



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

December 2009

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WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.org](http://www.tarriverarc.org)

## Next Meeting - XMAS Party

Tar River Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday of the month (**except when it is a holiday**). The December meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be the Club Christmas Party and will be held Monday, December 2, at the Olive Garden in Rocky Mount. **The Christmas Party will start at 6 p.m., ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN NORMAL.**

## 2009 VE Exam Schedule

*Bill, N2BT*

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2009 as follows.

December 5

Exams will start at 9 a.m. and will be held at:

The Braswell Memorial Library  
727 N. Grace Street (corner of Grace and  
Peachtree Streets)  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Please bring the following items when attending a testing session.

- Photo identification (drivers license)
- Social Security Number
- Original amateur radio license
- Copy of amateur radio license
- Original certificate(s) of successful completion
- Copy of certificate(s) of successful completion
- Test fee of \$15 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club website at [www.TarRiverARC.org](http://www.TarRiverARC.org) or contact

Bill Thomas N2BT  
VE Team Coordinator  
Rocky Mount, NC  
(252)-442-6131  
Email: [N2BT@arrl.net](mailto:N2BT@arrl.net)

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## President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

December. Another year gone by. Wow.

First, don't forget that the next meeting will be at Olive Garden in Rocky Mount (1140 North Wesleyan Blvd). Come hungry. Please note the time is 6:00pm. That's right ONE HOUR earlier than our normal meeting time. We have a table for 25 reserved.

Second. Boy Scouts.

The "current" time table has us teaching on Saturday morning and Sunday morning, 11:00 hours through 12:30 hours each day. OK, bummer. The Kits will be put together on Saturday. Sunday we will finish the kits if necessary and cover the rest of the requirements. We need lots of folks there on Saturday, not so many on Sunday.

I've had conflicting reports on the kits. Most have gotten them to work. A few hadn't. All have issues with the soldering irons. Some have taken 70 minutes, some 3 hours to assemble.

For the record.

It took me 80 minutes start to finish.

That includes Iron heat up time.

I made two errors. Lost 10 minutes un-soldering and re-soldering.

I opened the kit. Twisted the Soldering Iron plug (the plugs don't fit the 110V socket very good, this is why they don't always heat). I assembled the kit per the instructions, I mounted 3-4 items then soldered.

The side cutters worked OK. The Needle nose pliers not so good (would not hold the leads). I used standard braid to unsolder my booboo. I did not use "lead trimmings" for the jumpers. I had a senior moment. Seems like I trim over a trash can. The instructions plainly stated to use trimmings for the jumpers. But I won't going to "fish 'em out". I knew what was in that trash can and I wasn't sticking my paws in it.

Yes, the assembly order per instructions does not meet industry standards. My only real issue was the battery and speaker leads. They need to be LAST.

If you have not assembled your kit, please do so.

If your kit does not work. Please contact me. I will try to get together with you and trouble shoot it.

See 'ya at the Olive Garden. Six PM. Don't be late.

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## Upcoming Hamfests

January 9 – Winston-Salem, NC

February 6 – FrostFest, Richmond, VA

February 6 – Charleston, SC

March 13-14 – Charlotte, NC

April 3 – RARSfest

June 12 – Winston-Salem, NC

July 17 – Cary Swapfest

August 7 – Fayetteville, NC

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## Contests

Dec. 3 - 6

Top Band Sprint – CW

ARRL 160 Meter Contest – CW

ARRL EME Competition

Top Operator's Activity Contest – CW

TARA RTTY Melee

Dec. 12 - 13

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

28 MHz SWL Contest

PSK Death Match

Russian 160 Meter Contest

Croatian CW Contest

UBA Winter Contest

Great Colorado Snowshoe Run – CW

Dec. 12 - 16

North American VHF WSJT Contest

Dec. 19 - 20

OK DX RTTY Contest

RAC Winter Contest

Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint – CW

Dec. 19 - Jan. 3

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

Dec. 26 - 27

RAEM Contest – CW

DARC Christmas Contest

Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge –

CW

070 Club QRP DX Scramble – Digital

Dec. 31

South Dakota QSO Party

Jan. 1

ARRL Straight Key Night – CW

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## 2010 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

It is the end of the year and Fred is now accepting 2010 dues payments. TRARC dues are Please pay early and let's all try to recruit one new member this year.

**If you are interested in becoming a 'new' ARRL member, we now have a special form that you can completely fill out, pay thru the club, and the club keeps \$15. If you are RENEWING your membership in ARRL, you may now pay thru the club, and it keeps \$2. ARRL dues are \$39 per year. There are others options also.**

Help support your club.

Pay your dues at the meeting or send your check to: Fred Winner KE4LXW, 8972 Lancaster Store Rd., Castalia, NC 27816.

## **DX Info**

{**TNX to various ARRL email newsletters and ARNL**}

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Joao, CT2GQA is QRV from here for the next five years. He is active as J5JUA on 80 and 40 meters and J5GQZ on 20 and 17 meters. QSL to home call.

MONGOLIA, JT. Special event station JU75BSI is QRV until November 30 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Mongolian Border Service Institute. QSL via JT1CH.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. Fernando, EA4BB is QRV as Z21BB and is active from Harare for two years while on work assignment. He plans to be active on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via W3HNK.

LIBERIA, EL. Chris, ZS6RI plans to be QRV as EL8RI for about one to two months. Activity will be mainly on 40, 30 and 20 meters running QRP power. QSL to home call.

CHESTERFIELD ISLAND, FK. Tomi, HA7RY and George, AA7JV are QRV as TX3A until December 6. Activity is on all HF bands with an emphasis on the low bands. QSL via HA7RY.

TUNISIA, 3V. Alex, GM0DHZ will be here beginning November 16 for five weeks. He plans to operate using CW from the 3V8SS club station during the weekends. QSL via operator's instructions.

TUNISIA, 3V. A group of operators will be QRV as 3V3S from November 23 to December 2. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via DL9USA.

MADAGASCAR, 5R. Eric, F6ICX will be QRV as 5R8IC from St. Marie Island, IOTA AF-090, from November 17 to December 15. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

G4OHX, will be active as 5R8HX from Madagascar between December 28th and January 3rd of 2010. His operation will be mainly using CW. He will also be active portable ZS5 between January 4th to the 17th. QSL direct only via his home callsign.

GHANA, 9G. A group of operators are QRV as 9G5TT from Busua Beach in western Ghana until November 27. This includes activity as 9G5XX from Abokwa Island, IOTA AF-084. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, with 20 meters only on Abokwa Island. QSL direct via I2YSB.

GHANA, 9G. Alan, G3X AQ is QRV as 9G5XA from Accra until December 4. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via G3SWH.

ANGOLA, D2. Paulo, CT1ITZ is QRV as D2CQ from Porto Amboimi until November 29. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via CT1IUA.

MOLDOVA, ER. In celebration of 650 years since Moldova became an independent principality in 1359, special event stations ER650M and ER650MD are QRV until the end of November. QSL ER650M via ER1DA and ER650MD via ER4DX.

ANTARCTICA. Bill, K7MT will be QRV as KC4USV from McMurdo Base, IOTA AN-011, from November 15 to February 20. Activity is mainly on 20 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via K1IED.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PC60TROLLEY will be QRV from November 17 to December 15 in celebration of the 60th anniversary of trolley buses in Arnhem. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via PA0FAW.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Gerd, DL7VOG will be QRV as VP2V/home call from Anegada Island, IOTA NA-023, from November 15 to December 2. Activity is on all bands using mostly CW and RTTY. QSL to home call.

VIETNAM, XV. Retu, OH4MDY and Henry, OH3JR are QRV as XV2RZ and XV2JR, respectively, until December 7. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL both calls direct via OH4MDY.

BOTSWANA, A2. Mike, K9NW will be QRV as A25NW from November 23 to December 1. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ WW DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. A group of operators will be QRV as A65DLH from Dubai from November 23 to 30. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ WW DX CW contest. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via DO7ZZ.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Jean, ON5JV and Georgette, ON6AK are QRV as EA8/home calls from Tijoco Bajo on Tenerife, IOTA AF-004, until February 10. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters mainly during their evening hours. QSL to home calls.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. John, K4BAI and Don, W4OC will be QRV as PJ4/home calls from Bonaire, IOTA SA-006, from November 24 to December 1. This includes being an entry as PJ4A in the upcoming CQWW DX CW contest. QSL all calls via K4BAI.

PALAU, T8. Pista, HA5AO will be QRV as T88CI from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, from

November 25 to December 10. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using mainly CW. He may also try SSB and RTTY. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ WW CW contest. QSL to home call.

CHAD, TT. Jovica, E78A is QRV as TT8JT from Abeche for about three weeks. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL via E73Y.

BELIZE, V3. Pete, K8PT will be QRV as V31PT from Ambergris Cay, IOTA NA-073, from November 24 to December 5. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

NAMIBIA, V5. Klaus, DJ4SO will be QRV as V5/home call from November 23 to December 15. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, RTTY or PSK31. QSL to home call.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X. Harry, DM5TI, Rene, DL2JRM, Thomas, DL2RMC and Sid, DM2AYO will be QRV as VK9XX from November 21 to December 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. They will be QRV as VK9XW in the upcoming CQ WW DX CW contest. QSL both calls via DL1RTL.

INDIA, VU. Amateur Radio operators in India have recently been authorized to transmit between 7100 and 7200 kHz, now giving them use from 7000 to 7200 kHz.

KL7JR reports that plans are underway for the activation of Jacquot Island before and during ARRL's December 11th to the 13th Ten Meter Contest. Listen out for VY1RST to concentrate on 10 meters for the contest and 14.260 for non-contest activities. QSL via KL7JR at his callbook address.

ZS6TAF, who works in Maputo Mozambique from time to time will be operate mobile using the callsign C91BA. He has a Yaesu 857D and Watson mobile antenna for 80 through 6 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

A team of operators will be on the air from Arturo Prat-Greenwich Island in the South Shetland archipelago between January 10th to the 24th of 2010. Their callsign will be XR9JA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and the AO-51 ham radio satellite. QSL via CE5JA.

CT1DRB, is active as T6AG from Afghanistan for the next 6 months. His operation will be CW only.. QSL via EA3GHZ direct.

DL7VSN is once again heading to Tanzania and will probably be active as 5H1HS, this time from the Kilimanjaro area. He was expected to begin his operations on November 1st but the length of his length

of stay was not mentioned. Activity will be 160 through 10 meters using mainly CW and RTTY. If all plans go well he may also get to activate his 5th Islands on the Air group from this DXCC entity for one or two days. DL7VSN says that he will also be in the Serengeti and Tarangire National Park starting November 18th, and hopes to be active from these areas as well. QSL via his home callsign.

If you are looking for a contact with Singapore then listen out for 9V1JP who is a new operator from there and has been active on 20 meters. James says via QRZ.com that he is in a very challenging environment and is trying hard to put out a decent signal on HF. He also says that in the QSL area that he is in the process of designing them, and they should be good and ready to begin sending them out in the spring of 2010.

JK2VOC says that he will be active from BA4TB station in China. This, between November 27th to the 30th including the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest on November 28th and 29th. QSL via JK2VOC.

YV5IAL will be portable CE0 from Easter Island between January 8th and 11th of 2010. This will be a QRP, portable, holiday style operation. Activity will use the PSK31 digital mode on 14070.15 kHz from 2200 to 0100 UTC daily. He may occasionally be on 40, 30 and 15 meters as well. QSL via this operation via his home callsign.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Chagos Island, VQ9JC, current operation. This operation was previously rejected as a shipboard operation. DXCC exchanged correspondence with the operator and determined that this operation was actually land-based thereby satisfying the conditions of DXCC Rule 8; Timor-Leste, 4W6AL, 2009 operation; Afghanistan, T6AG, current operation; Iraq, YI9TM, current operation; Conway Reef, 3D20CR and 3D2CV, 2009 operations; Midway Island, K4M, 2009 operation.

## **NC Section News**

### **NC FIELD DAY RESULTS**

North Carolina had its usual great showing in the 2009 ARRL Field Day. The results are printed in the December edition of QST. We are the eighth largest section by population, but ranked fourth in activity with 73 stations participating. Congratulations to the following participants for their top 10 results:

Raleigh ARS, W4DW - First place, Category 7A;

W4DXA: First place, Category 3E;

Knightlites QRP club, WQ4RP: Third place, Category 3A Battery;

Forsythe ARC, W4NC: Third place, Category 5A Battery;

Orange County ARS, W4EZ: Second place, Category 9A Battery;

Charlotte ARC, W4CQ: Sixth place, Category 1F;

Alamance ARC, K4EG: Second place, Category 2F;

Smith Chart ARS, K4OO: Second place, Category 3F.

### **TARHEEL NET MOVED TO 160M**

Since the change back to standard time, regional propagation on 75m has been very poor at 7:30pm and the Tarheel Emergency Net has been struggling. Net Manager Mark Cantrell, KD4IMA, has announced that effective immediately the net will be moving to 160m. Mark reports "our plan is to start at 1.943, then if we find the frequency in use, move up by 10 kHz increments - 1.953, 1.963, 1.973, 1.983, 1.993. None of those frequencies are listed in the ARRL Net Directory as being used at any time. I think that we can find a frequency on 160m that will allow us to stay on the air. There are many cheap and easy designs to get an antenna on 160 if folks want to try it". The solution at N4IB is to temporarily extend the legs of my 75m dipole to make it resonant on 160m. The extra length can be run in almost any direction - up, down, sideways. It may not be perfect, but it was pretty effective last winter during testing and 160m can provide excellent regional coverage at night. The Tarheel Net will leave a station behind on 3.923MHz at net time to move any potential check-ins who aren't aware of the change.

### **SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY**

Don't forget the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event, which will take place Saturday, December 5, 2009. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. It's also a good opportunity for press coverage and to encourage more hams to get involved with SKYWARN! Thanks to the NC SKYWARN emergency coordinators for their hard work throughout the year:

Central Carolina: Virginia Enzor, NC4VA

Charlotte: Kelly Cook, KG4YTR

Triad: John Hamilton, NC4JH

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN NC**

Dec 5: SKYWARN Recognition Day

Jan 9: Winston-Salem FirstFest

### **OCTOBER TRAFFIC**

K4IWW 432, N3BW 216, W2EAG 214, KI4YV 181, W3HL 62, W4TTO 55, KI4ZJI 52, W4DNA 50, W4FAL 44, K8SKX 37, KE4AHC 36, NC4VA 26, KC4PGN 19, W4EHF 16.

### **OCTOBER PSHR**

W4DNA 180, W4TTO 170, NC4VA 152, K4IWW 130, W4FAL 130, KI4ZJI 115, W2EAG 110, KI4YV 100.

### **OCTOBER ARES MEMBERS: 1,795**

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

[n4ib@arrl.org](mailto:n4ib@arrl.org)

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## **New Tech Question Pool**

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes – Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

According ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes."

Green is a member of the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee. Other members of the QPC include Chairman Roland Anders, K3RA (Laurel VEC), Larry Pollock, NB5X (W5YI VEC), Jim Wiley, KL7CC (Anchorage VEC) and Tom Fuszard, KF9PU (Milwaukee VEC).

Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as

suggestions for changes or deletions: "The QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC seeks input from the amateur community concerning a revision."

The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

## **Ham Gear for Sale or Trade**

If you have any ham gear or other electronic gear to sell or trade, send a copy of your ad to [W4FRA@arrl.net](mailto:W4FRA@arrl.net).

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**FOR SALE** - Kenwood TH-215A w/manual \$50; Azden PCS-7200 220 MHz w/manual \$200; HyGain Mark IV Rotator, Mast, Thrust Bearings, package \$300; Radio Shack DC Power Supply, regulated, 3 Amp, w/manual \$25; Icom IC-03AT, 220 MHz, \$100; Radio Shack HTX-202, \$50. - John Faulkner, KR4SV, 252-442-7946

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**FOR SALE** - I have moved to New Bern and have a few ham antennas for sale. Please let the club members know. I am asking about half price for each. All have manufacturer's assembly and installation manual and include the cables and related galvanized steel masts:

Cushcraft R7 vertical for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, & 40 Meters - estimate new about \$510, will sell for \$250

Cushcraft AR-6 vertical for 6 Meters - estimate new for \$108, will sell for \$55

Cushcraft 13B2 boom Yagi for 2 Meters SSB/CW/FM - estimate new for \$160, sell for \$80

I also have an Alinco DR-600 (works ok but needs a new lithium battery) and a mobile hand-held Icom (buttons stick). Make an offer.

Jim Dugan, W1JFD, 252-446-5319  
[jimdugan@embarqmail.com](mailto:jimdugan@embarqmail.com), [W1JFD@arrl.net](mailto:W1JFD@arrl.net)

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### **FOR SALE**

TH6 Antenna  
Hygain Rotator

65' Rohn 25G

Tower and antenna have been dismantled and on ground

Contact KG4SPT at 252-946-7197 or

[leary1@gotricounty.com](mailto:leary1@gotricounty.com)

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### **HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE - COMET**

TRIPLEXER CFX-324 600w, 1.3-150,

200-320, 300-500 MHz, NEW \$89.95 - \$50.00;

CUSHCRAFT 148, 2 METER BEAM, \$50.00;

KENWOOD PC-1A PHONE PATCH

CONTROLLER - \$20.00. Call -- FRED WINNER -

KE4LXW - 459-4332.

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