



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

February 2008

President	Robin Keller, WA4WPD	252-459-9345
Vice President	Bruce Batchelor, N4XUN	252-823-1463
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VE Director	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252-442-6131
Newsletter Editor	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816

WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting- NOTE Location

The February meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, February 4, at the NASH COUNTY EOC IN THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN NASHVILLE. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The February program will be a ICS-700 Training.

2008 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2008 as follows.

February 2	April 3
June 7	August 2
October 4	December 6

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, ICS time. The February meeting will be at the Nash County EOC. The EOC staff will be teaching the ICS course. This is a great opportunity for the club. Be sure to mark your calendars.

I need to thank Les (W4FRA) on helping with the Boy Scout Radio merit badge class. It was a little cold, a little wet, but all went well. I gave out all the license manuals I had in stock. I even gave out old ones. Some not so old, some very old. I'll get some more for my personal stock. Hopefully will have few new hams out of this.

Speaking of the Boy Scouts, they have asked us to participate in their annual mall show. It's on Saturday March first 2008, Golden East mall, 9am till mid-afternoon. We have also been told we can have a spot closer to a door. All the better to run coax's run. Any takers? I need to know at the time of the February meeting if it's a go.

This is also the start of the 2008 contest season. There are lots of choices for everyone. The last week-end in January (you know, it's past by the time you read this :)) is the CQ 160 meter CW, I will play in this one. The next weekend (Feb 2) is a VE session here in Rocky Mount. The next (Feb 9) the CQ WW RTTY followed by ARRL International DX CW (Feb 16) and lastly the NC QSO party on the 24th. Something for everyone. So for the short days and cold nights just stay inside and operate. In March will be the phone portion of the ARRL International DX.

So stay warm. I'll see everyone Feb. 4 at the Nash EOC. I'll be on 145.290 PL 107.2 if you need directions. See ya at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

Feb. 2 – Frostfest, Richmond, VA
Mar. 8 & 9 – Charlotte, NC
Apr. 6 – Kinston, NC
Apr. 12 – RARSfest, Raleigh, NC
April 25-26 – SVHFS Conference, Orlando
May 16 - 18 – Dayton Hamvention

RARSfest Update

RARSfest is less than 90 days away
Saturday April 12, 2008
NC State Fairgrounds - Exposition Center
Ticket ordering is now enabled on the web site.
You save \$1 per ticket by ordering them now.

New this year is a Youth Lounge

The Youth Lounge will be a gathering place for young hams and youths who are interested in

getting their Amateur Radio license. Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, former ARRL Youth Editor, will represent ARRL at RARSfest this year. Andrea was the Young Ham of the Year in 2004 and has been active in recruiting young Amateur Radio Operators.

The Youth Lounge will feature ham radio related games and activities. If you know a youngster in middle or high school who would benefit from meeting young hams and others their age who are interested in ham radio be sure to bring them along.

Don't forget, youths age 16 and under are invited to attend RARSfest free when accompanied by a paying adult.

W a t c h f o r u p d a t e s a t
<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>.

Contests

Feb. 2 - 5

Minnesota QSO Party
FYBO Winter QRP Field Day
Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party
XE International RTTY Contest
Delaware QSO Party
Vermont QSO Party
YL-OM Contest – CW
North American Sprint – CW
QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint
Spartan Sprint – CW

Feb. 9 - 11

Asia-Pacific Sprint – CW
FISTS CW Winter Sprint – CW
CQ WW RTTY WPX
New Hampshire QSO Party
Louisiana QSO Party
Northern New York QSO Party
British Columbia QSO Challenge
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest – CW
Dutch PACC Contest
EU EME Contest
OMISS QSO Party
YL-OM Contest – Phone
FM Simplex Contest
North American Sprint – Phone
Classic Exchange
School Club Roundup

Feb. 16 - 17

ARRL DX Contest – CW
AM QSO Party

Feb. 23 - 24

CQC Winter QSO Party
CQ WW 160 Meter SSB
UBA Contest – CW

REF Contest
Mississippi QSO Party
North American QSO Party – Phone
North Carolina QSO Party
High Speed CW Contest – CW

2008 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2008 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.

NC Section News

TRAFFIC HANDLING TRAINING NET STARTS FEB 3

In early 2007 an ARRL committee released a report on Amateur Radio's response to Hurricane Katrina. One of the issues raised by this "National Emergency Response Planning Committee" was that too few of us are skilled at traffic handling. The aftermath of a disaster is not the time to learn how to send NTS traffic! The North Carolina section and local nets provide daily opportunities for you to practice your traffic handling skills. Another opportunity begins soon. Mark Rappaport, W2EAG will lead a traffic handling training course, the "Carolinas Training Net", which will begin Sunday, Feb 3 at 5pm local time on 3.861MHz. The net will continue every Sunday thereafter until the course is completed. The course will be a good refresher for experienced operators and offer those new to traffic handling a thorough introduction. A training manual for the course has been posted at www.ncarrl.org and certificates will be issued to those who complete the course. Thanks to W2EAG for his hard work on this program.

CHANGES AT NC4DP

John White, WB2NHQ, Station Manager

It was recently announced that Charlotte's Discovery Place will be closing in 2009 for extensive remodeling. The Amateur Radio Education Center, NC4DP, will be off the air, packed up and stored about

the first week of 2009. The building will be vacated while construction is being done. Planning is underway to have NC4DP refurbished and back on the air early in 2010. We expect to be moving to an expanded main exhibit floor. Our communications capabilities should remain similar to what we have now, but with improved station visibility and more visitor traffic. We also plan to replace the existing 16 year old feedline. I've made a list of requirements so that we can continue to do contests, special events, programs, and ARES drills at NC4DP.

There will be lots of details to keep up with during 2008, and lots of dust raised during 2009. Support from the Ham community is very reassuring. With the greater visibility we expect to have in the remodeled museum, I expect that we'll need even more volunteers to work regular shifts at NC4DP. We'll also have to be more attentive to our station housekeeping, and more innovative in our displays and appearance. I'm already thinking about that Special Event Station on March 6, 2010!

Our main purpose is to explain Amateur Radio to our community. My gratification comes when one of "our young visitors" gets interested in radio and the science that comes with it. I get a real kick out of talking with parents and their kids about how Amateur Radio might make a good family project.

If you'd like to volunteer at NC4DP, contact John White, WB2NHQ at wb2nhq@carolina.rr.com.
NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

The 2008 NC QSO party will start at noon local time on Sunday, February 24 and run until 10pm. Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC, the event is one of the most exciting state QSO parties and can be especially fun if you're new to contesting. The power limit is 100W, so you don't need a big amp to compete. The object of the contest is for out of state stations to work as many NC stations in as many NC counties as you possible. Stations within NC try to work as many NC counties, other states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries. We need as many counties as possible on the air to give folks contest multipliers! Why not make this a special club event? How about working the contest mobile to get more counties on the air? For more information check out www.w4nc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Jan 26: Skywarn Spotter Training Class, Shelby - www.ccarsnc.org
- *Feb 24: NC QSO Party - www.w4nc.org
- *March 2-8: Severe Weather Awareness Week
- *March 8-9: Charlotte Hamfest - www.w4bfb.org

- *April 6: Down East Hamfest, Kinston - www.downeasthamfest.org
- *April 12: Raleigh Hamfest - www.rars.org/hamfest
- *April 12: State ARES meeting, Raleigh
- *April 19: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton - cvhamfest.com
- *May 10: Rockingham County Hamfest, Reidsville - www.rcarc.com
- *May 24: DurHAMfest, Durham - www.dfma.org
- *May 25-31: Hurricane Preparedness Week
- *June 14: Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest - www.w4nc.org
- *June 28-29: ARRL Field Day

DECEMBER TRAFFIC

KI4YV 200, K4IWW 196, W4LN 150, WA2YBM 119, WA4OBR 94, W3HL 75, W4TTO 72, W4NCD 48, W4FAL 41, KE4AHC 35, W4EHF 32, KD4WAX 18, WX4MMM 16, K8SKX 13, KI4PNL 13, KD4ZPS 8, KI4QHM 7, KR4ZJ 7.

DECEMBER PSHR

W4DNA 190, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W2EAG 110, W4TTO 110, W4LN 100, WA2YBM 95, KI4YV 90.

DECEMBER NC ARES MEMBERS: 1,734

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

n4ib@arrl.org

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@arrl.net.

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.

Garmin GPS V – paid almost \$300, will sell for \$100. Includes owners manual, quick start guide, box, 12 VDC power cable. This unit is handheld with AA batteries.

– 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

FOR SALE – I have moved to New Bern and have a few ham antennas for sale. Please let the club members know.

I am asking about half price for each. All have manufacturer's assembly and installation manual and include the cables and related galvanized steel masts:

Cushcraft R7 vertical for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, & 40 Meters - estimate new about \$510, will sell for \$250

Cushcraft AR-6 vertical for 6 Meters - estimate new for \$108, will sell for \$55

Cushcraft 13B2 boom Yagi for 2 Meters SSB/CW/FM - estimate new for \$160, sell for \$80

I also have an Alinco DR-600 (works ok but needs a new lithium battery) and a mobile hand-held Icom (buttons stick). Make an offer.

Jim Dugan, W1JFD

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