



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

February 2009

President	Robin Keller, WA4WPD	252-459-9345
Vice President	Bruce Batchelor, N4XUN	252-823-1463
Secretary	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816
Treasurer	Fred Winner, KE4LXW	252-459-4332
VE Director	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252-442-6131
Newsletter Editor	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816

WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

Tar River Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday of the month (except when it is a holiday). The February meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, February 2, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The February meeting program will be a Field Day planning meeting.

2008 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2009 as follows.

February 7	April 4
June 6	August 1
October 3	December 5

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 \$15 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

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE REPUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED BY CLUB MEMBERS IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN ANY FORM WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PERMISSION.

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Another Boy Scout merit badge is behind us. It was better than some. Not as good as others. Les and John helped. Thanks.

Fred Winner's daughter (Kathy - KF4KCN) and son in law (Mike - KI4HYS) lost their home to fire the same day as the Boy Scout merit badge. Luckily no one was injured. I won't re-hash what Fred posted. Needless to say the Red Cross came in handy. This affirms the need for our participation and support of the Red Cross. Also remember that Mike and Kathy lost everything. If you want to help I feel sure Fred will be able to tell you how.

The April Skywarn class is confirmed. Jeff from the National Weather Service and Virginia Central Skywarn coordinator have confirmed the dates. The class will be open for the public. I will post same on Boddie Noell's bulletin board. I propose that we defer any club business for April. With this in mind we need to discuss Field Day plans this meeting.

Our choices being the EOC at Nash County, Red Cross, EOC at Nash General or.... Bring your ideas.

Fred will update us on the March ICS course and Nash County. Hopefully it is a go.

See ya at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

Feb. 7 – Frostfest, Richmond, VA

Feb. 7 – Charleston, SC

Mar. 14 - 15 – Charlotte Hamfest, Concord, NC

April 11 – Hampstead, NC

April 11 – RARSfest

April 24 - 25 – Southeastern VHF Society Conference, Charlotte

May 9 – Reidsville, NC

May 15-17 – Hamvention, Dayton, OH

May 23 – DurHamFest, Bahama, NC

Contests

Feb. 1 - 3

QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint

Spartan Sprint – CW

Feb. 7 - 9

Vermont QSO Party

Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party

Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities

Minnesota QSO Party

FYBO Winter QRP Field Day

British Columbia QSO Challenge

Delaware QSO Party

New Mexico QSO Party

XE International RTTY Contest

FM Simplex Contest

North American Sprint – CW

Feb. 9 - 13

School Club Roundup

Feb. 13 - 16

Valentine's Day Sprint

YL-OM Contest

CQ WW RTTY WPX

Northern New York QSO Party

EU EME Contest

New Hampshire QSO Party

Asia-Pacific Sprint – CW

Dutch PACC Contest

Louisiana QSO Party

OMISS QSO Party

FISTS CW Winter Sprint

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest – CW

North American Sprint – SSB

Classic Exchange – SSB

Feb. 21 - 22

ARRL DX Contest – CW

AM QSO Party

REF Contest

Feb. 27 - Mar. 1

Russian WW PSK Contest

UBA Contest – CW

Mississippi QSO Party

North American QSO Party – Digital

CQ WW 160 Meter SSB

CQC Winter QSO Party

High Speed CW Contest

2009 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

It is the end of the year and Fred is now accepting 2009 dues payments. Please pay early and let's all try to recruit one new member this year.

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.

CQ to Accept eQSL

(Hicksville, NY and Bedford, TX, January 13, 2009) - CQ magazine will accept contact confirmations made on the eQSL.cc electronic confirmation system for its operating awards effective immediately, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, and eQSL Founder and Webmaster Dave Morris, N5UP, announced today.

There will be certain limitations and procedural differences for different awards, at least to start. Only confirmations from "Authenticity Guaranteed" members of eQSL will be accepted, and in accordance with existing eQSL policy, a membership level of bronze or higher is required in order to participate in award programs via eQSL.

"This is the first time that CQ has formally accepted anything other than traditional paper QSL cards for its awards," said Moseson. "We have been working with Dave Morris and his team for several months to assure that the integrity of our awards programs will be protected and to create mechanisms to make it easy for both award applicants and award managers to use eQSL credits toward our awards. All of our award managers have been involved in this process and support this action."

"We want to express our great appreciation to Dave and his team for their willingness to do whatever was necessary to make this agreement possible," Moseson added. "It has been a pleasure working with them and we look forward to a long-lasting relationship."

"We are pleased to be adding CQ to the top of our list of amateur organizations that accept electronic QSLs," said Morris. "CQ has some of the most highly sought-after awards, and we have been working behind the scenes for years to create credit submission mechanisms that would ensure the integrity of their programs without introducing any additional labor for the award managers. We believe the electronic QSL can drastically reduce costs, and the award application mechanisms we have developed will provide for more efficient processing at reduced cost for both the applicant and the award manager."

Applicants for the CQ DX and CQ DX Field Awards must print out their eQSLs and submit them along with their traditional QSLs to a CQ checkpoint or to CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF. eQSL has an automated process in place for applicants for CQ's Worked All Zones, WPX and USA-Counties awards. N5UP explains how that will work for the applicant:

"The applicant goes to the My Awards screen. He clicks on the particular award he wants to apply for. This brings up a list of the credits our system 'thinks' he is entitled to. There are checkboxes that allow him to check which ones he wants to use, and we automatically pre-fill one credit per category so he doesn't have to do anything if he wants to take the defaults. At the bottom of the screen are two buttons: 'Submit to CQ' and 'Print Paper Application'."

The "submit" button will place all the selected QSOs into a file for the award manager to access, while the "print" button will generate a printed list to be submitted along with the traditional application. PLEASE NOTE that ALL applicants must send the award fee payment to the CQ Award Manager, regardless of how the application is submitted. Some CQ award managers are now accepting PayPal; see individual award web pages for details. All awards will continue to accept traditional QSLs as well as eQSLs. For the USA-Counties Award (USA-CA), applicants must note on their record books (or printouts) whether each county has been confirmed traditionally (with an "X" to the right of the entry) or electronically (with an "E" next to the entry).

For more information on eQSL, visit <http://www.eQSL.cc>

For more information on CQ awards, visit the awards page on the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. Please note that the award rules posted on the website have not yet been updated to reflect the acceptance of eQSLs. This will be done as soon as possible, but the policy takes effect immediately.

Boy Scouts - Update

We had about 20 Boy Scouts for the Radio Merit Badge course, Robin has more about it in the President's Column.

Also mark the third weekend in October 2009 on your calendars. This will be the 52nd World JOTA event. The Tar River District has asked us to participate. We will need a full HF station with operators Friday thru Sunday. Plans to teach a Radio Merit Badge class are TBD.

Robin. WA4WPD

NC Section News

RALEIGH AREA HAMS ASSIST INAUGURAL PARADE

Tom Brown, N4TAB (Wake County ARES), Bill Cole, KG4CXY (Carolina Helping Hams) and over 20 Raleigh area Hams helped coordinate Gov. Beverly Perdue's inaugural parade on Jan 10. Bill Cole reports

"We provided communications support for the 2005 Inauguration Parade, and based on our experience with Public Service events, the Inaugural Committee asked if we would provide coordination for the event." Tom Brown said "We've provided communications for the previous Inaugural Parade, but never had such an important role in coordinating the event." Hams assisted with the parade registration table and managed the entire staging area, including 3 large parking lots and a 50-bus remote parking lot. "One of our key responsibilities was making sure the parade floats, bands and vehicles lined up in the right order," Tom said. "There were 67 groups in the parade and over 2,200 participants." As the parade began, Hams made sure spacing was maintained between the vehicles and bands. Tom reported "it was a good exercise for the amateur community and we got lots of practice dealing with the unexpected. It's unusual for hams to not only provide communications, but also play a key role in the leadership of such an important event." Bill said "One of the reasons the hams were so adept was due to past experience with public service events. Carolina Helping Hams has provided communications and event coordination support for over 120 events in the last decade. That experience has created a truly talented ham radio team that can deal with just about any contingency." Wake County ARES is on the front-line in providing backup communications support for Wake County Emergency Management and North Carolina Emergency Management. In a note to N4TAB and KG4CXY, Christy Agner from Governor Purdue's staff wrote "I cannot thank the Ham Operators enough for such a job well done with the parade management."

Event organizers and community groups who have traditionally used our services now have other options for their communications. One way we can continue to be relevant in this area of public service is by bringing other skills to the table. Like Carolina Helping Hams, many of us have been volunteering at public service events for years and have built considerable expertise in this area. But community groups are often staffed with volunteers who have little experience in event coordination and management. We're pretty good at organizing and coordinating events and these skills can be very valuable to these groups. While we're still primarily a communications provider, the governor's inaugural parade is a good example of the "value add" we can provide by taking on more responsibility to help organizing groups coordinate their events.

FCC DTV HELP REQUEST UPDATE

Thanks for the reports I've received about the DTV education activities being sponsored by Amateur Radio clubs in North Carolina. I have contact information for FCC liaisons that can help you with educational materials and answer your questions, so let me know if you need this information. Of particular note is a request from UNC-TV for radio amateurs to staff a phone bank to answer questions from viewers about the DTV transition. On Wednesday evening February 11th, UNC-TV will be broadcasting a call-in show related to Digital Television Over-The-Air (OTA) reception. The show airs from 8 PM to 9 PM. On previous call-in shows about the digital transition UNC-TV has received at least 800 calls. The number of calls is increasing as we approach analog shutoff. UNC-TV will have a 40-phone bank and requests the assistance of radio amateurs to answer phones and provide information for viewers. They would also like the assistance of hams for a three day period beginning the first day of analog shutoff, February 18th and continuing through the 19th and 20th. UNC-TV will have three shifts per day so you can choose the times you want to volunteer and assist with this effort. UNC-TV will provide three informational briefing and orientation sessions related to the analog shutoff / DTV transition for Amateur Radio operators and some UNC-TV staff. The briefing includes a tour of their facility and an overview of their operation. The 45-minute briefing sessions will take place on February 11 and at 10 AM, 2 PM and 6:30 PM. The briefing session will prepare you to answer phones for the call-in show on the evening of February 11, and for answering the phone banks for the three-day period immediately after the analog shutoff. For more information on this interesting opportunity, contact Wayne Estabrooks, KJ4GDW, at westabrooks@unctv.org.

GET YOUR HAMFEST AFFILIATION FORMS IN FOR 2009!

Currently there are only five ARRL affiliated hamfests scheduled in North Carolina for 2009. It's best to get your 2009 hamfest or swapfest on the ARRL hamfest calendar as soon as possible. The form can be completed online and has to be approved by our Roanoke Division Director, Dennis Bodson.

NC4DP OFF THE AIR

I regret to note that the Amateur Radio Education Center station at Charlotte's Discovery Place is now off the air due remodeling in progress at the museum. Since its opening in 1991, NC4DP has introduced Amateur Radio to thousands of visitors from all over the world. Who knows how many current hams

got their first taste of our hobby at Discovery Place! Kudos to founding station manager Bob Southworth, KI4YV and his successor John White, WB2NHQ, as well as dozens of area hams who kept the station on the air during most hours of museum operation for over 17 years. John reports that the station's future is uncertain and depends on the space available in the museum after its remodeling. Let's hope NC4DP finds a new home and will continue to share the magic of radio with our community for many years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14-15: Roanoke Division Convention, Charlotte

April 11: NC Section Convention, Raleigh

April 18: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton

May 9: Rockingham County Swapfest, Reidsville

May 23: DurHAMfest, Bahama

DECEMBER TRAFFIC

N3BW 319, K4IWW 311, W2EAG 252, KI4YV 188, KD4WAX 141, W4DNA 128, WA2YBM 90, W4TTO 85, KI4ZJI 62, K3AEB 60, W4FAL 42, W4EHF 39, KE4AHC 33, W3HL 18, NC4VA 17, WX4MMM 10, W4CC 5, W4RSE 5.

DECEMBER PSHR

NC4VA 289, W4DNA 230, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, WA2YBM 115, W2EAG 110, W4TTO 105, KI4YV 100.

DECEMBER ARES MEMBERS: 1,828, up 4 from last month.

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 – 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; 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, 252-446-5319

jimdugan@embarqmail.com, W1JFD@arrl.net

FOR SALE – Benq 17-inch flat screen LCD Monitor, works good, I just treated my old eyes to a 22-inch monitor. Includes CD and all original documentation. \$65. – Les Zavadil, W4FRA, 252-446-7816

FOR SALE

TH6 Antenna

Hygain Rotator

65' Rohn 25G

Tower and antenna have been dismantled and on ground

Contact KG4SPT at 252.946.7197 or leary1@gotricounty.com
