



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

February 2010

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Newsletter Editor	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816

WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.org](http://www.tarriverarc.org)

## Next Meeting - New Location!

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 1, **at the Rocky Mount American Red Cross Offices, 326 S. Franklin Street**. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The February program will be a Report on the Red Cross and use of the W4DCG Yahoo Group.

## 2010 VE Exam Schedule

*Bill, N2BT*

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2010 as follows.

February 6	August 7
April 3	October 2
June 5	December 4

Walk in candidates are welcome. No preregistration required.

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
- Test fee of \$15 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club website at [www.TarRiverARC.org](http://www.TarRiverARC.org) or contact

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

Email: [N2BT@arrl.net](mailto: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

The Electronics Merit Badge was a huge hit. Yes there were a few mix ups. One troop was a no show. That created openings for others. Ended up with three spare kits. Made it nice when one was needed for spares. We needed more time. Half the boys had to finish during lunch on Sunday.

Yes the soldering irons were an issue. And yes the tools were pretty much junk.

Two points before I leave this. There were two different kits. The more expensive one (by three dollars, in the box) had better tools and a soldering iron that actually worked. Next time I will get the "better" kit. Secondly, even though some boys took longer, all of their kits worked on the first try. Of the "faster" boys, most had problems. All these were "attention to detail" issues. The slower boys took more time, doubled check more often and it rewarded them. None of the slow boys had assembly issues. Please bring your thoughts of this to the meeting. I'll collect all our ideas and give them to the Boy Scouts.

This month's meeting is at the Red Cross. Unless Fred objects I will swing by Boddie-Noell to see if anyone misses the notice. I'll let the guard know and post a note on the door.

Let's listen to the Red Cross rep. The club needs to keep this avenue open. Having Field Day there will help. What else?

See ya at the meeting.

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## Upcoming Hamfests

February 6 – FrostFest, Richmond, VA  
February 6 – Charleston, SC  
March 13-14 – Charlotte, NC  
April 3 – RARSfest  
June 12 – Winston-Salem, NC  
July 17 – Cary Swapfest  
August 7 – Fayetteville, NC

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## Contests

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1

Classic Exchange - CW

Feb. 6 - 8

Vermont QSO Party  
YLISSB QSO Party - CW  
Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party  
Black Sea Cup International  
Minnesota QSO Party  
FYBO Winter QRP Field Day  
British Columbia QSO Party  
Delaware QSO Party

XE International RTTY Contest  
North American Sprint – CW  
New Mexico QSO Party  
QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint

Feb. 8 - 15

School Club Roundup  
Valentine Sprint  
YL-OM Contest  
CQ WW RTTY WPX  
New Hampshire QSO Party  
Asia-Pacific Sprint – CW  
Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities  
Dutch PACC Contest  
Louisiana QSO Party  
OMISS QSO Party  
FISTS CW Winter Sprint  
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest  
North American Sprint – SSB  
Classic Exchange – SSB

Feb. 20 - 21

ARRL DX Contest – CW  
Feld-Hell Super Bowl Sprint  
AM QSO Party – SSB  
FM Simplex Contest

Feb. 26 - Mar. 1

Russian WW PSK Contest  
CQ WW 160 Meter SSB  
REF Contest – SSB  
UBA Contest – CW  
Mississippi QSO Party  
North American QSO Party – Digital  
CQC Winter QSO Party

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## 2010 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

It is the end of the year and Fred is now accepting 2010 dues payments. TRARC dues are 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 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.

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## DX Info

{TNX to various ARRL email newsletters and ARNL}

CROATIA, 9A. Tom, 9A2AA is QRV with special event call 9A500AA until December 31, 2010. QSL to home call.

MEXICO, XE. In celebration of the two hundred years of Mexican independence and the 100th anniversary of the Mexican revolution, members of the Radio Club Queretaro are QRV as special event station 4A1B throughout all of 2010. QSL via LZ3HI.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Gerry, VE6LB is QRV as A6/homecall from Dubai until February 8. He is active holiday style on 40 to 15 meters using CW. QSL direct to home call.

BAHAMAS, C6. Tom, C6ANM is QRV from Nassau, IOTA NA-001, until April. He is active on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. This includes entries in the upcoming CQ WW 160 Meter contests and the ARRL DX SSB contest. QSL direct via WA2IYO.

THAILAND, HS. Eddy, ON4AFU will be QRV as HS0ZJF from January 12 to March 8. Activity is on the HF bands using CW only. This includes activity from several IOTAs. QSL to home call.

ST. VINCENT, J8. George, K2CM is QRV as J8/homecall from the Grenadine island of Bequia, IOTA NA-025, until February 12. Activity is mostly on 20 meters using CW and SSB and possibly 40 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. Hennie, PE1MAE will be QRV as PJ4/homecall beginning January 10 from Bonaire, IOTA SA-006, and will be here for several months. Activity is on 40 meters using mainly SSB. QSL via PA2NJC.

ST. MAARTEN, SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5. Jim, K1NA will be QRV as PJ5NA from St. Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, from January 10 to March 27. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes activity in several upcoming contests. QSL direct to home call.

POLAND, SP. In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Polish Amateur Radio Union, PZK and 85th anniversary of the IARU, look for special event station 3Z0RADIO to be active all throughout 2010. QSL via SP9SX.

SENEGAL, 6W. Peter, HA3AUI is QRV as 6W2SC until March 31 while on holiday. He spends his time at the border between here and Guinea-Bissau. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mainly digital modes, with some CW and SSB if requested. QSL direct to home call.

ANGOLA, D2. Vasilij is QRV as D2QMN on 80 meters and other bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via RZ3EC.

HUNGARY, HA. Gyuri, HA1CW is QRV with special event station HA2010S for all of 2010 during the 30th LEN European Championship in swimming, diving and other water sports that takes place in Budapest in August. QSL via operator's instructions.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Peter, HA3AUI is QRV as J5UAP until March 31 while on holiday. He spends his time between here and Senegal. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mainly digital modes, with some CW and SSB if requested. QSL direct to home call.

NORWAY, LA. Special event station LM50NRK is QRV during 2010 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of television in Norway. Activity is on the HF bands, including some satellite activity. QSL via LA4FPA.

POLAND, SP. Special event station 3Z0FCH is QRV until June 30 in commemoration of the 200th birthday of Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Chopin. QSL via SP7PAD.

TURKEY, TA. In addition to two other countries, Istanbul was designated the third European Capital of Culture 2010. Members of the TC Special Wireless Activity Team are QRV with TC2010 prefixes for all of 2010. In addition, special event stations TC2010CCE, TC2010CCA and TC2010CCI are QRV until January 18. QSL via operators' instructions.

MACAO, XX9. Georg, DK7LX is QRV as XX9TLX from Coloane Island, IOTA AS-075. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

ROMANIA, YO. Special event station YR5EPC is QRV from Transylvania until the end of 2010. QSL via YO6AJI.

TUNISIA, 3V. Members of two Tunisian clubs are QRV with special callsign TS8RW until February 14 in celebration of ROVER week. QSL via operators' instructions.

TANZANIA, 5H. Igor, UA3DJY is QRV as 5I3A until March 1. Activity is on all bands. QSL via RK3AOL.

UGANDA, 5X. Nick, G3RWF is QRV as 5X1NH until March 21. Activity is on all bands, except 160 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

SENEGAL, 6W. Tom, GM4FDM and Ronald, PA3EWP will be QRV as 6W/homecalls from Le Calao from January 26 to February 9. Activity is mainly on the low bands using RTTY. QSL via operators' instructions.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND, CE0. Toshi, JA8BMK is QRV as XR0ZA from Robinson Crusoe Island, IOTA SA-005. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters with an emphasis on the lower bands, using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL direct to home call.

GERMANY, DA. Special event stations DR2010L, DR2010O and DR2010N are QRV throughout this year in celebration of Essen and the Ruhr area, capital of culture 2010.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC is QRV as H44MS from Guadalcanal, IOTA OC-047, until April 19. This includes activating Temotu Province in February. Activity is on 80 and 40 meters using mainly SSB. QSL to home call.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Masa, JD1BMM is QRV from Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, until the end of February. QSL via bureau.

MONGOLIA, JT. Sank, JT1AS is QRV as JT70AS throughout the year in celebration of his 70th birthday. Activity is on the HF bands using RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo is usually QRV using RTTY on 160, 80, 40 and 30 meters around 1700 to 2100z. QSL direct.

BELIZE, V3. Gerd, DJ4KW and Gisela, DK9GG are QRV as V31YN and V31GW, respectively, until February 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes activity in several contests held during this time. QSL to home calls.

W2APF will be traveling on board the ship 'National Geographic Explorer' heading to the Antarctica region between February 8th to March 5th. He is expected to be operating as W2APF/C6A/MM while on board the ship. In the Antarctic territories he will be signing W2APF/KC4 and VP8DML while in the territory of the Falkland Islands. QSL all of this activity via W2APF.

Looking ahead to next spring, the Midwest 6 Meter DX Group will operate stroke J 8 on 6 meters from Bequia Island between June 28th and July 5th. QSL via KB3RHR.

LA9SN will be operational portable as CE0Z from Juan Fernandez Island from March 16th to the 23rd. Listen out for him on 80 through 10 meters using mostly CW at 100 watts. QSL via his home callsign.

DL5AXX will be active as J38XX from Grenada between February 10th to the 24th. His activity will be focused on the lower bands, but he will also participate in the ARRL International DX CW Contest on February 20th and 21st as a single operator all band entry. QSL via his home callsign.

The Dutch city of Purmerend was founded 600 years ago and now local radio amateurs will activate the special call PC600P three times in 2010 to commemorate this event. The dates are January 1st to the 27th, May 1st to the 28th and from Sep 1st to the 28th. PA3HGP is the QSL manager. He will confirm all QSOs via bureau automatically. Cards are also available as eQSL or via Logbook to the World.

The 7th annual Antarctic Activity Week to celebrate Antarctica takes place from February 22nd to the 28th. It planners say that this years event could be better than previous years with many more stations advising of their intended participation, and the hope of an improving solar cycle. More information on this event is on-line at [www.waponline.com](http://www.waponline.com).

Seven hams have formed a multi-national group for a planned DXpedition to Kurdistan from April 3rd to the 11th. They will have ten day visas issued by the Government of Kurdistan and plan to operate 160-10 meters using the callsign YI9PSE. Modes will be CW, SSB and RTTY. They will have at least 3 stations on the air with AA6G acting as their pilot. QSL will be via N6NKT. Further information can be found at [www.yi9pse.com](http://www.yi9pse.com)

E70A who has been active from Djibouti as J28OO since November of 2007 has changed his callsign to J28AA. He operates CW, SSB and RTTY on 80 through 10 meters with an emphasis on 80, 40 and 20 using Morse. His QSL manager is K2PF, either direct or Logbook to the World.

UA1PAW is now operating as R1ANR from Novo Runway in Antarctica and is expected to be there until the end of February. With the higher band closed due to bad propagation, look for him at about 20.00 UTC on 40 meters. His QSL Manager is ZS1ANF.

EA5BYP and EA5KM will be active from Annobon Island sometime in April. Dates and callsigns will be announced soon. Their will be on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with an emphasis on the lower bands and Morse. More on this one as information is released.

MJ0ASP will be active from Morocco. Look for him as CN2MR between February 18th to the 26th. His activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW. QSL via his home callsign

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## **NC Section News**

### **NEW NC SECTION MANAGER ELECTED**

My four years as your ARRL Section Manager have been the most rewarding experience of my 33 years in Amateur Radio. But expanding work responsibilities and a couple of over-active kids make

it hard for me to devote enough time to the important work we've doing in the North Carolina section. But the section will be in good hands when my term expires. On December 10, Bill Morine, N2COP, our current Section Public Information Coordinator was declared the next NC Section Manager, running unopposed in the election. Bill's term begins April 1.

Bill was first licensed in 1970 as WN1NOP and got his General and his current call of N2COP in 1981 while living in New Jersey. Bill became an Extra in 2001. Bill is a life member of ARRL and QCWA. He and XYL Pam have two sons: Reid, W4RSM, and Grant, W4GHM, who was named Young Ham Of The Year in 2007. Bill became an ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO) in 2000, was named section Public Information Coordinator (PIC) in 2004, and became a member of ARRL's national Public Relations Committee in 2005. Bill has served as chairman of the national PR committee since 2008. He is an Assistant EC in New Hanover County (Wilmington) and is also an ARRL and W4VEC Volunteer Examiner. Bill has worked extensively with Boy Scouts, and served on the staff of K2BSA at the 2001 and 2005 National Jamborees. He has helped over 1,800 Boy Scouts earn the Radio Merit badge, and has helped over 300 Scouts and Scout leaders nationally and in North Carolina get licensed. He served as the first chairman of CARES, the Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services, from 2001 to 2006, implementing a 220 MHz network in southeastern North Carolina dedicated to public health traffic in disasters. Since 2008, he has served as head of communications for the Beach 2 Battleship triathlon, the only full iron distance (140.6 miles over 17 hours) triathlon in the Roanoke Division. Bill and his wife run an independent financial planning practice in Wilmington.

The North Carolina Section is fortunate to have so many strong leaders like Bill and I know you will join me in supporting him as he assumes his new and challenging responsibilities.

#### **WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, CW WORKS!**

Running our section SSB nets has been a big challenge since we returned to standard time. The 75m band frequently goes long soon after sunset and while Midwest stations boom in, it's hard to hear others in North Carolina. There have been several Tarheel nets with NO check-ins because of poor band conditions. So I've been occasionally checking into our section CW nets to get my "net fix" and polish my rusty fist. I've been amazed at how often I've listened to a struggling SSB net only to move to the CW frequencies to find a full net with perfectly readable stations from all over

the state. It's a reminder of the effectiveness of CW even in poor conditions.

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, wrote an interesting article about CW for the May, 2007 QST. According to Joel, CW has major advantages over voice and other modes. CW has much lower bandwidth than SSB. How well we can receive a signal is specified by its signal to noise ratio (SNR). If we change our receive filter from 2.5kHz for voice to 250Hz for CW we reduce the received noise power by a factor of 10. That's equivalent to 2 S-units improvement in SNR. To gain the same SNR improvement with SSB we would need to increase the transmit power from 100w to 1000w! With a higher SNR for CW, it's much easier to detect a weak CW signal than a weak voice signal. A good CW operator can copy code at or below the noise level. To copy voice it takes a minimum of 3-5 dB SNR.

Because of the narrower bandwidth, five or more CW stations can fit into the space one SSB signal can fit and it's much easier to filter-out interference. But what's this all mean? It means your CW signal can usually get through when your voice signal cannot. Your 100w CW transmitter can get to places that your neighbor's 1500w voice transmitter can't!

So try one of our CW nets some night when you're struggling to copy the net control for an SSB net. A great place to start is with the Carolina Slow Net (CSN), which meets nightly at 8pm on 3.571MHz. Helpful info on the net can be found at [http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/g/rg\\_burns/index.htm](http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/g/rg_burns/index.htm).

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN NC**

March 13-14: Charlotte Hamfest, Concord

April 3: NC State Convention, Raleigh Hamfest

#### **DECEMBER TRAFFIC**

K4IWW 561 (BPL), N3BW 267, W2EAG 233, KI4YV 228, W4DNA 61, W4TTO 61, W4FAL 45, KE4AHC 34, K8SKX 30, W4EHF 26, KC4PGN 22, W3HL 21, NC4VA 16.

#### **DECEMBER PSHR**

NC4VA 273, K4IWW 130, W4DNA 130, W4FAL 130, W2EAG 110, KI4YV 100, W4TTO 100. ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB  
[n4ib@arrl.org](mailto:n4ib@arrl.org)

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## **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](mailto:W4FRA@arrl.net).

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**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

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**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](mailto:jimdugan@embarqmail.com), [W1JFD@arrl.net](mailto:W1JFD@arrl.net)

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**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

[learyl@gotricounty.com](mailto:learyl@gotricounty.com)

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**HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE** – COMET TRIPLEXER CFX-324 600w, 1.3-150, 200-320, 300-500 MHz, NEW \$89.95 – \$50.00; CUSHCRAFT 148, 2 METER BEAM, \$50.00; KENWOOD PC-1A PHONE PATCH CONTROLLER – \$20.00. Call -- FRED WINNER - KE4LXW - 459-4332.

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