



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

At this month's program, I will be presenting why you may want to consider TV CORD CUTTING. We will discuss the components of Over-the-Air television (like we used to do before cable TV was an option), choosing the best antenna (bigger isn't always better with a TV antenna), OTH and streaming programming, and setting up an OTA DVR for your home. I will conclude with a live demonstration.

Carl Fenske, KC4WGA

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Meeting Minutes

President's Message

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New Hams

Calendar

NEXT MEETING February 24, 2020

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

MEETING TOPIC:
TV Cord Cutting

GARA Board Meeting Minutes

No board meeting in February.

GARA Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 7:15pm on Monday, January 27,2020

Board Reports

- Winter field day
- Repeaters
- Elmer's list
- GARA Monthly Program Survey
- Amazon Support

Presentation: ANTENNA DESIGN WITH ROGER STOUT, N4RWS

J-Pole antenna
Off center fed dipole with 4:1 balun
See Carolina window antenna design
Halo antenna
440MHz dipole
Texas Instruments 900 MHz antenna
Zigzag line antenna
Patch antenna 900 MHz
440 MHz Yagi antenna
Horizontal 10 meter loop
Antenna modeling software

Respectfully submitted,
Yakov Rokhlin, KN4RBN

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

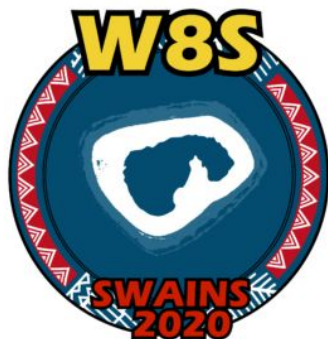
President Scott Toth ND4L | **Vice President** Carl Fenske KC4WGA | **Treasurer** Dave McLin AC4A | **Secretary** Yakov Rokhlin KN4RBN
Financial Committee Chair John Strandberg W4DX | **Engineering Chair** Matt Trull KX4GG | **Operations Chair** Open
Members-at-Large Drew Paschal WD4IHY and Jesse Lindley 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.

From ARRL...

Coronavirus Outbreak Postpones Swains Island W8S DXpedition

<http://www.arrl.org/news/coronavirus-outbreak-postpones-swains-island-w8s-dxpedition>



02/19/2020

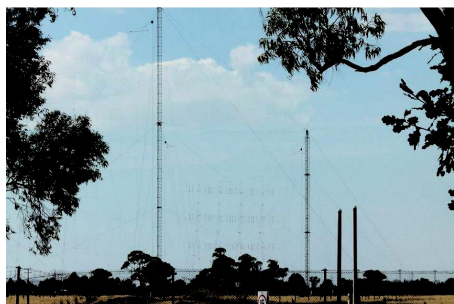
The W8S DXpedition to Swains Island in the Pacific, set to take place in mid-March, has been postponed until fall as a result of travel restrictions imposed on individuals entering American Samoa, stemming from the recent coronavirus outbreak. The Department of Health allows non-residents to enter American Samoa only via Hawaii after a 14-day mandatory quarantine in Hawaii, and the DXpedition was unable to accommodate that requirement.

“Everything is prepared for our DXpedition, and we are eager to go, but unfortunately the coronavirus outbreak is out of our control,” the DXpedition team said in announcing the delay. “Although this is a disappointment for everyone, the W8S DXpedition is not cancelled, but just postponed for later this year.”

The DXpedition said it would alert the DX community as soon as it has new firm dates for the trip.

Down Under Special Event Will Use Former Radio Australia Antennas

<http://www.arrl.org/news/down-under-special-event-will-use-former-radio-australia-antennas>



02/18/2020

Over the March 14–15 weekend, members of the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club (SADARC) in Australia will be on the air as VI3RA (Radio Australia), connecting their transceivers to the curtain array and rhombic antennas at the former Radio Australia site in Shepparton. Radio Australia ceased transmitting from the site in 2017. VI3RA will operate on 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15 meters.

“Local amateurs will be given the unique opportunity to explore the use of high-gain antennas whilst giving amateurs throughout the world a unique opportunity to contact a station using such high-gain antennas,” said SADARC President Peter Rentsch, VK3FPSR (Australia’s call sign structure accommodates four-letter suffixes). “This is a rare opportunity for amateur radio operators, who are only allowed a peak output power of 400 W in Australia when compared to 100 kW of Radio Australia transmitters to hopefully achieve some remarkable communication outcomes. We expect to get a gain of 15 dB on the lower frequencies and at least 20 dB on 21 MHz.”

The special event is being conducted in cooperation with BAI Communications (Broadcast Australia). More information is on the club’s website.

From ARRL...**VP8PJ South Orkney Team En Route to Signy Island**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/vp8pj-south-orkney-team-en-route-to-signy-island>



02/18/2020

The MV Braveheart is at sea again, this time transporting the VP8PJ South Orkney DXpedition team to Signy Island. Track the vessel's progress on the VP8PJ website. The Perseverance DX Group is sponsoring the DXpedition. Team members have been operating as ZL1NA/mm during their voyage, generating heavy pileups.

VP8PJ is expected to commence operation on February 21 and continue until March 5. Operation will be on CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 (always fox/hound mode except on 60 meters). Stations in Africa and Oceania may call at any time, regardless of operators' directional instructions.

The VP8PJ DXpedition is the recipient of an ARRL Colvin Award grant, funded by an endowment established by Lloyd D. Colvin, W6KG (SK). Heading the 14-member DXpedition team are Dave Lloyd, K3EL, and Les Kalmus, W2LK.

South Orkney Islands is the 16th most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log.

The DXpedition offers several tips to help operators to work VP8PJ. These note, among other things, that the team will not have email access, nor do the DXpedition pilots have access to the logs. The DXpedition team advises that operators wait until propagation and conditions favor their location. VP8PJ will always operate split, and the operator will indicate where he is listening, such as "up 5" or "listening on 7155." Be patient, use common phonetics on SSB, and listen for your call sign when VP8PJ comes back. Also, heed the operators' instructions, such as "EU only" or "QRP only." Resist making "insurance QSOs," only working the DXpedition again if a log check shows that you are not in the log. Log check will not be available until shortly after the DXpedition begins operation. Whenever possible, VP8PJ operators will try to listen in the General-class portions of the bands.

QSL via OQRS for direct or bureau, or direct via QSL Manager Tim Beaumont, M0URX; log search will also be available.

From the President's Shack

Winter Field Day is now history (but with great memories!) and with the recent snow, it actually *feels* like winter has set in. But that doesn't mean that we need to hibernate! Our repeaters are always warm and waiting for local hams to strike up a good conversation. And in case you think the HF bands are dead, there are always stations to work! If you're not familiar with digital modes like FT8 or FT4 yet, those are great ways to stay on the air when the solar cycle is stymying your sideband contacts. I actually worked two new countries last week, despite the bad conditions!

In case you'd almost forgotten, there's another HF opportunity coming up very soon: the NC QSO Party happens on Sunday, March 1. That's a great event to work local and regional stations (and others!) and get experience operating in a contest. It seems like a great time for local hams to get together and teach some of the newer amateurs what HF contests are all about. Who could you invite over? You can read more about it here: <http://ncqsoparty.org/>

Finally, I'd like to start a list of people who are interested in elmering those who are less experienced in amateur radio. That way, when I receive a request for help, I can easily match up the requestor with a pre-engaged elmer. If you're interested in this, would you shoot me an e-mail at nd4l@outlook.com and let me know? I'll let club membership know once I start to have a good list established but I think this could turn into a really good thing for us.

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday at Sarah's!

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

I recently acquired a newer used laptop to place at the repeater site for our remote connectivity and administration. Hopefully I can swap that out in the near future. There is not much else to report at the moment! Only four months until Field Day!

73,
Matt Trull, KX4GG

Treasurer's Report

As of January 31, 2020, our financial status was:

Sun Trust Checking: \$1,227.42

Sun Trust Money Market: \$9,046.85

PayPal: \$3,565.32

Total: \$13,839.59

I am working on getting our equipment insurance renewed.

73,

Dave McLin, 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**,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

From ARRL...**FCC Invites Comments on 5.9 GHz Proceeding**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-invites-comments-on-5-9-ghz-proceeding>



02/13/2020

The FCC has invited comments on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 19-138, which said the FCC would take “a fresh and comprehensive look” at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band. The FCC proposes to make 5.850–5.895 GHz available for unlicensed operations and to authorize transportation-related communication technologies to use 5.895–5.925 GHz.

The FCC is not proposing to delete or otherwise amend the 5-centimeter secondary amateur radio allocation at 5.650–5.925 GHz, part of which includes the 75 megahertz under consideration.

Comments are due by March 6, and reply comments are due by April 6.

ARRL will be filing comments supporting no change to 5.850–5.925 GHz for amateurs, as included in the FCC proposal.

Successful 47 GHz Amateur Radio Moonbounce Test Reported

<http://www.arrl.org/news/successful-47-ghz-amateur-radio-moonbounce-test-reported>



02/12/2020

Mitsuo Kasai, JA1WQF, successfully decoded a 47 GHz signal bounced off the moon on February 10 by Al Ward, W5LUA. More tests are planned. Ward posted news of the achievement on the Moon-Net email reflector. “These were one-way tests, with only me transmitting,” he said in his post.

“I started out by sending single tones to Mitsuo, which he copied well, and then sent several sequences of calls and grid. Mitsuo was able to decode calls and my grid at 1146 UTC and 1234 UTC. Signal levels were –23 dB and –25 dB.” Ward noted that the first EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contact on 47 GHz took place in early 2005.

“More 47 GHz tests are being run in the next few days with Manfred, DL7YC,” Ward said. “We hope for similar success.”

VE Testing

Every month, W4VEC holds testing sessions 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.

In Greensboro, testing sessions are scheduled on the second Saturday of the month, except in March when it is the third Saturday. The next testing session in Greensboro will be on April 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.

In High Point, testing sessions are scheduled on the last Saturday of the month. The next testing session in High Point will be on February 29th 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.

New and Upgraded Hams

Greensboro VE Session - February 8, 2020



Connors, David S., KB3TVE
Gibsonville, NC
Earned General



Cox, Matthew D., KN4WKD
Gibsonville, NC
Earned General

FEEDLINE



Hill, Allen R., KI4QCK
Summerfield, NC
Earned Extra



Nahas, Daniel J., KO4BSY
Reidsville, NC
Earned Technician



Jackson, Douglas, KX4XB
Danville, VA
Passed all three exams in one sitting
Earned Extra



Mock, Wayne H., KD4MWZ
Lexington, NC
Earned Extra



Simpson, David Bryan, W4RIP
Archdale, NC
Earned Extra



Swinney, John S., KO4BSZ
Ridgeway, VA
Earned Technician

High Point VE Session - January 25, 2020



Grunder, Erech T., KM4IFU
Raleigh, NC
Earned General

Calendar of Events

Jan. 25	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Jan. 27	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Feb. 8	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Feb. 24	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Feb. 29	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Mar. 1	GARA NC QSO Party Events
Mar. 13	Charlotte Hamfest (http://www.charlottehamfest.org Concord, NC)
Mar. 23	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
Mar. 28	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
Apr. 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
Apr. 11	Raleigh Hamfest (http://rarsfest.org)
Apr. 27	GARA General Meeting (Sarah's Kabob Shop, Greensboro)
May 9	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
May 9	Rockingham County ARC SwapFest (http://n4iv.org Reidsville)
May 30	VE Session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, High Point)
May 30	DurHamFest 2020 (http://dfma.org Durham)

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.

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 Mar.-May 2020

No GSO Test this March
Apr. 11
May 9

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

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Greensboro, NC 27438

www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA