

THE AMPLIFIER

P.O. BOX 267

SHARPSBURG, NC 27878



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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

NEXT MEETING

The January meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, January 8th at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES** located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start a 7 pm.

This month's meeting will be held at the Boddie-Noell office building off Hunter Hill Road. The meeting time will be 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Please enter the building through the main entrance. Parking is available in front of the building or in the parking lot.

VE EXAM UPDATE

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2001 as follows.

January 27	July 28
March 24	September 22
May 26	November 24

Exams will be held at J.C. Penney conference room, Golden East Crossing Mall, NC Hwy 43 and U.S. 301, Rocky Mount, NC. Please use the catalog pick-up entrance. Exams will start promptly at 9 a.m.

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 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

The ARRL/VEC test fee is expected to be \$ 10 for 2001.

CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR

January

- 8 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 18 RMARS Meeting
- 21 Richmond, VA. Frostfest
- 27 VE Exams Rocky Mount

February

- 5 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 15 RMARS Meeting

Upcoming Hamfest

Bill, N2BT

- Jan. 21 Richmond, Va. Hamfest
- Feb. 3 Charleston, SC Hamfest
- Feb. 18 Elkin, NC Hamfest
- Mar. 10-11 Charlotte Hamfest
- Apr. 8 Raleigh Hamfest
- May 18-20 Dayton OH Hamfest

NEW POSTAL RATES

Bill, N2BT

As most are probably aware, the postage rates for domestic and international will go up effective January 7, 2001. The rates I have confirmed are as follows:

Domestic mail-

- ❖ Postcard- stays at 20 cents
- ❖ 1 oz domestic letter- 34 cents
- additional ounces- 21 cents each
- ❖ 1 lb priority mail- \$3.50
- ❖ 2 lbs priority mail- \$3.95

International Airmail-

- ❖ Postcard to Canada & Mexico- 50 cents
- ❖ Postcard to rest of world- 70 cents
- ❖ 1 ounce to Canada & Mexico- 60 cents
- ❖ 1 ounce to other countries-80 cents

IRC's (International Reply Coupon) will be \$ 1.75 each.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY EOC

Fred Winner, KE4LXW

On Saturday, Dec 2nd, nine area HAMS gathered to install antennas and radios at the Edgecombe County EOC on Anaconda Rd, in Tarboro. After a long wait, James Mercer, the County Emergency Manager purchased the equipment and called on local hams to install the equipment under the direction of the 911 Center Coordinator, Mark Walters.



A tri-band and a dual-band antenna was installed approximately 30 foot up on the centers radio tower. Two 130 foot lengths of RG-8 was run to the lobby area on the opposite side of the building. The EOC is now equipped with a dual-band Alinco 605TQ and a single-band ICOM 2100 along with an Astron 35 amp power supply. There is a possibility a 220 rig will also be purchased soon.



Those HAMS who braved the cold morning and volunteered their time and talents were:

N4XUN	Bruce Batchlor
KD4NLX	Marvin Catlet
KG4EEA	Phil Cockrell
KF4NOV	Rick Hasal
KG41WI	Adam Ipock
WB4BZZ	Lonnie Pridgen
KE4LXW	Fred Winner
KF4CDF	Jeremy Winner
KF4AUU	Chirstopher Winner



A great time was had by all and the mission was accomplished in about 4 hours of great fellowship and dedication to this fantastic hobby of HAM RADIO. Another job WELL DONE !

Contest Calendar

Bill, N2BT

CQ 160 Meter DX Contest CW January 26-28
 ARRL DX Contest CW February 17-18
 CQ 160 Meter DX Contest Phone Feb 23-25
 ARRL DX Contest Phone March 3-4

Check the latest issue of QST Magazine for further information [or www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com)

NEW FCC APPLICATION PROCESSING

Bill, N2BT

The FCC's new system to handle batch filed amateur applications from Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has cut processing time from hours to minutes. The FCC inaugurated the more rapid amateur license application processing system December 28.

"Way to go, FCC!" said an enthusiastic ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after his office fed its first batch of license applications into the system.

Jahnke says processing of five dozen ARRL-VEC applications took about 50 minutes. The W4VEC in North Carolina and Central America VEC also took advantage of the new system for the first time.

Except for a two-hour window right after midnight each day, the speedy new system looks for VEC submissions each hour on the half-hour. With FCC license grant processing now measured in terms of hours instead of days, the major factor now determining the time from exam to license grant is how quickly VE teams get their test results to their VECs.

The FCC has been estimating a processing window of up to 90 minutes, depending on volume and arrival time. License grant results should be available immediately on the Universal Licensing System Web site:

<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>,

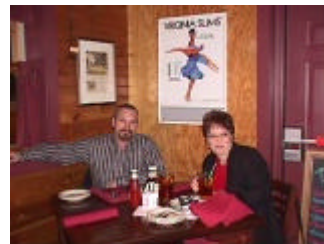
using the license search option. Once a grant is in the FCC database, the licensee has operating privileges.

Applications processed by the FCC one day will appear in the public update ("zip") files the following morning. Public call sign servers on the Internet should be able to update within 24 hours after FCC action-rather than the 48 hours that's now typical.

On-line filings from individuals, weekend filings and FCC-manually processed applications filed to Gettysburg will continue to be handled as they are now. These are batched for midnight processing, and weekend filings will not queue up until Monday midnight.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Some pictures of the December Christmas meeting:





YEAR 2001 CLUB DUES

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club dues will be due in January. Full

Membership is \$15.00 and Family Full is \$6.00 each. Associate Membership dues are \$10.00 and are for Non-license persons only.

Please make check payable to the TRARC, and bring to the January meeting or mail to Lonnie Pridgen, the club's treasurer. Please complete the application form at the end of the Newsletter.

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND RETURN WITH APPLICATION

TAR RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ CALL _____
ADR _____ CLASS LICENSE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____
HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____
E-MAIL ADR _____
ARRL MEMBER (Y or N) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
FULL MEMBERSHIP \$15.00 _____ FAMILY FULL \$6.00 _____

NOTE--ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-LICENSE PERSON ONLY

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 _____ FAMILY ASSOCIATE \$1.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____ Cash or Check -- DATE ___/___/___

***PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE TAR RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
RETURN DUES WITH THIS APPLICATION***

*LONNIE PRIDGEN, WB4BZZ
P.O. BOX 267
SHARPSBURG, NC 27878-0267*