



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

A number of club members have recently purchased a vector network analyzer called "NanoVNA" off of eBay and we will be demonstrating how it works and measuring various antennas to show how well they're tuned. If you'd like to see how your antenna stacks up, bring it along! This will be a fun and educational demonstration of an inexpensive piece of measurement equipment at work.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Meeting Minutes

President's Message

Engineering Report

New Hams

Calendar

NEXT MEETING **September 23, 2019**

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held at Sarah's Kabob Shop in Greensboro on September 23, 2019.

MEETING TOPIC: NanoVNA

Please Remember 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

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 Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Scott Toth, ND4L, Matt Trull, KX4GG and Drew Paschal, KB4IHY

Meeting convened at 7:00pm on September 9, 2019

Sarah's Kabob Shop

Discussion around UHF repeater issues, raising money to repair and/or replace repeaters, and other topics.

GARA Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2019

Sarah's Kabob Shop

Scott Toth, ND4L called the meeting to order at 7:15pm

Matt Trull, KX4GG gave an updated regarding the status of the UHF repeater

No other board reports were given

The club watched a video about the planning, setup and operations of the K1N Navassa Island DXpedition in 2015.

The meeting adjourned around 8:15pm.

From the President's Shack

Matt has been keeping us apprised of the repeater situation. Unfortunately, it's suspected that it was a nearby lightning strike that broke many pieces of gear in our repeater shack including the internet firewall, our network-enabled power switch, the D-star gateway computer, and the UHF digital repeater and its controller (a Raspberry Pi with an MMDVM board on it). Thankfully Matt was able to use our spare Yaesu DR-1X and STM32 (MMDVM) board to get the repeater back on the air recently, but the board is working to determine how we can achieve better redundancy and help return both the VHF and UHF repeaters on the air more quickly after a failure. At this point, we have raised enough money to be able to provide more redundancy without needing to use any of the general funds, but there is a little more to go to get us where we want. At this point, we have raised roughly \$1000 of the \$1250 we need to purchase the gear we want. If you have any interest in helping with this cause and giving a tax-deductible donation, please speak to me or any of the board members, or simply PayPal your donation to w4gso@att.net. Thanks for considering it!

I hope you're able to join us for the meeting at Sarah's Kabob Shop on Monday night. It's really exciting when you learn about a very capable new piece of gear that's very inexpensive for what it does, and the NanoVNA fits the bill. I recently received one myself, and it's very intuitive and gives a lot of information about your antenna system for its \$41 price tag. You might even like to pick one up yourself! In any case, come over to see the NanoVNA in action (bring an antenna with you!) and bring a friend. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

The UHF repeater is back on the air! I modified the backup 145.15 repeater to use for UHF at least for the time being. The digital dashboard is not available on the website currently as we need to come up with a new solution to publish it. The board is also discussing our go forward plan to make sure we have a good backup plan for both repeaters in order to minimize any downtime for future failures.

Thanks,
Matt Trull KX4GG

*From ARRL...***Nevada ARES/RACES Members Deploy for “Storm Area 51” Event**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/nevada-ares-races-members-deploy-for-storm-area-51-event>



09/19/2019

A social media joke early this summer setting up a “Storm Area 51, they Can’t Stop Us All” group now has spiraled into emergency declarations in two Nevada counties and spurred an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) deployment of personnel and equipment. Some predictions say the “Storm Area 51” event will draw thousands— many possibly ill-equipped to be out in the desert environment — to the Nevada Test

and Training Range, which contains the US Air Force facility known as Area 51. ARES teams plan to staff and support six incident-specific locations along the 50-mile event corridor known as Extraterrestrial Highway, starting on September 19 and continuing until September 24. ARES/RACES personnel in Nevada began gearing up for Storm Area 51 on Monday, and Storm Area 51 visitors already have begun showing up.

Secrecy surrounding Area 51 has long fascinated and inspired conspiracy theorists, who believe alien life forms recovered by the US military following UFO sightings in the 1950s are still being kept there. The events this week prompted stern warnings from the military to stay away from the site, and the FAA is reported to have closed the airspace above the area.

In June, 20-year-old Facebook user Matty Roberts called for crowds of people to rush Area 51 in the Nevada desert, to “see them aliens” that some believe are being held as prisoners there. Within days, more than 2 million indicated they were taking up Roberts’ rallying cry, and another 1.5 million expressed interest in doing so. At that point, Roberts declared that his initial post was just a joke. Multiple Facebook sites have opened since, promoting a huge music festival dubbed “Alienstock” in Rachel, a town of about 50 residents, and an Area 51 Basecamp in Hiko. Other UFO-inspired events are popping up along desolate Nevada Highway 375, Extraterrestrial Highway, effectively creating a venue more than 50 miles long, as no other roads exist into or out of Rachel. Reports say that hundreds of law enforcement officers and medical personnel will be posted, along with the Nevada National Guard.

Preliminary estimates of attendance have run as high as 100,000, and as low as 15,000. With virtually no local infrastructure and faced with the possibility of being overrun by visitors, officials in Lincoln and Nye counties declared states of emergency. When the events were first announced in late August, Lincoln County Sheriff Kerry Lee, assisted by the Nevada Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (NDEM), found little time to prepare. Surrounding counties and agencies are pitching in with equipment and 350 personnel. Lincoln County, where Rachel sits, has just 5,000 inhabitants, and virtually all of the land is owned by the federal government. The county has just 20 law enforcement officers.

Emergency medical and fire protection services are nonexistent in Rachel. Volunteers staff a single ambulance, a fire truck, and a rescue vehicle. The nearest small hospital is 85 miles away, and the closest major hospital or trauma care is 150 miles away in Las Vegas. Telecommunication and other services are sparse to nonexistent along the highway, and Rachel has just one business — a small bar/café/motel combination. Its proprietor told the Associated Press, “It’s happening. We already have people from all over the world.”

Given the spotty telecommunications, Amateur Radio could play an essential role in the event. Lincoln County’s 30 radio amateurs are either unable to deploy due to age or they’re already deployed in some other emergency response role, so Lincoln County ARES Emergency Coordinator Charles Reifsnnyder, AD7OY, has recruited ARES personnel from throughout the state to support operations. Back-up resources outside the area will remain on alert. — Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR

From ARRL...

Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee to Meet with Lawmakers

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ad-hoc-legislative-advocacy-committee-to-meet-with-lawmakers>



09/19/2019

ARRL's Ad Hoc Legislative Advisory Committee will meet with several members of Congress later this month in Washington to introduce new Committee members, reacquaint the lawmakers with Amateur Radio's most-pressing issues, seek their input on the best ways to achieve ARRL's objectives in Congress, and request their continuing support. Committee members have completed a comprehensive analysis of Amateur Radio

Parity Act deficiencies for dissemination to Amateur Radio's backers on The Hill. The panel now is following up on this process with the meetings later this month.

The Committee has contracted with The Keelen Group to provide advice and recommendations regarding ARRL's legislative relationships. Keelen Group advisors also will aid in organizing and guiding the meetings between ARRL representatives and key congressional allies in support of Amateur Radio initiatives.

On June 12, the Legislative Advisory Committee held the first of a series of meetings in DC with ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, The Keelen Group, and a small contingent of radio amateurs associated with various governmental and nongovernmental partners to solicit their perspectives and assistance in charting a future course of action. Pacific Division Director and Committee Chair Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, described these individuals a "critical allies in ARRL's efforts to achieve its legislative objectives."

The process of analyzing and clarifying ARRL's aims began when the Committee was reconstituted with new members at the ARRL Board of Directors' January meeting. The Board had determined a need to "review, reexamine, and reappraise the ARRL's regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land-use restrictions," with the aim of renewing, continuing, and strengthening ARRL's effort to achieve relief from such restrictions.

"There seems to be no countervailing policy that could justify arbitrary conditions, covenants and restrictions," Tiemstra said. "Indeed, public policy should clearly favor the needs of the Amateur Radio operator."

Amateur Radio's role in public service and emergency communication will be the Committee's strongest argument in seeking relief from private land-use restrictions that limit amateurs' ability to operate effectively.

The Committee will analyze the outcomes of this month's meetings and draft a report with recommendations for the ARRL Executive Committee to review and consider at its October 12 meeting. The full Board is expected to take up the issue at its January 2020 meeting.

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 October 12th 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.

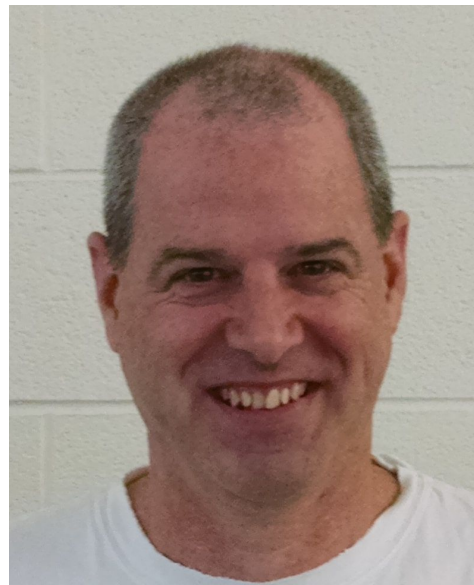
The next testing session in High Point will be on September 28th at Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr. Drive), High Point 27262 at 10 a.m. **Pre-registration is required. Contact David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, (336) 420-9424 at least two days prior to the session.** David's email: aj4tf@arrl.net.

Look Who Passed

High Point VE Session - August 31, 2019



Ryan D. Rhodes, KN4WYD
Concord, NC
Earned Technician



Brian K. Stewart, KN4WYE
Greensboro, NC
Earned Technician



William C. Watson, KN4WYF
High Point, NC
Earned Technician

Greensboro VE Session - September 14, 2019



Charles H. Brown,
Greensboro, NC
Earned Technician



Garrett D. Howell, KN4TFN
Greensboro, NC
Earned Extra



Joseph D. (Daniel) Joyner
Kernersville, NC
Earned Technician



Phillip A. Mansfield, KN4VQE
Greensboro, NC
Earned General

From ARRL...

North Korea Testing Digital Broadcasting on 80 Meters

<http://www.arrl.org/news/report-north-korea-testing-digital-broadcasting-on-80-meters>



09/16/2019

Radio World reports that the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) has resumed testing digital radio broadcasting on the 80-meter amateur band after a 2-year absence. North Korea is transmitting with the Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) protocol. The latest transmissions on 3.560 MHz began in mid-August.

"It appears unclear at this time, however, whether the current series of transmissions will soon end or be the start of a regular service," Radio World said. "According to radio enthusiasts in the region, the signal has been clear and very audible."

Radio World says Voice of Korea, the North Korean international broadcasting service, has conducted DRM trials off and on since 2012.

Calendar of Events

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)
Jan. 11	W4NC First-Fest (http://w4nc.com Winston-Salem, NC)

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.

W4TR

It is with regret and sadness that we would like to inform you of the passing of Dave Lindley, W4TR. Dave was a long-time GARA member and very active in the Greensboro area. His son, Jesse K4AX, is a current GARA board member and also serves on the Engineering Committee. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., September 26 at New Garden Friends Cemetery, 801 New Garden Rd.

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 Oct. - Dec. 2019

Oct. 12th

Nov. 9th

Dec 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