



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

March 2006

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting At EOC

The March meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, March 6, at the Nash County EOC in Nashville. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Nash County Office Building. We will be monitoring 145.290 PL 107.2 and 146.520. The March program will include a tour of the Nash County 911 Center and the EOC.

2006 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2006 as follows:

April 1	
June 3	August 5
October 7	December 2

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 web site at www.TarRiverARC.org or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT
VE Team Coordinator
Rocky Mount, NC
(252)-442-6131
Email: N2BT@arrl.net

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Wow. March already. It's been busy.

A few updates.

The "official" (Or at least one of them) report about Katrina is out. If you want to read it for yourself [here is the link](http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned.pdf) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned.pdf>. Amateur radio is favorably mentioned. Even better is that we were classified in the "What Went Right" section. The report went out of its way to show that amateurs in the other part of the country served.

I quote: "A distress call made from a cell phone on a rooftop in New Orleans to Baton Rouge was relayed, via ham radio, from Louisiana to Oregon, then Utah, and finally back to emergency personnel in Louisiana, who rescued the 15 stranded victims. Ham radio operators voluntarily manned the amateur radio stations at sites such as the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Watch Net, Waterway Net, Skywarn and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network."

Good stuff. Nothing like positive press to make one feel proud..

But with everything, there is still need for improvement. One thing is that everyone that wants to help in the future needs is to take a few FEMA courses. The place to start is with this one <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>. Most folks seem to think that if you want to be where the action is you will have to have taken this course. There are lots of other courses. Peruse the list, see if anything interest you. Best of all, these are all FREE.

Of course that's what the government wants. ARES would also like for everyone one to take the ARRL E-Comm courses. Look at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/calendar.html> for more info. There are three specific courses on Radio Emergency Communications. Everyone should consider at least taking level one. Yes I know there is a charge. There have been GRANT monies to re-fund you when you pass. This may be over now, but like all these, "watch this space" for updates.

There is also a big push to get everyone to use the same PHONETICS. I will not bore you with them here. Wake ARES also posted the current ones at <http://wakeares.org/Standardized%20Phonetic%20Alphabet.html>. Yes they are trying to get this the same for all. And yes Public Service is also being urged. Just listen to your scanner. They have a lot's of opportunities here also. Katrina and 9/11 have really

driven home that point. For us, let's use the one published by ARES.

More on these subjects later.

Fred (KE4LXW) has arranged for the meeting to be at the Nash County EOC. Let's meet Monday night 7pm in the rear parking lot. We will get a tour of the 911 center, put our hands on the new HF station donated via the Pen Boddie Eagle Project and finish out the night in one of the county's meeting rooms.

I will monitor 146.52 and 145.290 (minus PL of 107.2) if any one needs directions.

See you there.

Vice-President's Ker-chunk

By Marty, W4MY

JOTA

I'm really getting excited about JOTA. Kudos to Adam and all the positive work he has done so far. We really have an opportunity to put our best foot forward. A number of things come to mind as we get closer to the nitty-gritty details.

First and foremost, JOTA a BSA event. Unlike Field Day, the Boy Scouts are in charge. At the event, ham radio (JOTA) will be only one part of many things. One spoke in a big wheel so to speak. We should not expect to be the center of attention.

Next thing that comes to mind is the logistics challenge for Adam. Everyone has given him and this project our "moral" support. This is good, but we need to be ready for actual work when the time comes. Clearing our calendar for the event is the first step. It's understood that everyone has conflicts, but projecting our support starts with being available in October to help out.

Every job is important. The engineer who was assigned to design the toilet on the space shuttle probably thought he drew the short straw when his counterparts were designing computers, rocket engines, and the robotic arm. But we all know there eventually comes a time when there is nothing more important! Keep your perspective on your assignment and do it to the best of your ability.

Express your ideas if you feel it might improve the situation. A cross section of thoughts and experiences contributed is very important. Be ready and constructive of other's ideas as well. It may be that the best idea in a given situation might be from someone else! If someone suggests that the electronics' class build a dual conversion receiver from dirt, two mica stones and an oatmeal container just like the good-ol-days, don't be quick to put it down. Instead, gently remind them that oatmeal doesn't come in round containers anymore.

Last, and certainly not least, have fun. The boys will be watching and observing us “oldsters” (anyone over 30 to a teenager is over the hill!) If we genuinely enjoy what we are doing, it will show through. Show them this is a lifelong hobby, not diminishing with age. Not all the boys will be interested, but a few will be. Those are the ones that need to see the “fun” in it. Don’t put down things they like Xbox, Blueberry, IPODs, cell-phones, etc., because we didn’t have it in the 50’s and 60’s. That was half a century ago! Keep in mind; 50 years prior to “our day,” farmers were pulling a single bladed plow with mules!

See you on the air.

Upcoming Hamfests

Mar. 11-12 – Charlotte, NC
April 2 – Kinston, NC
April 2 – Chesapeake, VA
April 15 – Morganton, NC
April 23 – RARS Fest, Raleigh, NC
April 28-29 – Southeastern VHF Society Conference, Greenville, SC
May 13 – Eden, NC
May 13-14 – Greenville, NC
May 19-21 – HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH
May 20 – Williamston, NC
May 27 – Durham, NC
June 3 – Pig Pickin’ Franklin, VA
June 10 – Winston Salem, NC
July 8 – Salisbury, NC

Contests

Mar. 4 - 5
ARRL International DX Contest
DARC 10-Meter Digital “Corona”
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship
Spartan Sprint – CW

Mar. 11 - 13
RSGB Commonwealth Contest – CW
Wisconsin QSO Party
Oklahoma QSO Party
Idaho QSO Party
North American RTTY Sprint
EA PSK31 Contest
AGCW QRP Contest

Mar. 18 - 20
Russian DX Contest
Virginia QSO Party
10-10 Mobile Contest
CLARA and Family HF Contest
9KCC Contest
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest

Mar. 25 - 27

CQ WW WPX Contest – SSB
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint

2006 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2006 TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 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.

Weekly ARES Net

The Northern Coastal Plain ARES net, covering Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, and Wilson counties, meets Tuesday nights at 8:30 p.m. on the 147.150 MHz repeater. Check into the net, participate in ARES training, and enjoy the informal rag-chew afterwards.

March Net Control schedule:

MARCH 7 LES ZAVADIL, W4FRA
MARCH 14 MARTY YOUNG, W4MY
MARCH 21 volunteer ?
MARCH 28 FRED WINNER, KE4LXW

Nash County EOC BS Project

On November 7, 2005, in our Tar River Amateur Radio Club meeting, Adam Ipock announced a project by Bill Boddie's son, Pen Boddie. The project, which Adam had suggested as an EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT was to raise funds to purchase amateur radio equipment for the Nash County EOC.

It was discussed and voted upon by the club to start the project with a \$50.00 donation from the TRARC. This was a meager start toward his goal of \$2700.00.

At our February 6th meeting we learned that Penn had raised well over \$3,000.

Robin Keller and Adam Ipock worked with Pen on what equipment was needed and the order placed in late January. At the top of the list was a brand new Icom 746PRO. Also ordered, was an Astron 35M power supply, 150 ft of LM400 coax, a Tarheel screwdriver antenna, control cable, automatic

controller for the antenna, and a distribution box. A large lockable cabinet on lockable wheels was also purchased to store the equipment and keep it secured..

On Saturday morning, February 18th, the equipment was delivered to the Nash County EOC at 9 am by Pen and his father, Bill Boddie. Fred Winner, KE4LXW, Nash Co EC, Robin Keller WA4WPD, AEC, Adam Ipock, W4TS, AEC, Nicholas Ipock, KI4FXH, (our youngest ham at age 10) , Carl Briley, Jr, N4JEH, AEC, as well as Scott Rodgers with the Nash County Emergency Services were all present to receive the equipment and unpack the gear. Everyone was very excited and viewed all the new equipment in awe. As the equipment was unpacked, it was placed into the new cabinet.

The new Icom 746PRO was connected to the existing HF antenna and we marvelled at it's colorful display.

Nicholas, Adam and Bill Boddie were given the task of strapping the control cable to the 150 ft of coax. Once this was done, Carl Briley was given the task of installing the PL259 connectors .

Fred Winner and his son , Jeremy Winner, KF4CDF, picked up the coax from Carl on Tuesday afternoon. The rear of the cabinet was drilled to receive 4 barrel connectors . Once permission was received to go atop the Nash Office Building, the new antenna was installed and the coax fed down thru the pipe and across the ceiling tiles to the 3rd office in the 911 center. This proved to be quite a task since only a 4' ladder was available, and many obstacles slowed progress, but after about 5 hours of work, the project was completed at 6:15 pm with a beautiful sunset as seen from atop the building. The old vertical antenna was also removed at this time.

The official photo presentation should be accomplished around March 1st with plenty of pictures and local news media.

NC Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC: K4ITL. BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP: OOC: W4ZRA. ACC: WA4KE.

Those of us involved in public service communications don't do it for publicity, we do it because it's the right thing to do. We show up, do our job, and go home, knowing we have done our part to help in our community.

Likewise, most of us operate our radios at home and try not to bother our neighbors with it. As a

result of our being such good neighbors, most people have NO impression of Amateur Radio whatsoever, or believe that it is an activity that people did 50 years ago but not today. While that's better than having a bad impression of us, it fosters the idea that there are very few of us left and we don't need to be accommodated any longer.

The goal of public relations is to create a favorable impression with the public. Specifically, we want the public to know that Amateur Radio is a worthwhile activity, both enjoyable and a benefit to the community. This impression is important for the very survival of Amateur Radio, because we need the support of the public so we can have two components critical to getting on the air: spectrum and antennas. Our spectrum is a resource that is scarce and highly desirable to others, and we must show constantly that we are worthy of keeping our frequencies. Antennas are an undesirable resource in the eyes of many; but the willingness of our neighbors to tolerate them is greatly improved if we can show our value to the community.

How can we improve our relations with the public? There are several ways to approach this.

First, keep in mind that we are ALL ambassadors for Amateur Radio. Even if all you do is have an Amateur Radio license plate, you are letting the public know you are a ham. If people identify you as being a ham, then their first impression of Amateur Radio will be based in large part on their impression of you. If you're a good neighbor, or a bad driver, then chances are their impression of Amateur Radio will be influenced by that.

Group activities such as Field Day, JOTA and public service events offer excellent opportunities to tell the public about what we do, and the ability to reach many more people. However, this is harder in some respects than being a good neighbor, because your window of opportunity is very short. As a result, a well-considered plan to reach the public is essential.

For direct contact with the public at such an event, having an official greeter and some literature will help. Remember, the goal is to develop a favorable impression, not necessarily recruit new hams (it takes the former to do the latter anyway). Dealing with the news media is more complicated, but offers a chance to reach the largest audience. In both cases, having a short, easy to understand explanation of why someone would want to be a ham is needed to take advantage of the opportunity.

I saw a TV news report of a Field Day visit a number of years ago where the reporter asked several people why someone would want to be a ham, and nobody gave a very convincing answer (plenty of "how" and "what," but no "why"). It was a slow news weekend with lots of airtime, but an opportunity was missed. Since then, I came up with a short "sound bite" answer that works for me:

"Amateur Radio is an enjoyable activity that allows you to explore science and technology, make worldwide friendships, and be of service to your community." (and if they are still listening) "For most people who try it, It becomes a lifelong activity." Come up with your own sound bite to tell anyone why you are a ham, and you will use it more often than you might expect.

Field Day is just over four months away, and it is not too early to start thinking about how you will approach public relations. The ARRL Public Information Officer program has many resources available to help. For more information, contact Bill Morine, N2COP, ARRL NC PIC or visit this web site: <http://www.arrl.org/pio>

Finally, public relations must be an ongoing activity - it never stops. There will never be a point where you can say you've done all that needs to be done, because the public's memory of good deeds fades quickly. However, if you develop a habit of being a good ambassador for Amateur Radio, then it gets a little easier and you become more effective at it.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARECC) graduates at any level have put in a lot of time and effort to improve their skills and knowledge of emergency communications. Last month, I recognized ARECC graduates in North Carolina by listing those who have reached Level 2, and in December those who have reached Level 3. This month, I list the NC Level 1 graduates: KD4TXQ, K1RCB, WB2RHM, KF4TFL, N4MIO, KF4OYT, W8HYD, K4DXA, KF4CZB, K8SKX, KF4NI, KG4IYH, N0UEP, K4RLC, KI4JJJ, KG4SOD, N4SNV, W4NCD, WA4SLC, K4IHM, KG4RVP, KF4ZMN, WA4AVU, N4QVM, WA0ZGL, KF4VTT, KC0DLP, KI4KK, KF4TVI, K4VET, N4AAD, K4EEH, KS4FX, KF4KS, KB4BR, WA4NC, KF4FGC, KG4OPM, AF6G, WB4NNY, AC4U, N2VJ, NJ2E, KR4FM, AG4KY, WA4MMS, KD4MTT, N2WSG, KE4JZK, KA1LXG, N4ZWQ, KN4GC, K4RKM, AE4NR, K4ZSN, K4MHM, N2COP, K4CDM, AF4XC, KG4VPY, KD4ISC, K4CSO, AI4GR, KI4IHL, NI4S, K4BNP, KB1HVA, AD4XV, KC4YOT, WD4JQP

(SK), K7DXF, AG4PW, W4YBQ, W4LJS, KG4IZA, W4CHL, KF4ZDS, N5NAH, AG4PC, NC4WT, K4RMV, KG4TQE, W4LN, WA8JZW, K4HMB, N4AVQ, W4CYE, KR4NU, KD4CLJ, KF4EML and KE4YBF. Also, KE5ABB and KI4HFN have reached Level 3; W1JDH and KB4TYE have reached Level 2. My congratulations and thanks to all of you.

For more information about ARECC, visit <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>

Silent Keys: Jack Phifer, W4RTW; Millie Elwell, KA4ECM; O.O. Thompson, KB4FJT; and Ed Balwin, K4FHB.

Don't forget the NC QSO Party on Sunday, February 26th from 1700Z to 0300Z February 27th (Sunday 12 noon to 10 PM). This event is sponsored by the Forsyth ARC. They are trying to find folks to activate all 100 counties (they've been one or two counties short each of the last five years). More information can be found at: <http://w4nc.com/pages/6/index.htm>

Upcoming Hamfest: Charlotte, Saturday and Sunday, March 11-12. Parking is FREE this year! There will be an ARRL booth and forums, and lots of other things to do. I hope to see you there.

On a separate matter, it is my understanding that the Elkin Hamfest as such will not take place, but there will instead be a tailgate at the Elkin Airport on Saturday, February 25th.

January Traffic: W0UCE 1383 (BPL), W4EAT 1154 (BPL), W4UEF 446, AD4XV 221, K4IWW 205, WA4OBR 147, KI4YV 142, W3HL 111, W4DNA 106, KE4JHJ 105, K4RLD 86, KG4YNM 61, W4FAL 58, KE4AHC 52, W4TTO 41, W4NCD 39, KI4AHA 30, W4LN 27, NC8D 27, W4IRE 23, W4EHF 17.

January PSHR: W4DNA 185, W4NCD 179, W4EAT 130, K4RLD 125, K4IWW 120, KE4JHJ 120, W0UCE 110, W4FAL 110, NC8D 101, KI4AHA 95, W4TTO 90, KI4YV 90, W4CJ 89, KG4YNM 80, W4LN 77.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: John M. C Covington, W4CC
w4cc@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@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. Hy-Gain 2meter 14 element BEAM..... 15.2 db gain... 15'6" long.....weights 5.5 lbs..... with manual.... asking \$60.00 – Fred Winner, KE4LXW, 252-459-4332

FOR SALE – Icom IC-706 MkIIIG, manual, original boxes, hand mike, separation kit, mobile mount, \$675.

Heil Pro-Set Plus with cable for Icom 706, \$135. – Les Zavadil, W4FRA, 252-446-7816

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.