



# THE GROUND WAVE



Official Journal of the Wayne County Amateur Radio Association  
**GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 146.850MHz REPEATER**

✦ KD4AAG, Dave - President ✦ KS4LR, Carl - Vice President ✦ KI4RK, Kirk - Secretary ✦ WD4HTE, Muss - Treasurer ✦  
*February 2005 ARRL AFFILIATED*

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

The atmosphere in the WCARA seems to be a positive one. People are coming to breakfast in some of the largest numbers we have seen in some time. WCARA, GARC, and the Ham's from other areas are joining us for breakfast.

Some of the Ham's that have been idle for a while are present at breakfast with ideas and stories that grab the interest of Ham's new to HF like myself. The stories that some of the more experienced Hams have are everything from very

Funny stories, to stories with knowledge that only comes from experience. Let us not forget the experienced Hams that this club is blessed to have.

With both clubs being present at breakfast you will often see a few people talking, a few more reading an article, and some drawing antenna diagrams. This is a good time to be involved in amateur radio. Basic radio prices have dropped and the technology in the more advanced radios is almost beyond belief.

We are planning on having an evening meeting, probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March. We are still deciding on the place. Experience will show we are good at finding places that have good food as a place to meet.

This evening meeting will allow those that are unable to attend the breakfast meetings the opportunity to share in the joy that being with fellow Hams brings. Do the club a favor, invite someone that normally does not come to breakfast to join us for our breakfast get together.

For the first time that I can remember, Mr. Henry Simmons is not holding an officer/director position in WCARA. Mr. Henry's contributions to WCARA have been from the heart. He and other Hams have built an excellent club. Thanks for all they have done and thanks to Mr. Henry. We are a better club thanks to your contributions.

Jim Cherry has asked for articles to go in the newsletter. It would be nice if some of those that have good and/or funny memories they can share would forward them to Jim. I would like to see some articles about the experiences you had with some of our Silent Keys, like the day one of the Silent Key's antenna caught the tree on fire. A motivational speaker once said "*in order to go forward you have to remember where you came from*". We truly are blessed to be among such good people in our club.

73  
Dave

Dates to remember:

Field Day June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air October 15, New Hope Methodist Church.

Dave Price, KD4AAG President

## MORE AMATEUR RADIO WEB SITES

ARRL

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Ham Radio On-Line

[www.hamradio-online.com](http://www.hamradio-online.com)

QRZ.COM

[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

AMSAT-NA

[www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org)

Print your license

<http://amateur.mailpen.net/Generate.html>

Our very WCARC Site: <http://www.qsl.net/k4cyp>

Old-timers.

Direct your browser to:

<http://www.qsl.net/w4sat/antenna.htm>

The New eQSL Home Page

<http://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/>

Amazing Clock sent in by Curt Powell, WB4WAA

this is neat.

<http://www.suite101.com/files/mysites/AskAlice/Clock.htm>

Craig Celia has a small business of making wooden call signs for ham radio operators and wooden names and has asked me to list him in our

Newsletter.

[www.WoodNames.net](http://www.WoodNames.net)

### TEARA TESTING

I checked with Triangle East Amateur Radio Association about the testing in Smithfield. The first test date will Saturday, Jan 15th, at the Smithfield Library. They meet at 9:00 that is the time the Library opens.

The Library has changed the reservation policy for rooms so the testing may be moved to the Red Cross Building for some of the other months. They are planning on letting me know. Test in 2005 will increase \$2 to a cost of \$14.

(919) 716-6813 (W) or (919) 269-6859 (H).

Norman  
KA4PUV

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club  
Based in Greenville, NC

[www.qsl.net/w4amc/](http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/)

This club offers training and exams

CW Lovers check out

FISTS CLUB at

[www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org)

DX Fans check out the

Grid Square Converter at

<http://www.amsat.org/cgi-bin/gridconv>

### ITEMS FOR SALE

811-ameritron amp for sale used about twice has 10-meter conversion completed. It's like new. Paid 600 sell for 400.00\$\$  
Contact Paul Leeper (W0EME) 919-778-5716

Short Wave Radio

The short wave radio I have for sale is the Realistic DX-390. It is the AM/FM world band portable radio. I have not used it in the last two years, so I want to get rid of it. \$50.00

Wilbert Musselman

106 Quail Drive

Goldsboro, NC. 27534-2346

919 734-4001

**KENWOOD TR7850 2METER FM TRANSCEIVER. 144-148MHZ KEYPAD PROGRAMMABLE 45W, 16 MEMORY CHANNELS, DTMF KEYPAD, SCAN, MORE. WITH MIC, POWER CORD, BRACKET, COPY MANUAL, \$68.**

Note: I'll add the Ramsey \$10 CTCSS encoder to it if you will get the encoder kit from Ramsey.  
Contact Kirt Ellis, KI4RK [ki4rk@arrl.net](mailto:ki4rk@arrl.net)

50 foot windmill tower, galvanized complete with the following antennas.  
Hy-gain TH-7. HS 3 Element 17 Meter beam all stainless Hardware , rotator, all cables Two meter vertical, etc. 1 Kenwood 2 meter mobile 50 watt 100.00 See Henry Simmons W4HS, 735-0972

FT-100D Mobile 2 thru 160 meters (New \$800) Remote Cable for detaching control head (New \$70) Sale Price \$650.00  
Contact Carl Dever KS4LR at 751-1779 If not home, leave message.

### BIRTHDAYS

Curt Powell, WB4WAA Feb 15

George Peacock, W4WYV March 2

**Happy Birthday**

Goldsboro Downtown Events:

Unknown

## UPCOMING HAMFEST

Down East Ham Fest, March 6<sup>th</sup> Kinston, NC  
8am to 3pm See Muss for tickets  
North Carolina State Convention  
Mecklenburg ARS, March 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> contact  
<http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest>

## Repeater Maintenance

Muss, George, and Craven help move all of the equipment out of the radio room at the top of the building a few weeks ago. All of the equipment was cleaned and the room was cleaned. The maintenance people had made an off the floor metal table for all the equipment to be placed on to get it off the floor and any water that might blow into the room. Muss and I went back the next week and worked on the 120 Hz. hum that has been heard on the repeater carrier. By changing one ground lead we were able to drop the hum slightly. They plan to work on it some more when the weather is better.

## Field Day Report

I have been in contact with the folks at the Mall and it seems we will be able to use the field between Berkeley Mall and Eastgate for our field day operations. It is the same spot that the Mall uses for its fireworks display on the 4th of July. Lots of room and a few trees around for antenna supports. We could also rent a port-a-john for use during the activities. As you know, there is a handi-mart right across the street from this field for snacks, drinks, ect. Plenty of parking for ourselves and hopefully spectators...  
More to come as the event gets closer...Ray, KD4FV

## Article for the News Argus

The Goldsboro News Argus listed an announcement for the Amateur Radio operator's breakfast meetings. I had requested the announcement to run on Thursday, however, it was in Sundays News Argus on page 15A. Thanks to

Robin Ellis for finding it in Sundays paper. The announcement read.

## RADIO OPERATORS

Local Amateur Radio Operators meet every Saturday morning from 7 until 8:30 at Central Lunch on Center Street. The meetings are open to anyone interested in Amateur radio, shortwave listening and radio electronics. Information: Dave Price 221-9993.

## CB Twenty

Harold gives WCARA a 10% discount in return for advertisement by word of mouth and maybe a few newsletter adds.

The C. B. Twenty also has some Amateur Radio supplies, they have a large supply of PL259, SO239 and 3/8 inch connectors. They also have coax, coax jumpers, 2 meter antennas, and antenna mounts, mag mounts including the TRI-Mag mount in stock. Contact Harold at 919-778-4112. They are located at 214 S.Berkeley Blvd, just outside SJAFB Main gate. Don't forget to mention your membership in WCARA.

Hope you are well!

Here's some stuff for the newsletter in regards to SkyWarn:

I've spoken with Jeff Orrock, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the NWS in Raleigh. He will do a SkyWarn training program for us in March. We are working on an exact date.

## INFO:

During the Winter months, SkyWarn will either activate or go into the standby mode. In either case, the Net Control will take reports. Normally they will ask for reports on the 1/2 hour and are looking for precipitation type, precipitation amounts (measured), wind and temperature. They will take reports in between if a change in precipitation or other significant

change occurs - such as limbs begin breaking, power lines down, etc.

Make reports on the 146.880 repeater for Central Carolina SkyWarn. Web Link: [www.ccskywarn.net](http://www.ccskywarn.net)

Hope this will work!

73 de W4DNA - Dave  
AEC Central Carolina SkyWarn  
ARRL VE  
ARRL ARECC Mentor  
[Ins378@arrl.net](mailto:Ins378@arrl.net)

### PSK31

Want to try PSK? It's easier than you may think. You can listen in and see how it works with a few small parts from your junk box and some free software. Check WM2U's web site and you will find practically everything you need.

[www.qsl.net/wm2u/](http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/)

Under MODES on the left side of the first page, click on PSK31 and you will find several hook-up schemes. Use one of the circuits to connect the audio from your HF band radio's speaker to your computer's sound card. Next download the DIGIPAN software from the same web site and you are in business. Set your receiver to USB and listen for the warble sound tones around 14.070 in the daytime and 7.070 at night.

If you have a laptop computer, you are really in luck. All you need is the free software. Most laptops have built-in microphone and in a quiet room you can use it to pick-up the PSK audio signals directly from your rig's speaker. No physical connection is needed. It's almost like magic.

Transmitting does require a direct hook-up from the output of your computer's sound card and a keying connection from a serial port. But, this is not needed to just listen. If you like what you see and hear, then you can work on the transmitting connections. As you will see from WM2U's web site, the transmitting circuits are just as simple as the receive circuits.

PSK does not require a fancy computer. I am using the DIGIPAN Version 1.6d software and it works fine on my Pentium II 233 MHz Computer. I have used it on a 486 DX 66 and a Pentium 100 MHz with no problems. The 16 bit sound card does all the work. Sound card adjustments can be found by right clicking on the little speaker icon at the bottom right corner of your computer screen.

Now for the bonus! Once you get PSK working, you can run several other digital modes using the same simple hook-up. Try RTTY by using the MMTTY program or CW using the CwGet / CwType programs from the same web site. Digital radio is truly amazing and lots of fun.  
George Peacock, W4WYV

### Radio Repairs

This a good place for radio repairs. I have used him twice in past 7 yrs and got excellent service at reasonable costs.  
<http://www.gtm.net/~sarts/sarts.html>

Bill  
ng4w

### NOTE

Dave, KD4AAG is looking for Volunteers to call the Tuesday Night. Please contact Dave

### **DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES**

Please welcome three new members to the WCARA: Jason Johnson KG4DBM, Ted Hall KB4WKB, & Albert Lioen N4ZFG

Editor: Jim Cherry, WD8JQW  
[jcherry@esn.net](mailto:jcherry@esn.net)