

THE AMPLIFIER

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

NEXT MEETING

The February meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, February 5th at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES** located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 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.

Vlad Plugin, RW3AG from Moscow was to attend our February meeting but was

unable to come. His trip is planned for June, in the hopes he will be able to be at our Field Day and maybe attend our July Meeting. It will be interesting to talk to him about Amateur Radio in Russia.

EDCOMBE COUNTY EOC

At our January meeting Fred Winner, KE4LXW announced that Kenneth Stallings made a donation to buy a 220MHz radio for the Edgecombe County EOC. The radio is the hands of Rick Hasal, KF4NOV for programming the frequencies. As it stands now, we have radio gear for the 2 meter, 220MHz and 440MHz bands.

His letter is at the end of the Newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Rick Hasal, KF4NOV and Bob Keller, WB4WPC.

Rick is active on 6, 2, 1¼ meters and 70cm. Rick live in Rocky Mount but you will need to set-up a talk-in frequency before visiting. He also has an interesting ham shack with many nice features.

Bob is from around Castalia, and is active on 2 and 1¼ meters and also HF. Robin has helped his Dad put up antennas for his new HF rig and he should become more active on HF now.

VE EXAM UPDATE

Bill, N2BT

Exams were held on Saturday, January 27th. There were 2 candidates present. *Congratulations to:*

- John Linskey of Chapel Hill, NC
--Technician
- Craig Mitchell (KC4YRQ) of
Shiloh, NC -- General

Thanks to Jim, N4PE, Bill, NG4W, and Lloyd, NG4V for assisting with the exam session. The next session will be held on Saturday, March 24th. Please see the club web page at www.TarRiverARC.com for further information.

CHASE OF CHAMPIONS

The annual Chase of Champions road race will be held on Saturday, April 7th. Amateur Radio operators will be needed again this year. For further information, check the Tuesday night ARES net on 146.805/224.22/147.12 MHz repeaters. The net starts at 8:30 p.m.

CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR

February

- 4-10 KP2 DX'pedition
- 5 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 15 RMARS Meeting

March

- 5 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 15 RMARS Meeting
- 24 VE Exams – Rocky Mount

Upcoming Hamfest

Bill, N2BT

- Mar. 10-11 Charlotte Hamfest
www.w4bfb.org/hamfest.html
- Apr. 8 Raleigh Hamfest
www.rtpnet.org/~rars/hamfest/
- May 18-20 Dayton OH Hamfest
www.hamvention.org

Contest Calendar

Bill, N2BT

- 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

RICHMOND FROSTFEST REPORT

Bill, N2BT

Several Tar River ARC / Castalia Island DX Association members attended the Richmond Frostfest on Sunday, January 21st. The Frostfest certainly lived up to its' name this year. The temperature was about 28 degrees at departure time (6 a.m.) here in Rocky Mount. There was also a trace of snow in Richmond, as there was snow flurry activity in Richmond the previous evening.

We arrived at the hamfest site around 8:10 a.m. With advance admission tickets, we could now enter the hamfest a 1/2 hour sooner than the general public. (General public admission started at 8:30 a.m.) Several of us headed directly to the flea market area. It was very noticeable that several of the tables were empty. There was also a lack of "used computers and computerjunk". Maybe those old XTs, 286s, and 386s have finally meet their death.

The only 2 major dealers present were Ham Radio Outlet (Woodbridge, VA) and Communications Headquarters (Wilmington, NC. ICOM America was also present with a manufacturers display of their entire product line, plus a representative to answer any questions. Not present this year was Yaesu USA. Yaesu has displayed at past Frostfests.

It was also noticeable that there was no new computer dealers present. Is this a sign of the times maybe you can get as good of deal at Circuit City or Office Depot or Dell and Gateway ... as compared to mail order or hamfests? Something to think about.

In summary, I think this years' Frostfest was down a little over the past years. I would still attend in the future, but there is no need to leave early as in previous years. I would plan on arriving in Richmond around 8:30 or 8:45 a.m. next time. You will not miss anything, and that extra hour of sleep will do wonders!

DX NEWS

Bill, N2BT

Wicky, W4WWT and Fred, K4FMD will again be on their "DX Vacation" from the U.S. Virgin Islands. Look for KP2/K4UP from around February 3rd through February 9th. QSL via K4UP. Operations will mainly be on 10 - 20 meters SSB.

Syria YK9A February 3-12
<http://www.qsl.net/k7ar/> QSL via K9LA

Comoros D68C February 8-28
www.dxbands.com/comoros QSL via G3SWH

San Felix CEOXT February 12-20
www.qsl.net/ce0xt QSL via CE6BTN

St. Peter PW0S February 7 - 13
QSL via KU9C

ARRL BOARD APPROVES DUES INCREASE

Bill, N2BT

Meeting in Irving, Texas, January 19 and 20, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues from \$34 to \$39 annually for full members younger than 65, and from \$28 to \$34 for full members 65 and older. The dues hike goes into effect July 1, 2001. The last ARRL dues increase was in July 1997.

The dues increase resulted from a need to fund initiatives to expand the League's advocacy activities on behalf of Amateur Radio--including the defense of amateur spectrum--and to enhance ARRL Headquarters' abilities to serve members during a period of projected deficits. The Board okayed a \$1 greater increase for seniors in an effort to narrow the dues gap, as more and more ARRL members fall into the senior category.

ARRL DIRECTORS SUPPORT MORSE CODE

Bill, N2BT

The Board also revised its position on whether Morse code proficiency should continue to be an international licensing requirement for operation below 30 MHz. The Board approved a resolution that "recognizes and accepts" that the Morse requirement likely will be dropped from Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations at the 2003 World Radio Communication Conference. But the Board held the line on retaining a domestic Morse requirement, saying that each country should be allowed to

determine for itself whether it wants to have a Morse requirement.

The Board declared that Morse code deserves continued support as "an important operating mode" as well as in terms of spectrum and "should be retained as a testing element in the US." The resolution also calls on ARRL Headquarters staff to "develop a program designed to promote the use of Morse."

The resolution supersedes all previous Board policy statements regarding Morse code and Article S25.

NEW MORSE CODE EXAM STANDARDS

Bill, N2BT

The National Conference of VECs will adopt new Morse code testing standards effective on or before July 1, 2001. Those new standards are:

- ❖ Only fill-in-the blank format quizzes will be used. (No more multiple choice)
- ❖ All routine Morse exams will be sent using the Farnsworth method.
- ❖ The Farnsworth character speed will be between 13 and 15 wpm.
- ❖ The Morse code audio note frequency will be in the range of 700 - 1000 Hz.

For additional information, see January 2001 QST page 90.

From: Kenneth W. Stallings
12/04/2000

To: Tar River Amateur Radio Club
c/o Mr. Fred Winner

Please accept this donation to the Tar River Amateur Radio Club for the assistance provided to the people of Edgecombe and surrounding counties during the Flood of the Century / Hurricane Floyd, 1999. Your team's untiring actions and continued preparedness to assist people in emergency situations were and are greatly appreciated.

It was a pleasure to work with your team and to better understand the role that Amateur Radio Operators play during times when ordinary means of communications are limited.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Stallings