



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

February 2005

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

The February meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, February 7, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Please enter the building through the main entrance. Parking is available in front of the building or in the parking lot. Tom Brown, N4TAB, Area 7 DEC, will be our guest speaker.

2005 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2005 as follows:

February 5	August 6
April 2	October 1
June 4	December 3

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 \$14 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club web site at www.TarRiverARC.org or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT
VE Team Coordinator
Rocky Mount, NC
(252)-442-6131

Email: N2BT@arrl.net

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Hello on and all. It's February already. As I write this there have three winter "events" and another on the way. Gee, I hope the rest of winter is milder than the start.

So speaking of winter. Anyone follow what happened during Ice storm? Seen any of the articles? Took folks 45 to 90 minutes to place cell calls. Ma Bell has already said their network was severely overloaded.

So folks were slightly upset with.....

Lets's see. All the weather people. The DOT people. The phone company. The cell company. The radio stations. Just say it was interesting.

I listened to the local and Raleigh area repeaters. Amateur radio did a lot. NO, ARES was never activated. But it was really nice listening to the condition reports and folks getting help.

Now we have two prime examples (the ice "event" and the Wake county S.E.T.) of why you need to know how to program your radio. Can you?

How 'bout the simplex frequencies. There are many more than just 52 simplex. These were used a lot during the ice event.

So let's each spend a few minutes contemplating how we could handle being stranded. Do you have a car kit? You know, things like a couple of bottles of water, power bars, blanket, wet naps and tissue. A lot the mini-marts ran out.

Not to mention the folks who ran out of fuel.

Could you use your 2 meter rig to call for help? Do you have a current repeater list? Can you program your rig?

We need to.

So straight from the SERA web site. Here are the simplex frequencies.

146.400*	146.415*	146.430*	146.445*
146.460*	146.475*		
146.490*	146.505*	146.520	146.535
146.550	146.565		
146.580	146.595	147.405*	147.420*
147.435*	147.450*		
147.465*	147.480*	147.495*	147.510
147.525	147.540		
147.555	147.570	147.585	
445.9125	445.9250	445.9375	
445.9500	445.9625	445.9750	
445.9875			

446.0000	446.0125	446.0250
446.0375	446.0500	446.0625
446.0750		
446.0875	446.1000	446.1125
446.1250	446.1375	446.1500
446.1625		
446.1750		

Note that for two meters, some of those (*) can be used for repeater inputs and in the Raleigh area some are used for packet simplex.

See you at the meeting.

Weekly ARES Net

The Northern Coastal Plain ARES net, covering Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, and Wilson counties, meets Tuesday nights at 8:30 p.m. on 145.290 MHz, 146.805 MHz, 146.745 MHz, 224.220 MHz, 444.500 MHz, 444.700 MHz, 442.125 MHz and 443.700 MHz repeaters. Check into the net, participate in ARES training, and enjoy the informal rag-chew afterwards.

Upcoming Hamfests

Feb. 5 – Charleston, SC
 Feb. 20 – Frostfest, Richmond, VA
 Feb. 26 – Elkin, NC
 Mar. 6 – Kinston, NC
 Mar. 11-12 – Charlotte, NC
 Apr. 17 – Raleigh, NC
 Apr. 29-30 – SE VHF Conference, Charlotte
 May 14 – Rockingham County, NC
 May 20-22 – HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH
 May 21 – Williamston, NC

Contests

Feb. 5-8

North American Sprint – SSB
 Spartan Sprint
 School Club Roundup
 Minnesota QSO Party
 Northern NY QSO Party
 New Hampshire QSO Party
 Ten-Ten Intl. Winter Phone QSO Party
 XE International RTTY Contest
 Delaware QSO Party
 Vermont QSO Party
 YL International QSO Party
 QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint
 FYBO Winter QRP Field Day

Feb. 12-14

North American Sprint – CW
 Louisiana QSO Party

British Columbia QSO Challenge
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest
Asia-Pacific Sprint – CW
FISTS CW Winter Sprint
50th Anniversary Dutch PACC Contest
OMISS QSO Party
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
Classic Exchange

Feb. 19-20

ARRL International DX Contest – CW
CQC Winter QSO Party

Feb. 26-28

CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest
UBA Contest – CW
REF French Contest
Mississippi QSO Party
North Carolina QSO Party
High Speed CW Contest
North American QSO Party – RTTY
1st Annual US Virgin Islands QSO Party
AM QSO Party

EC's Column

Fred, KE4LXW

Weather Spotter Class

A WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS will be held on February 8, 2005 at the NASH COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING. Jeff Orrock of the NWS will present the program. At this time, we are planning on using the EOC meeting room in the basement/1st floor from rear.

There will be 2 classes, the first at 3-5 pm, and the second at 7-9 pm. There is NO CHARGE and anyone interested may attend. We especially want to see AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS attend. We are also requesting all EMS, POLICE and SHERIFF department personnel to attend.

2005 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 for family's. Most have already paid and we thank you !

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 for regular and \$36 for SENIORS 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.

Breakfast Get-Together

There is an informal Breakfast Get-together on VE Exam Saturdays (first Saturday of even months) at the Highway Diner on Winstead Avenue at 7:00 AM. Club members and other Amateurs are invited to attend.

Donation to QSL.COM

In accordance with the Club By Laws, we will "pass the hat" at the February meeting for a donation to Al Waller at QSL.COM, the host of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club website. Be sure to bring a few bucks for the hat.

2005 Meeting Topics

At our January meeting, the following topics were selected for our 2005 meetings:

Feb. - Tom Brown, Area 7 DEC

Mar. - Computers, KG4IWI

Apr. - Start Field Day planning

May – Continue Field Day planning

June – Final Field Day planning

July – Field Day debrief

Aug. - Tour Rocky Mount 911 Center

Sep. - Marconi History, KG4TTX

Oct. - LOTW, W4MY

Dec. - Christmas Party

Still need a topic for November, if you have a suggestion, contact Robin, WA4WPD.

Ham Radio in Storm

Hope everyone read the Gary Pearce e-mail that Fred, KE4LXW, sent to the W4DCG group, regarding the storm last Wednesday. It was a good e-mail, be interesting to see if "old reliable" (?) mentions it in print.
