer for \$468 due July 6 for repeater equipment, property and liability insurance
- Engineering Chair, Matt Trull, KX4GG reported that two wire antennae were ordered for Field Day. We have no new information about the antenna on the tower.
- Board Member at Large, Chris Thompson, K4HC reported that elections will be here soon, we need a nominating committee, and encouraged members to run for office. He also announced that Stan Dillon, K4RCA has a new group called the Blue Ridge Microwave Society. It is for 1296 and above, has no dues, and is available to those with technician license and higher. An email will go out to announce the group and provide more information.

Monthly Program: David McLin, AC4A, gave a presentation about Hamvention and discussed GARA's Field Day plans and preparation activities.

Jesse Lindley made a motion to adjourn; Chris Thompson seconded the motion and the May GARA meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

From the President's Shack

Field Day 2019 has come and gone, but that certainly doesn't mean that we're done for the year! There are plenty of contests coming up, and besides those, many DXpeditions are underway or will be very soon. I think it would be fantastic if we continued our momentum and found times over the summer and into the fall where we can all get together again and work new countries or create pileups of our own. There doesn't even need to be a contest on the calendar to put something on our schedules. Maybe it's time for a special event station! Be thinking about ways we can operate together and let me know of any ideas.

I've been on our repeaters recently, and despite my best efforts, I rarely have anyone come back to my call. I'm sure that most of us have a 2 meter FM radio in our cars. I also know that many of us have a C4FM or D-star radio as well. I'd like to encourage you to break out your HT or turn on your mobile and keep our repeaters warm throughout the summertime. The primary point of ham radio is **communications**, and if we don't talk to each other, then the point is being lost. Our repeaters are some of the best in the area, so come join me and let's get to know each other a little better this summer.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Dave McLin, AC4A for his stellar efforts in organizing GARA's Field Day activities this year. Dave put a lot of time and effort into making sure we had the park camping spot reserved, that we had a plan for our setup, and that we had all of the equipment and gear that we needed. All of Dave's efforts paid off in a great event. Matt Trull, KX4GG also put a lot of effort into purchasing materials and building the HF antennas that we used, and I am very thankful for the great job he did. Carl Fenske, KC4WGA was the motivation for us to go full solar this year, and that made a huge difference both in our operating experience, but also as good neighbors to the campers around us. There were others like Jesse Lindley, K4AX and Patrick Moore, K2CPR who kept the radios on the air, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who made this event a huge success.

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to hearing you on the air!

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

Field day was very successful this year. The weather cooperated and our QSO count was good. Every year I think we learn and make improvements and this year I felt like we had things fairly well dialed in. It was especially nice to operate entirely from battery power for the entire event. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next event.

73,
Matt Trull, KX4GG
Engineering Chair

*From ARRL...***LightSail 2 Set to Launch on June 22**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/lightsail-2-set-to-launch-on-june-22>



06/20/2019

The Planetary Society's citizen-funded LightSail 2 solar-propelled spacecraft is set to launch on June 22 on board a SpaceX Falcon Heavy. It will attempt the first controlled solar sail flight in Earth orbit. LightSail 1 successfully completed its test flight mission in 2015. LightSail® is aimed at testing "solar sailing" technology for CubeSats, which comprise many Amateur Radio satellites. According to the Planetary Society, solar sailing uses reflective sails to harness the momentum of sunlight for propulsion. "One disadvantage to CubeSats is that they typically lack propulsion, which limits their range of applications," The Planetary Society says. "LightSail will demonstrate the viability of using solar sailing for CubeSats."

Scientific collaboration between The Planetary Society and Russia led to the creation of Cosmos 1, a solar sail spacecraft launched aboard a repurposed ICBM. But test flights in 2001 and 2005 failed due to problems with the launch vehicle. The first successful solar sail was launched by Japan in 2010, when the IKAROS spacecraft was deployed from a Venus-bound space probe.

NASA has looked into using solar sails to de-orbit CubeSats with atmospheric drag, and its Nanosail-D2 mission in 2010 was successful. The Planetary Society's LightSail program was initiated a year earlier. It aimed to construct a CubeSat similar to Nanosail-D that would demonstrate true solar sailing. LightSail 1 snagged a slot aboard an Atlas V launch in 2015, but the target orbit was not high enough for solar sailing thrust to overcome atmospheric drag. The Planetary Society accepted the free ride anyway and successfully tested the spacecraft's sail deployment mechanism.

LightSail 2 will be enclosed within Prox-1, a Georgia Tech student-built spacecraft the size of a small washing machine. Prox-1 will detach from the Falcon Heavy into a circular 720-kilometer orbit. A week later, it will deploy LightSail 2.

SAQ "Alexanderson Day" Transmission Set for June 30

<http://www.arrl.org/news/saq-alexanderson-day-transmission-set-for-june-30>



06/20/2019

The annual "Alexanderson Day" transmission from SAQ in Grimeton, Sweden, will take place on June 30. The Alexanderson alternator will transmit on 17.2 kHz on the following schedule: Startup/tuning at 0830 UTC, and message transmission at 0900 UTC; startup/tuning at 1130 UTC, and message transmission at 1200 UTC.

Both events will be livestreamed on YouTube. SAQ has introduced an online SAQ reception report form for listeners to report reception of any SAQ transmissions. This replaces the former email route.

Amateur Radio station SK6SAQ will be active on Alexanderson Day on or about 7.035 MHz and 14.035 MHz on CW, and 3.755 MHz on SSB. QSL via the SM QSL Bureau. Two stations will be on the air most of the time.

An article about Alexanderson Day, "The Legacy of Radio at Grimeton Station, SAQ," appears on page 66 of the July 2019 issue of QST.

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.

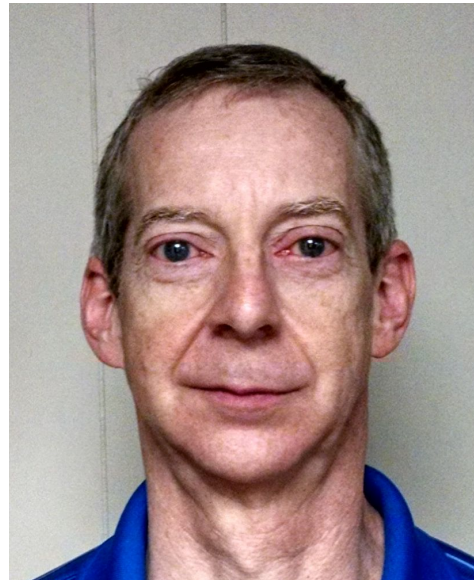
The next testing session in Greensboro will be on July 13th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd., Greensboro 27407, at 9 a.m. While walk-ins are welcome, contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, email aj4tf@arrl.net, cell (336) 420-9424.

The next testing session in High Point will be on July 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 VE Session - June 8, 2019

No picture available

Camille J. Taylor, KN4UYZ
High Point, NC
Earned Technician



Stuart R. Smith, KN4UYU
Greensboro, NC
Earned Technician

High Point VE Session - May 25, 2019



Micah D. Utt, KN4UGH
Lexington, NC
Earned General

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
Visit www.kd4rf.org for updated information.

Calendar of Events

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)
July 27	WCARS Hamfest (http://www.wcars.org/wcarshamfest.htm Waynesville, NC)
Aug. 3	Roanoke HamFun (http://roanokehamfest.info/ Vinton, VA)
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)
Sept. 14	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Sept. 23	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House, 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 (Cooper's Ale House, Greensboro)
Nov. 9	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Nov. 25	GARA General Meeting (Cooper's Ale House, 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.

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 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 July - Sept. 2019

July 13th

Aug. 10th

Sept. 14th

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