



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

The program this month will be presented by Scott Toth, ND4L and Matt Trull, KX4GG on The C4FM/Fusion Digital Mode. This is one of the modes that we can access on both our 145.15MHz and 442.8625MHz GARA club repeaters. I would like to invite everyone in the club to join in the conversation on our 145.15 repeater at our virtual club meeting Monday, March 23 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.

On a personal note, I have had a Fusion HT for almost a year, but have not known how to program my radio nor take advantage of this mode. During my preparation for this month's presentation, I learned that the Yaesu FT70D can be programmed using Chirp® which is a free, open-source tool for programming many brands and models of Ham radios. "Until then, I'll see you on the radio."

Respectfully,
Carl Fenske, KC4WGA

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NEXT MEETING **March 23, 2020**

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

MEETING TOPIC: **Yaesu System Fusion**

GARA Board Meeting Minutes

No board meeting in February.

GARA Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2020

- Membership Renewal
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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...

ARRL Headquarters Remains in Operation, Many Staffers Working Remotely

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-headquarters-remains-in-operation-many-staffers-working-remotely>



03/20/2020

Interim ARRL Chief Executive Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, informed members on March 20 that ARRL will remain operational to meet their needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Shelley noted that ARRL is taking steps to help protect the health and safety of ARRL Headquarters employees, in line with the recommendations provided by US and Connecticut health officials and government leaders.

"We have arranged for many of our staff, depending on their job responsibilities and requirements, to work remotely during this unprecedented time," Shelley said. "This helps the organization reduce the number of people in the building and improve our 'social distancing' capabilities."

At present, all departments at ARRL Headquarters are functioning, and customer service representatives remain available to answer members' questions or direct them to the appropriate department for assistance. Shelley advised that ARRL is encouraging members to use email as the preferred method of communication with ARRL, in order to get a timely response.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) has been dealing with a higher-than-normal volume of emails and phone calls and is asking for members' patience as they attempt to answer everyone's questions as promptly as possible. "There has been some significant disruption to VE exam session schedules, given the restrictions imposed on gatherings in many locales," Shelley pointed out. "As with our employees, the health and safety of our Volunteer Examiners is a top priority, and we have informed our VEs that they need to follow their local community's guidelines and then use their best judgement when deciding whether to conduct, postpone, or cancel an exam session."

As previously announced, ARRL has suspended all tours and guest visits to ARRL Headquarters and to W1AW until further notice. ARRL has also posted a statement relating to Field Day and the coronavirus situation.

"We will continue to monitor conditions from this outbreak and follow any additional guidelines provided by federal and state health professionals and government officials. We thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time," Shelley said.

From ARRL...**FCC Levies \$18,000 Fine on Louisiana Amateur Radio Licensee**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-levies-18-000-fine-on-louisiana-amateur-radio-licensee>



03/18/2020

In an enforcement case prompted by complaints filed in 2017, the FCC has imposed an \$18,000 forfeiture on Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, for intentional interference and failure to identify. The FCC had proposed the fine in a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) in the case in July 2018, and, based on Materne's response to the NAL, the agency affirmed the fine in a March 12 Forfeiture Order (FO).

As the FCC recounted in the FO, an FCC agent "observed Materne causing intentional interference to a local repeater by generating digital noise into an analog radio." The agent further reported that Materne failed to transmit his call sign, as required.

Materne disputed the FCC's findings, arguing that the NAL should be canceled because the agent "was mistaken in his determination that the source of the interference was Materne's station" as his radio was not capable of operating on the repeater frequency in question, the FCC said in the NO. Materne also asserted that he is unable to pay the fine and suggested in his response that the FCC should be able to access his financial information.

The FCC countered that the radio the agent observed in Materne's possession was capable of operating on the frequency in question. "We therefore are unpersuaded...that the proposed forfeiture should be cancelled because, he alleges, he was not the party causing interference to the repeater and the radio in his possession could not operate on the frequency in question," the FCC said in affirming the findings of the NAL. "We are also unpersuaded by Materne's argument that he lacks the ability to pay the full \$18,000 forfeiture." The FCC said Materne failed to provide the FCC with proof of inability to pay, as required by the NAL.

The FCC gave Materne 30 days to pay the fine, or face having the case turned over to the US Department of Justice for enforcement.

From the President's Shack

We find ourselves in a very peculiar and somewhat frightening situation with COVID-19 precautions shutting down many of the normal aspects of our lives. For most of us, it's been since September 11, 2001 that we've experienced a disruption of this magnitude, and this may be one of the defining events of our lives. One of the interesting aspects of the shutdown is how it shows us how vulnerable we are in certain areas and how prepared we should be. I know that many companies will take Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity much more seriously after things start to calm down.

I don't think that many organizations, especially clubs, ever contemplate how to remain operationally resilient in times like this. Thankfully, GARA doesn't have too many regular operations outside of club communications that need to be considered, but it is good to know that our hobby (and our club) is one that is devoted to communications: we have two excellent repeaters at our disposal along with a whole host of other capabilities from HF to digital and more.

Because of the threat that COVID-19 poses to our membership, we have decided to hold March's GARA meeting on the air. We will be meeting on the W4GSO 145.150MHz repeater at 7:15pm on Monday, March 23 where we will take check-ins like a regular net. Once we've taken check-ins, Matt Trull, KX4GG and I will talk about Yaesu System Fusion to make it easier to understand. I'm not sure whether GARA has held any regular monthly meetings on our repeater in the past or not, but hopefully this will be beneficial and enjoyable.

I wish you and your family the very best during this trying time. My hope and prayer is that we all help each other through this and come out of it more patient, understanding and giving than we were when we went in. In that spirit, if there's anything GARA can do for you, please let me know.

73,
Scott Toth, ND4L
GARA President

Engineering Report

Our decommissioned D-Star gateway has been removed from the Trust servers. This does not affect our D-Star repeater usage. It does however mean that you will need to re-register somewhere else if you want to be able to control an Icom gateway or use DPlus features. Our old gateway has been offline for some time now, but it was just recently removed from the Trust servers. I apologize for any inconvenience. We postponed making this change for some time, but with the solid performance of the new DVM based D-Star and C4FM repeater, there was no need to purchase the updated Icom software to set up a new Icom gateway. The server this was running on failed and we would have needed to purchase hardware for it also. In the last few months of service, the gateway was only being used for registrations. It actually does not matter where you register, as long as you register. I recommend you register at <http://regist.dstargateway.org/>

Another piece of notable news, if you haven't heard already, is that our antenna for the 2m repeater has been straightened! This work was performed at NO COST to the club. I have heard several reports of improved coverage since this work was done. I can definitely tell a difference at my QTH, and I hope it has been a positive change for you as well.

73,
Matt Trull KX4GG

Treasurer's Report

Our financial status as of Feb 29, 2020 is:

Money Market: \$9046.99
Checking: \$1164.47
PayPal: \$3657.32

Total: \$13,868.78

I am working with Matt Trull (KX4GG) to get our list of equipment updated so I can renew our insurance.

73,
Dave McLin, AC4A

Raleigh Hamfest

We are sad to announce that the 48th annual RARSfest/Roanoke Division Convention, scheduled for April 11, 2020, has been canceled in accordance with our Local government mandate. The health and wellness of all involved are a priority to Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and there are no plans to reschedule the event this year. In an attempt to reduce the inconvenience to our loyal attendees all paid pre-registration monies will be refunded. Paypal and Check payments will be returned through the proper channels and cash payment persons will be contacted by RARS. We apologize for the inconvenience and look forward to having you join us next year on April 3, 2021.

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.

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amazonsmile

From ARRL...

Long Island CW Club Offering Free, Online Morse Code Instruction for Homebound Youngsters

<http://www.arrl.org/news/long-island-cw-club-offering-free-online-morse-code-instruction-for-homebound-youngsters>



03/20/2020

The Long Island CW Club in New York is offering free, online Morse code instruction for the “many youngsters at loose ends as a result of school closings due to COVID-19 concerns.” The club’s co-founder, Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE, pointed out that learning Morse code is “a fun and educational activity for children of all ages that can fill part of the gap left by the current unfortunate situation that has closed so many schools across the country.”

Ongoing classes will take place Monday through Friday, specifically for school-agers anywhere across the country or overseas, via Zoom online video conferencing. A computer equipped with a microphone and camera is required. Classes for elementary schoolers run 30 minutes starting at 1600 UTC, followed by 45-minute classes for middle- and high school-aged students starting at 1645 UTC. Parental permission is required through advance registration. Contact class instructor Rob Zarges, K2MZ, by e-mail or call 508-831-8248. — Thanks to Mel Granick, KS2G, ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Public Information Coordinator

HamSCI Workshop Proceedings Streaming Live via YouTube

<http://www.arrl.org/news/hamsci-workshop-proceedings-streaming-live-via-youtube>



03/20/2020

A live YouTube link is streaming the proceedings of the HamSCI Workshop, March 20 – 21, organized by University of Scranton Professor Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF. The YouTube feed is for viewing only. Those interested in participating in the conference interactively must sign in via the Zoom webcasting platform.

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. Testing is held 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. Testing is held 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.

From ARRL...

Dayton Hamvention Announces Cancellation of 2020 Show

<http://www.arrl.org/news/dayton-hamvention-announces-cancellation-of-2020-show>



03/15/2020

For the first time in its 68-year history, Dayton Hamvention® will not take place this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The glum news was not entirely unexpected, given widespread cancellations of public gatherings and a national state of emergency.

"The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel

Hamvention for this year," Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, said in announcing the cancellation on March 15. "This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around 2 months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted. Thank you for your understanding in this time of international crisis."

The Dayton Hamvention cancellation comes less than a week after the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, called off this year's show. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

Since 2017, Hamvention has been held each May at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The international gathering attracted more than 32,000 visitors in 2019.

Hamvention's announcement has caused the cancellation of other associated events. These include Contest University, the Contest Dinner, and the Top Band Dinner.

Calendar of Events

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, please verify with your VE team that the exam session is being held. Many Hamfests have been cancelled. GARA Meetings will be held on the repeater for now.

Mar. 23	GARA General Meeting (On Air Meeting)
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) CANCELLED
Apr. 27	GARA General Meeting (TBA)
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)
June 13	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)
July 11	VE Session (Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Greensboro)

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 Apr.-June 2020

Apr. 11
May 9
June 13

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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www.w4gso.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Official Publication of GARA