



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

February 2007

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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 5, 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 on contesting by Jim Jordan, K4QPL.

2007 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2007 as follows.

February 10	August 4
April 7	October 6
June 2	December 1

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 website at www.TarRiverARC.org or contact

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

Email: N2BT@arrl.net

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President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

February already. My how time flies.

It's official. By the time February is over CW will no longer be required. I have heard of several special VE sessions being scheduled so that folks could get their upgrade as soon as possible. If you have any interest in getting your upgrade at a special session please contact

Bill (N2BT). The TRARC regularly scheduled VE session has been moved to the SECOND Saturday in February. The Rocky Mount Odyssey of the Mind has the library booked on the first Saturday.

Some program notes:

Marty has a special speaker for the February program, The topic will be contesting. I'll let Marty share the news. Should be a good program.

I will be doing the March program. The topic will be band plans. Emphasis will be on the recent changes. Field Day committees will also be discussed.

April will be Skywarn training. Jeff Orrock of the NWS will be here and will hold a basic Skywarn spotter class. Two other groups have asked to be involved in this. One boy scout troop that has already said yes. The Civil Air Patrol has been asked. The local Coast Guard Power Squadron will be ask this week. Details are still being worked out. If we get enough folks signed up we might have to move to a larger facility. Note that a larger facility has already been offered. This will be discussed at the meeting.

May and June will be Field Day planning.

July through November are still open. Please give any and all suggestions to Marty.

I need to apologize for not getting the executive board together in Jan.. We were suppose to meet and get the 2007 budget set and presented to the membership. For some reason I just plain forgot. So this will happen in February. The budget will be presented in the March meeting.

That's it for now. See ya'll at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

February 3 – Charleston, SC

February 18 – Frostfest, Richmond, VA

March 25 – Kinston, NC

April 1 – RARSfest, Raleigh, NC

April 15 – Chesapeake, VA

April 21 – Morganton, NC

April 27-28 – SVHFS Conference, Atlanta

May 12 – Reidsville, NC

Contests

Feb. 3 - 6

North American Sprint – SSB

Minnesota QSO Party

Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO

Party

XE International RTTY Contest

Delaware QSO Party

Vermont QSO Party

YL-OM Contest - CW

QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint

FYBO Winter QRP Field Day

Spartan Sprint - CW

Feb. 10 - 12

North American Sprint - CW

School Club Roundup

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

New Hampshire QSO Party

Louisiana QSO Party

Northern New York QSO Party

British Columbia QSO Challenge

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest

Asia-Pacific Sprint - CW

FISTS CW Winter Sprint - CW

Dutch PACC Contest

YL-OM Contest - SSB

EU EME Contest

OMISS QSO Party - SSB

Classic Exchange

Feb. 17 - 18

ARRL International DX Contest - CW

AM QSO Party

Feb. 24 - 25

CQC Winter QSO Party

CQ WW 160-Meter SSB Contest

UBA Contest - CW

REF French Contest - Phone

Mississippi QSO Party

North Carolina QSO Party

High Speed CW Contest

North American QSO party - RTTY

CW Exam Requirement

ARLB005 It's official! Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23.

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination.

Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules. It is on the web in PDF format at, <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 - the so-called

"omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

Bill, N2BT, is working on finding a location and examiners for a Special VE Session on Saturday, 24 February.

TEARA is also sponsoring a special session at 9:30 am, at the Smithfield Fire Department fire station at 111 South 4th Street in Smithfield. Point of contact is Norman Young, KA4PUV, norman_y@yahoo.com.

NC Section News

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY ACTIVITIES

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Skywarn Recognition Day activities on December 2. Both the Raleigh and the Greer, SC national weather service offices were on the air. Thanks to Central Carolina SKYWARN EC Virginia Eznor, NC4VA, for her leadership of the Raleigh effort.

A HAM RADIO WEDDING!

Congratulations to Mooresville's Buck McDaniel, N4PGW and Cat Hage, WB4CAT who were married on the Dallas, NC 145.35MHz repeater on December 30! The Rev. David Roberts, KI4JSQ of Lenoir led the service and they had 63 check-ins. Thanks to Buck and Cat for sharing this special time with the amateur radio community!

PACKET RADIO STUDY GROUP

Although many areas have effective local packet networks, effective statewide communications is more of a challenge. Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, is leading a study team on the use of packet radio for emergency communications in North Carolina. The study will analyze the current state of packet networks in the section, identify gaps, and develop a plan for the future. If you have input you'd like to offer, contact me at n4ib@arrl.org or Bernie at wa4mok@arrl.net.

MEDIA HITS

An article appeared in the Perquimans Weekly in November. "Radio Operators are Hams on the Air" described a donation of amateur repeater equipment by the Columbia Emergency Repeater Association to Perquimans County emergency management. The article provided excellent coverage of ARES activity in the county.

Wilmington's WECT-TV (NBC Affiliate), The Big Talker FM (WLTT) and the Wilmington Star-News had coverage over New Year's weekend of the 100th anniversary of the first voice broadcast.

Look for ARRL's public relations theme for 2007 of EMCOMM. ARRL will publish brochures and sponsor events coming in 2007 to showcase the emergency communications capabilities of amateur radio to the public.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

March 10-11: North Carolina Section Convention/Charlotte Hamfest

March 25: Down East Hamfest, Kinston, NC

April 1: North Carolina State Convention/Raleigh Hamfest

DECEMBER TRAFFIC

W4EAT 911 (BPL), W0UCE 900 (BPL), W2EAG 333, W4UEF 282, K4RLD 119, KI4YV 119, K4IWW 114, W4DNA 104, KE4JHJ 103, N3BW 82, WA4OBR 73, KD4FUN 58, W3HL 49, W4FAL 45, KG4YNM 35, W4LN 34, KE4AHC 31, W4NCD 28, W4TTO 23, W4EHF 17, WA2YBM 13, W4CC 12, K4ND 7, KR4ZJ 6

DECEMBER PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL

W4DNA 195, K4RLD 145, KI4YV 135, W4EAT 130, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W0UCE 120, WA2YBM 115, KE4JHJ 110, KG4YNM 105, W4NCD 103, W2EAG 100, W4TTO 93, KD4FUN 90, W4LN 84, W4CC 82

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

n4ib@arrl.org

2007 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2007 TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals \$6 per additional family member 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.

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 list of the Items from WA4TCC's estate. 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

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

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.

57 ft. free-standing commercial grade tower in three sections, PLUS the top tripod to hold antenna, asking \$300.

– Fred Winner, KE4LXW, 252-459-4332

FOR SALE - Kenwood TH-215A w/manual \$50; Azden PCS-7200 220 MHz w/manual \$200; KLM Beam Antenna, KT-34A, 10, 15,20M w/manual \$100; 5 Rohn 25 tower sections, 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

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.