

THE AMPLIFIER

P.O. BOX 267

SHARPSBURG, NC 27878



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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

NEXT MEETING

The March meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, March 3rd at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES** located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The supper 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.

Carl Briley, N4JEH will be having the program this month. Carl and Robin Keller, WA4WPD have been working on a local IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project)

node and will have more information for the program.

Anyone interested in eating at the Texas Steak House on Monday before the Club meeting ??? If so, stop by the Texas Steak House about 5:30 PM

VE EXAM UPDATE

Bill, N2BT

The next VE exam session will be held on Saturday, April 5th at 9 a.m. Exams are held at the Braswell Memorial Library, at the corner of Peachtree and Grace Streets, Rocky Mount, NC. Exams start at 9 am.

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 \$ 12.00 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

The Tar River ARC VE exam schedule for remainder of 2003 is as follows.

June	7
August	2
October	4
December	6

For further information visit our club website at www.TarRiverARC.com or contact

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

March

- 1-2 ARRL DX Contest Phone
- 3 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 8-9 Charlotte Hamfest
- 20 RMARC Meeting
- 23 Down East HF, Kinston

April

- 5 VE Session
- 6 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 13 Raleigh Hamfest
- 17 RMARS Meeting

IRLP

Bert, WA4TLI

Echolink is new software that allows amateurs to communicate over a high speed Internet connection with other connected amateurs. Many repeaters are on the system. You can literally make a call on a remote repeater with the software.

You will need a microphone on your computer and a sound card with speakers or headphones. You can download the free software at:

http://www.echolink.org/el/register_data.asp

I have been listening to the repeaters in Texas coordinating the shuttle recovery. Fred Winner has made "contacts" with his son in Germany and through other repeaters.

If you are using a router, then there are some settings that need to be made to the router to allow your computer to properly access certain ports. There is information on how to make these changes. Also, there may be some firewall settings on certain software that may need to be tweaked.

You can leave the Echolink software on in the background and receive a "call" from another ham and then have a "QSO". The software is very easy to use and configure.

It is best to have a high speed DSL or T1 Internet connection.

This is essentially Voice over IP integrated with amateur radio. It is very similar to IRLP and I believe that the two systems are compatible.

Have fun!!

Bert

WEEKLY ARES NET

The Northern Coastal Plain ARES Net meets Tuesday nights at 8:30 pm on 145.290 MHz, 146.805 MHz, 224.220 MHz, 444.500 MHz, 444.700 MHz and 443.700 repeaters.

Please check-in and become involved in emergency communications training.

HOLLINGSWORTH PREACHES COURTESY, COMMON SENSE

ARRL Newsletter

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told those attending his forum at the Richmond, Virginia, Frostfest February 9 that Amateur Radio enforcement still has a long way to go, but that amateurs can do a lot through peer pressure to head off problems before they become enforcement issues.

"Enforcement is no substitute for courtesy

and common sense," Hollingsworth declared. "More courtesy would go a long way. Hollingsworth again suggested that amateurs "operate so that listeners will be impressed with Amateur Radio," not offended or turned off by it. He said awareness of Amateur Radio is on the rise in the wake of media attention since September 11, 2001, and, more recently, with ham radio assistance in the search for debris from the shuttle Columbia. He pointed to 20 and 75 meters as the current enforcement hot spots as well as the bands where the least courteous operating practices are found--some of which he described as "a disgrace" to the Amateur Service.

Off-the-air peer pressure, he said, is an effective tool to provide guidance to amateurs who may be unaware of how they sound to others on the air. The reactions of some hams when they confront interference--or

perceived interference--can be worse than the original interference--whether or not it's deliberate. "Don't overreact," Hollingsworth advised. "The best reaction is no reaction whatsoever."

"You have to always be aware of your image and be willing to protect it," he told those gathered in the packed forum. "You can't shoot yourself in the foot." More than 1000 attended the Richmond Frostfest, sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

<<http://www.rats.net/>>.

The use of new technology and on-the-air experimentation also sometimes brings controversy to the amateur bands, Hollingsworth said, and may prompt an occasion for the FCC to revisit its current Part 97 Amateur Service rules. Hollingsworth pointed to the use of so-called "enhanced SSB," where experimenters have been attempting to achieve full-carrier AM-like high-fidelity audio in that mode. Hollingsworth said the presence of the enhanced SSB experimenters has led to complaints to the FCC--as many as 20 per week--that these signals are taking up excessive bandwidth.

Hollingsworth told his Richmond audience that deliberately operating a wideband mode in a crowded spectrum is "shortsighted and rude," may be ignoring the "minimum bandwidth necessary" rule. If its use isn't accompanied by courtesy and common sense, he said, it will lead to pressure on the FCC to revise the Amateur Service rules.

The "Emission Standards" section of Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and (b)--requires amateur transmissions to not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice" and to "not cause splatter" on adjacent frequencies.

Hollingsworth said the bandwidth of a given signal is not easily determined by the average amateur

transceiver--even one equipped with a band scope of some sort. He pointed out that the problems with apparent splatter can be aggravated by the use of a noise blanker on the receiving end. "Just because it sounds wide doesn't mean it is wide," he said, adding that he'd prefer the amateur community come up a way to accommodate such experimentation, because "a government solution will be worse than the problem."

V2 Antigua

Hopefully Wicky, W4LW and Fred, K4FMD will be at the meeting to give us a update of their latest venture to Antigua, V2 land.

2003 FROSTFEST



Picture courtesy of Bill Thomas

Marvin Catlett, K4MLC and Bobby Griffin, NF4C at the FrostFest.

YEAR 2003 CLUB DUES

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club dues are due in January. Full Membership is \$15.00 and Family Full is \$6.00 each. Associate Membership dues are \$10.00 and are for Non-license persons only.

Those who have not paid their dues please send a check. We have had several that have paid their 2003 dues and thank you for getting them in.

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND RETURN WITH APPLICATION

TAR RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADR _____ CLASS LICENSE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADR _____

ARRL MEMBER (Y or N) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

FULL MEMBERSHIP \$15.00 _____ FAMILY FULL \$6.00 _____

NOTE--ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-LICENSE PERSON ONLY

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 _____ FAMILY ASSOCIATE \$1.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____ Cash or Check -- DATE ____/____/____

***PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE TAR RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
RETURN DUES WITH THIS APPLICATION***

*LONNIE PRIDGEN, WB4BZZ
P.O. BOX 267
SHARPSBURG, NC 27878-0267*