



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

This month's program is on Emergency Preparedness. As amateur radio operators, we have already committed ourselves to providing emergency communications, but we must be ready to respond to and survive during an emergency. For individuals or families, emergency preparedness includes plans to respond to a house fire, an extended power outage, or an evacuation. Some large-scale emergencies include natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, flooding), wide spread disease outbreaks, and terrorist attacks.

Will Glasgow, KN4WMC, is passionate about emergency preparedness and he will present some of the basics of emergency preparedness followed by a Q&A session.

I hope that you will join in the conversation on our 145.15 repeater at our next virtual club meeting Monday, April 27 from 7:15-8:30 PM. Please consider inviting Hams who are not currently members of our club, as well as members of other clubs, to join us.

The Boy Scout motto is Be Prepared. Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting was asked, "Prepared for what?" and he replied "Why, for any old thing. You are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty."

Respectfully,
Carl Fenske, KC4WGA

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NEXT MEETING

April 27, 2020

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be held on the W4GSO 145.150MHz repeater at 7:15pm.

MEETING TOPIC:

Emergency Preparedness

GARA Board Meeting Minutes

Started at 7:00pm on Monday, April 13 via Google Hangouts video meetings

Scott

- Club meetings- on the repeater again for April? Should we hold some sort of video meeting? FT8? Video on YouTube but meeting on the Repeater? May meeting, including second, more technical session.
- Nets update
- What can we do for our members?
- How can we increase/drive membership? No current VE sessions I guess. Mail new licensees welcome letters? Did this happen before? Free membership for new hams for remainder of calendar year.
- Membership certificates/voucher at the exam.
- Membership roster is up to date.

Carl

Will be presenting on the repeater for the April meeting.

David

Insurance renewal research is slow because of COVID

Matt

- Repeaters are OK. Need to modify transmit power on DR-1X to up the output power on the VHF repeater.
- Considering using the GE MastrII amplifier for the VHF amplifier but it requires buying an inline attenuator which needs to be calculated.
- Still need to send in the broken repeater for repair.
- Replacement web-enabled power strip for powering the repeaters is back online.
- Matt picked up donated Heathkit, Collins, Drake equipment that is in great condition and can be sold.

John (not present)

Drew

No comments

Jesse

No comments

Ended at 7:45pm

GARA Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2020

Held on the W4GSO 145.150MHz VHF Repeater beginning at 7:15pm.

Business

- Membership Renewal
- Elmer's list
- Restart Greensboro Hamfest
- Financial report
- Renewing Equipment Insurance

Presentation on Yaesu System Fusion (C4FM)

Matt Trull, KX4GG explained the basics of System Fusion

- What C4FM is
- Different C4FM modes
- AMS/DN/VW/FM
- How to access them on our repeater

Scott Toth, ND4L explained what different reflectors are and how to link to them

- What WiresX is
- The difference between WiresX, YSF and FCS reflectors
- How to use DX mode on an FT-70DR and FT-1DR to find and link reflectors
- How to unlink from reflectors/rooms

Meeting ended at 8:20pm.

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Scott Toth ND4L | **Vice President** Carl Fenske KC4WGA | **Treasurer** Dave McLin AC4A | **Secretary** Yakov Rokhlin KN4RBN
Financial Committee Chair John Strandberg W4DX | **Engineering Chair** Matt Trull KX4GG | **Operations Chair** Open
Members-at-Large Drew Paschal WD4IHY and Jesse Lindley K4AX
Appointed Positions: Public Information Officer/Newsletter Editor Julia Toth

The Feed Line is ©2020 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.

For ARRL News Regarding COVID-19

Please visit www.arrl.org/coronavirus or www.arrl.org/COVID-19

From ARRL...

Extra Class Question Pool due to expire on June 30, 2020

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-news-coronavirus-covid-19>



The FCC has tasked the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) organization with amateur radio question pool oversight and maintenance. Question pool amendments or changes are regulated by this organization. ARRL is working on an Extra Pool extension but the final decision must come from the NCVEC (qpcinput@ncvec.org). In January 2020, the NCVEC introduced a new Amateur

Extra-class license examination question pool which becomes effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024. Barring any unforeseen delays with printing and shipping, ARRL will have new editions of its Extra Class study materials (for exams given on, or after, July 1, 2020) by mid or late May, and available from ARRL and its publication resellers. Any changes due to impact from the current health crisis will be posted to ARRL News and www.arrl.org/COVID-19.

From ARRL...

Contest University (CTU) 2020 will be Free and Online

<http://www.arrl.org/news/contest-university-ctu-2020-will-be-free-and-online>



04/21/2020

Tim Duffy, K3LR, has announced that Contest University (CTU) USA 2020 will be held online via Zoom on Thursday May 14, starting at 1245 UTC. CTU 2020 is free. The CTU course outline has been posted online. Connection details to the CTU Zoom bridge will be posted on the Contest University site one week prior to CTU. Sessions will be recorded for viewing any time after May 14. Slide decks will be posted on the CTU website as well. At the end of CTU 2020, Dave Siddall, K3ZJ, will present the 2020 CQ Contest Hall of Fame awards.

From the President's Shack

Well, we're in month two of the Coronavirus shutdown and everyone is wondering when we'll be able (and allowed) to get back to some of the things we're normally used to doing. Many of us are retired, but for those who aren't, this period has brought a lot of change in various ways. Some of us are working a lot more (thanks to those who make sure we have food and supplies!), some of us have been working from home, and others have been laid off altogether. Whatever your status, I hope that you're weathering this situation well and that you have been able to find some silver linings like I have.

I have been working from home for over six weeks now. One of the silver linings to the shutdown is that my family's springtime has been more relaxed and less busy than ever. While we all love doing all of the activities that we're accustomed to, the time has been refreshing and has allowed us to get a lot of things done around the house, to get a lot of school work done (we homeschool), and to feel generally more relaxed than normal. One of the other things that has been a lot of fun for me is the fact that I can play with radio more than normal during the daytime when I would have normally been at the office. It's relatively simple to turn on the radio in my shack (which is also my home office) and work an occasional FT8 station that I'd typically miss because of morning band openings. I think I've worked around four or five new countries (ATNOs- All Time New Ones) in the past six weeks including many Asian countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia that I hadn't dreamed of working before.

Another example is the recent addition of 2m SSB stations in the area who meet nearly every evening for impromptu rag chews. What a cool thing, and something that can be done relatively inexpensively with the right equipment! All of this is to say that I hope you are taking advantage of the situation in whatever ways you're able to continue your amateur radio journey. There are many of us in GARA who like to tinker and learn and would love to include you in our activities, even if it must be virtually for the time being. If you have interest in a particular area, please reach out to us so that we can give you some guidance or help point you in the right direction. You can e-mail me directly or contact info@w4gso.org and we'd be happy to lend you a hand.

I hope to hear you at our on-air meeting on Monday! Make it a point to attend- you'll be happy you did.

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

This month will be our second on-the-air club meeting. Last month we discussed C4FM and Yaesu Fusion. I hope you will join us for the upcoming meeting as well as our Sunday evening net every week at 8:30pm. The regular club meeting will be at the usual date/time. We are working on plans to upgrade our VHF amplifier used for the 2 meter repeater. This will provide us with a more stable amplifier that requires less tuning, and a slight increase of output power. There will be more information forthcoming on this as the plan develops and board decisions are made. Last month I did pick up another gear donation that will be available to sell to club members and at an area hamfest, whenever those start back up.

73,
Matt Trull KX4GG

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of the end of March 2020:

Checking: \$1059.49

Money Market: \$9047.07

PayPal: \$3795.32

Total: \$13,901.88

I am still working on getting our equipment insurance reinstated.

I reserved Group Campsite 1 at Hagan-Stone Park for this year's Field Day.

Finally, for Winter Field Day, we ended up in 65th position out of 299 overall, and 16th in our class and category (10). Our final score was 7290 points. The top score over all was 156,782 points for W6ZE, a 60 station. The top score for our class and category was 22,606 points. We had a lot of fun, and hopefully will be able to do it again next year.

Dave
AC4A

GARA Merchandise



Interested in buying GARA-themed merchandise?
Visit the GARA shop at:

<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/gara>

A portion of every sale is donated back to the club.



Support Greensboro Amateur Radio Association.

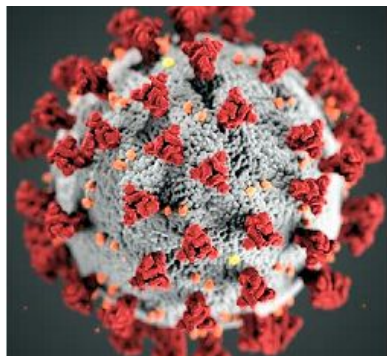
When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**,
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[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

From ARRL...**COVID-19 Net Now Running Wednesdays on 40 Meters**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/covid-19-net-now-running-wednesdays-on-40-meters>



04/20/2020

The Medical Net, a special COVID-19 net, is running Wednesdays, 0130 UTC, on 7.222 MHz. The net deals with correct data on COVID-19 epidemiology care, care issues, and more. Net control will be Dr. Harry Przekop, WB9EDP, a past president of the Medical Amateur Radio Council Organization (MARCO) and now a director at large.

Przekop is a specialist in infectious diseases and biomedical physics and is board-certified as an expert in HIV care.

Participants do not need to be physicians or medical providers to check in, ask questions, and otherwise take part, but no diagnoses can be rendered. The regular MARCO Grand Rounds Net is held on Sundays, 1500 UTC, on 14.342 MHz.

Spain Grants Unlicensed Individuals Permission to Use Amateur Stations During Lockdown

<http://www.arrl.org/news/spain-grants-unlicensed-individuals-permission-to-use-amateur-stations-during-lockdown>



04/02/2020

Spain's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society URE has obtained temporary permission from the country's telecommunications regulator for unlicensed people to use amateur stations during the coronavirus lockdown.

"The main objective of the request is to disseminate and promote amateur radio among schoolchildren who must be confined at home," the announcement from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Infrastructure said. "This activity offers young people the opportunity to gain practical experience in telecommunications technology, promotes education in technological subjects, and is a socially enriching family activity."

The temporary authorization would be in place while the state of alert and mandatory confinement measures are in effect in Spain. Non-licensed individuals could operate an amateur station only under the direct supervision of the licensee, under current amateur radio rules and regulations.

From npr.org...

Long-Lost U.S. Military Satellite Found By Amateur Radio Operator

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/24/843493304/long-lost-u-s-military-satellite-found-by-amateur-radio-operator>

From the article: "There are more than 2,000 active satellites orbiting Earth. At the end of their useful lives, many will simply burn up as they reenter the atmosphere. But some will continue circling as "zombie" satellites — neither alive nor quite dead.

"Most zombie satellites are satellites that are no longer under human control, or have failed to some degree," says Scott Tilley.

Tilley, an amateur radio operator living in Canada, has a passion for hunting them down."

Please visit the url above for the entire article.

From ARRL...

Hams in India Provide Communication Assistance during COVID-19 Pandemic

<http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-in-india-provide-communication-assistance-during-covid-19-pandemic>



04/21/2020

According to a report in The New Indian Express, amateur radio operators in Kerala state have joined the fight against COVID-19. The newspaper said the district administration has enlisted radio amateurs to improve important communication between departments and offices. Upward of 20 hams are involved, organized into teams.

Radio Amateur Society of Ananthapuri President Dr. Zakheer Hussain, VU300H, said using ham radio during the time of crisis would help coordinate crucial communication.

"We have assigned our teams at the district medical office and taluk [administrative subdivision] offices," Hussain told the paper. "We have a team at the district administration, which is the center of all action." He said help lines now in operation receive many calls, including distress calls. "If anyone is in need of emergency medical care, we immediately inform the respective taluk office and the ambulance desk, so that help reaches in time," he said.

The Times of India reports that a radio amateur in West Bengal drove 98 kilometers (61 miles) to deliver medicines to an elderly resident of Rahara. "We have been providing assistance to people ever since the lockdown was announced," said Ambarish Nag Biswas, VU2JFA, the secretary of the West Bengal Radio Club.

VE Testing

All W4VEC exam sessions in Greensboro and High Point are cancelled until at least July 1st.

Calendar of Events

Most Hamfests have been cancelled. GARA Meetings will be held on the repeater until further notice. Info about ARRL contests can be found on <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

| | |
|------------|---|
| Apr. 27 | GARA General Meeting on the repeater |
| May 25 | GARA General Meeting (location TBD) |
| June 13-15 | ARRL June VHF contest (http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf) |
| June 20 | ARRL Kids Day (http://www.arrl.org/kids-day) |
| June 26-28 | GARA Field Day at Hagan-Stone Park (2pm on 26th until 5pm on 28th) |
| June 27-28 | ARRL Field Day (http://www.arrl.org/field-day) |
| July 11-12 | IARU HF World Championship (http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship) |
| July 27 | GARA General Meeting |
| Aug. 24 | GARA General Meeting |

The purpose of this calendar is 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.

GARA Monthly Program Survey



**Let Us Know
What You
Think!**

In an effort to serve our membership better, we would like to get your input into which presentations and programs you'd like to see. Please complete the form at <https://www.w4gso.org/news/gara-monthly-program-survey/> to let us know!

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. (Due to COVID-19, moved to the repeater until further notice)

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 Newslines. 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 2020

**All exam sessions are
cancelled until
at least July 1st.**

**Check the W4VEC website
for updates.**

<http://www.w4vec.org>

GARA REPEATERS

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

442.8625 MHz + offset, D-Star and Fusion



Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

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www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA