



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

February 2006

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VE Director	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252-442-6131
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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 6, 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. The February program will be TBD.

2006 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2006 as follows:

*February 4	April 1
June 3	August 5
October 7	December 2

*[February 4 Exam will be held at Boddie Noell Enterprises, 1021 Noell Lane, Rocky Mount]

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 one and all.

The new year has started. Thus far it's been very busy around my QTH. I promised last meeting to get the board of directors together. Unfortunately life has gotten in the way. As I write this I finally have everyone out of the hospital and at home. I will try to make it happen before the meeting.

A quick update on Nash EOC. All monies have been raised. Equipment ordered and arrived. Everything is at the office except for a cabinet. This project should be finished in the next 2 months. More info at the meeting.

The Technician class at the Red Cross have been postponed until the last two weekends in March. If you have anyone interested have them contact me. You don't have to be a Red Cross volunteer in order to be in the class.

Congratulations to Marty (W4MY) and Chris (KC4HDI). They are new grandparents.

Adam has met with most of the local Boy Scout management. He has had a very positive response. Hopefully we can get an update during the meeting.

Speaking of JOTA. Here are some quick facts.
Always on the third weekend in October.

Runs for 47 hours 58 minutes.

Each JOTA site uses their local time.

Is international.

Some special calls to listen for....

HB9S -- World Scout Bureau, Geneva
Switzerland

K2BSA -- Boy Scouts of America
National Office, Dallas TX

JA1YSS -- Boy Scouts of Nippon
National Office, Tokyo Japan

PA6JAM -- Scouting Nederland
National Station, Sassenheim Netherlands

5Z4KSA -- The Kenya Scouts Assoc.
Paxtu Station, Nyeri Kenya

VK1BP -- The Scout Assn. of Australia
National Station, Canberra Australia

GB2GP -- The Scout Assn., Gilwell
Park, London UK

XE1ASM -- Boy Scouts of Mexico

DU1BSP -- Boy Scouts of Philippines

TF3JAM -- Scouts of Iceland

Active on all HF bands except 160 and 30 meters.

The 2006 event will be the 49th JOTA.

Here are some web sites to look over.

<http://www.scout.org/wse/jota.shtml>

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>

<http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html>

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/programme/events/jota/>

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120521.pdf>

<http://www.dcarc.net/jota.htm>

<http://home.hetnet.nl/~richard.middelkoop/>

See y'all at the meeting.

Vice-President's Ker-chunk

By Marty, W4MY

I remember an episode of "The Beverly Hillbillies" where Mr. Drysdale makes Granny a bank Vice President for one reason or another. When Granny looked up the word "Vice" in the dictionary she doesn't like what she learned, and protested to Jed. Thinking on his feet, Jed changes the "V" in Vice to an "N" by painting a line down from the upper left tip of the V on her placard. "There ya go, Granny," he said, "now you're a Nice President" All was well.

Many have thought, but few have asked, "What exactly does a Vice President do?" Wouldn't the club rather have a "Nice" President? I asked the same questions! Is it more than just standing in for the President when needed? According to the new constitution, I am also responsible for scheduling and setting up the programs for meeting night. Also, if the President is charged with being Field Day Chairman, can the Vice President be in charge of the food? I like that idea, will someone make a motion ...?

Seriously, I'm honored to be nominated and elected as TRARC Vice President for '06-'07 and will do my best to follow in the footsteps of former Vice Presidents Bill Fairly, WA4TCC-SK, and Robin Keller, WA4WPD.

I encourage and challenge every member of TRARC to get involved, check into or call the ARES net, participate in the meetings, get on the air both locally and on HF, learn CW, have fun with this great hobby, enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of like minded hams, prepare yourself to be of use in an emergency by taking the training made available and keeping your radio gear/batteries in top shape, volunteer for the various events (Special Olympics, Tour-De-Cure, MS-150, etc.) when you can, help a fellow ham with their antennas/stations when in need, and most of all do this with character, excellence, and good cheer.

Lastly, everyone, mark your calendars for the last full weekend in June for Field Day. Every year the TRARC Field Day gets better. 2005 was no exception, the event was great but turnout was less than expected.

In all my 29 years as a ham participating in Field Day practically every year (including my first in 1977, did I tell you that story...?) the TRARC events of 2003, 2004, and 2005 were the best, bester, and bestest, respectively. Please make every effort to participate and get others involved too!

See everyone at the February meeting! 73

Marty / W4MY VP-TRARC dit-dit

Upcoming Hamfests

Feb 4 – Charleston, SC

Feb 19 – FrostFest, Richmond, VA

Mar. 11-12 – Charlotte, NC

April 2 – Kinston, NC

April 15 – Morganton, NC

April 23 – RARS Fest, Raleigh, NC

April 28-29 – Southeastern VHF Society Conference, Greenville, SC

May 13 – Eden, NC

May 19-21 – HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH

May 20 – Williamston, NC

May 20 – Greenville, NC

May 27 – Durham, NC

Contests

Jan. 28 - 29

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest - CW

REF French Contest - CW

UBA Contest - Phone

Feb. 4 - 7

Vermont QSO Party

YL-ISSB QSO Party

10-10 International Winter Contest - SSB

YLRL YL-OM Contest - CW

Minnesota QSO Party

AGCW Straight Key Party

Delaware QSO Party

Mexico RTTY International Contest

North American Sprint - SSB

ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint

ARS Spartan Sprint

FYBO Winter QRP Field Day – CW

Feb. 9 - 12

Northern NY QSO Party

KCJ Topband Contest

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

New Hampshire QSO Party

SARL Field Day Contest

Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint - CW

Dutch PACC Contest

YLRL YL-OM Contest - SSB

Louisiana QSO Party

OMISS QSO Party

FISTS Winter Sprint

British Columbia QSO Challenge

RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest - CW

North American Sprint - CW

EU EME Contest

Classic Exchange – AM/SSB/CW

Feb. 13 - 20

ARRL School Club Roundup

AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening

ARRL International DX Contest - CW

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

Feb. 24 - 27

Russian PSK WW Contest

CQ WW 160-Meter Contest - SSB

REF French Contest - SSB

UBA DX Contest - SSB

Mississippi QSO Party

CZEBRIS Contest

North American QSO Party - RTTY

High Speed Club CW Contest

North Carolina QSO Party

CQC Winter QSO Party

Every Weekend in February – Digital on Six MS “Dead Band Contest”

2006 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2006 TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 for family's.

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.

NC Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC: K4ITL.

BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. ACC: WA4KE. SGL: AB4W.

In my columns I have discussed many facets of Amateur Radio, but there are two which are most responsible for the general public's awareness of us: antennas and disaster communications. While antennas are a sore subject for some, our role as backup

communicators has time and again proven important to our communities.

Hurricanes and ice storms are the largest (but not the only) hazards we face in North Carolina. The ice storms in December 2002 and February 2003 caused power outages for well over a million people, myself included, for many days.

Hurricane Isabel caused power outages for many weeks for those in the northeast part of the state. Hurricane Ivan caused flooding and landslides in the west. No part of our state is immune from severe weather.

Are you ready?

To answer yes, you must make sure that:

1. You are personally prepared for disaster.
2. You have regular contact with your county ARES EC.
3. You and your EC have identified specifically how you can help.
4. You have prepared to do so.

All of the items on the list are dependent on the first. Even those who are well-prepared for disaster can't anticipate everything; and if you have not prepared at all, then chances are you will not be able to help with Amateur Radio communications, you will be dealing with personal issues instead.

I like to be prepared for disasters for three reasons: so I am as safe and comfortable as possible, not a burden on relief efforts, and able to help with disaster communications if we are needed.

I have more information on personal disaster preparedness in an article I recently revised: <http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/prepare.html>

Regular contact with your county EC is important also. How often is regular? Well, certainly often enough that he would remember who you are. Registering for ARES once and never following up means you are out of the picture pretty soon. At the very least, as an ARES volunteer you are expected to contact your EC at least once a year, let him know the status of your station, and exchange contact information (which changes more rapidly than ever these days).

The better your EC knows you, the better you both will be able to determine where you fit in. Your interests, capabilities and availability will change over time - this will affect where you fit in, so keep your EC posted.

Disaster communications is not limited to shelter and EOC deployment, there are lots of ways to serve before, during and after a disaster activation. For example, hams who work in public safety are otherwise deployed during a disaster, but can help with equipment

maintenance, training or other "before" tasks. If your home station can operate during a disaster, you can serve as a net control without leaving your home. The possibilities are too numerous to list here, but keep in mind that almost everyone has something to contribute.

Once you have identified how you can help, make sure you have prepared to do so (especially if it is a "during" task). If something happened NOW, do you know how quickly you could be ready to go? Test your equipment periodically. Participate in drills and training so you will know what to do. If you are in charge of making coffee, then clean the coffee pot!

Even after all this preparation, there will be some disasters for which we are simply not needed. Remember that we are a backup communications resource, and if regular communications continues to work, our deployment may be brief or not at all. This will be a disappointment once your adrenaline gets going, but if it happens accept it with grace and leave a good impression behind. Keep in mind that this is presently the most positive manner in which the general public is exposed to what we do - make sure you are a good ambassador for Amateur Radio. We don't really train for this, but probably should.

Last month, I recognized ARECC graduates in North Carolina by listing those who have reached Level 3. ARECC graduates at any level have put in a lot of time and effort to improve their skills and knowledge of emergency communications. This month, I list the NC Level 2 graduates: KD4YTG, KD4ZOE, KE5ABB, KU4GZ, K4BMH, KG4AWO, N4YMO, KI4HFN, KE4JT, W4JBP, N4JBP, WD4LSS, ND4MR, KG4MYD, K4DJW, KD4ITI, N4XBF. Also, KI4AHA has just completed Level 3. My congratulations and thanks to all of you.

Next month I will list the Level 1 graduates. For more information about ARECC, visit <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>

Just a reminder that official ARRL Field Organization appointees at all levels are required as one of the conditions of appointment to maintain current ARRL membership. Your appointment is not cancelled immediately, but after about a three-month lapse in membership your appointment is dropped from the database.

Affiliated clubs must file an annual report each year. After two years without an annual report, your club's affiliation will expire. We have several clubs in the section that are in jeopardy of losing this status right now. If you're a club officer, please file an annual report if your club has not done so lately. ARRL HQ

needs this info to refer prospective hams to nearby clubs!

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/forms/fsd2/>

My congratulations and thanks to Mike Lewis, WA4KE for accepting the Affiliated Club Coordinator position. Mike is well-known as the North Carolina News correspondent in the SERA Journal. I am sure he will do a fine job as ACC.

Silent Keys: Don Coeyman, W4RRK of Greensboro; Joseph Homovec, WA4ENZ of Raleigh; and Monroe Kennedy, WB4VKK of High Point.

Upcoming Hamfest: Charlotte, Saturday and Sunday, March 11-12. A gun show in the building next door bought out the parking lot, so parking is FREE this year! There will be an ARRL booth and forums, and lots of other things to do. I hope to see you there.

The NC QSO Party will be on February 26th. More info can be found at: <http://www.w4nc.com>

December Traffic: W4EAT 1572 (BPL), W0UCE 2239, AD4XV 215, K4RLD 210, K4IWW 201, KI4YV 173, W2EAG 156, W4DNA 122, KG4YNM 116, KD4FUN 84, WA4OBR 81, W3HL 64, W4FAL 58, KE4AHC 49, W4IRE 40, KE4JHJ 39, NC8D 38, W4EHF 34, W4TTO 33, W4NCD 31, W4LN 25, WA2EDN 22, KI4AHA 18.

December PSHR: W4DNA 185, K4RLD 175, W4NCD 162, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, W0UCE 120, W4FAL 120, NC8D 114, KE4JHJ 98, W4LN 95, KI4YV 90, W2EAG 90, KD4FUN 90, KI4AHA 83, KG4YNM 80, W4TTO 73. November PSHR: NC8D 86.

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@trarc.org.

This is a preliminary list of the Items from WA4TCC's estate. There are more. When I get additions I will post. All Bill's items will be listed here first, then the Rocky Mount Amateur Radio Club liaison then E-Bay. Timing yet to be decided.

If you desire to bid for any of these items please send a message to me mailto:rdkeller@nashvillenc.com... do not send to list (If you do...Everyone on the list will know your bid). Please specify WA4TCC Estate in the subject line and identify the item for your in the text of your message. Please include your contact information. If you desire to bid for more than one item, submit separate bids for each.

The highest reasonable bid will be accepted. That is, if an item is worth \$100, please don't waste

our time by bidding \$5.00 for it. Please examine the list carefully. If it says "condition unknown" it means we are either unable or UNWILLING to turn the device on and test it.

There is no financing involved. All sales are final. Cash, no checks or credit. All proceeds go to WA4TCC's widow.

All sales must be approved by WA4WPD, N4JEH AND WT4S.

ADI AT-600 S/N 8350001047
VHF/UHF dualbander HT with external mic
replacement battery by W & W Manufacturing
One original battery
Manual
missing charger

Aerotron External Speaker

Hallicrafters S108 S/N 284925 / 29602
receiver
unknown condition
Missing Manual

Hallicrafters S120 S/N 120000D 44309
receiver
manual
unknown condition

Heathkit HD 1426 S/N 00816
Field strength meter
unknown condition
missing manual

Icom TV-R700 S/N 03753
video from a scanner unit

Icom IC-2800 S/N 01083
VHF/UHF dual band mobile
Manual
missing main unit bracket
screw for face plate bracket
power cord
choke for control head cable

Kenwood PG-5A
TNC data cable
new in box \$15.00

KLM mutil 2700 S/N 93130
2meter 10 meter receive OSCAR transceiver
unknown condition

missing manual

MFJ 280
compact speaker

MFJ 1278 S/N 3014854
TNC, CW, and RTTY decoder early 80's model
condition unknown
power supply
interface cable for unknown radio
Parallel cable
missing manual

Mirage B108 S/N 5289-1181
Two meter AMP
condition unknown
missing manual

Realistic HTX 404 S/N 0075992
440 HT
works
charger
speaker mic
missing manual

Realistic BTX 124 S/N 70200578
commercial VHF business band radio

Realistic BTX 124 S/N 70200579
commercial VHF business band radio

Swan WM 3000 S/N
peak reading watt meter
has NC 963847carved onto bottom

Vibroplex Vibrokey standard
Ham Key

Yaesu FV-107 S/N OC 030150
external VFO
Yaesu FP-107E S/N OG 020594
power supply
Yaesu FC-107 S/N OE 030700
Antenna Tuner
Yaesu FT-107M S/N OE 050118
160-10 HF transceiver
desk mic
Display malfunctions
missing manual
no WARC bands

Yaesu FTV 107/R S/N 040326

transverter 430 MHz
new in box
was 229.95

Yaesu FTV 707 S/N 020170
2 meter transverter

Yaesu FTV 700 S/N 6K140050
6 meter transverter

FOR SALE – IC-735 HF RIG.... excellent
condition..... with manual..... asking \$500.
Hy-Gain 2meter 14 element BEAM..... 15.2 db gain...
15'6" long.....weights 5.5 lbs..... with manual.....
asking \$60.00 – Fred Winner, KE4LXW,
252-459-4332

FOR SALE – Icom IC-706 MkiIG, manual, original
boxes, hand mike, separation kit, mobile mount, \$675.
– Les, W4FRA

Input Wanted

If you would like to see something in particular
in YOUR newsletter, let me know. If you have an
article of interest, send it to me. – Les, W4FRA.
