



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

March 2008

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

The March meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, March 3, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The March program will be about the Club Web Site.

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

Late as always. Les should fuss at me more. Anyway it's March. As I write this the North Carolina QSO party is in full swing. I only get to play at it. Oh, well. There is always next year. There is one good thing. I worked VP6DX while mobile. Multiple bands even. This was between contacts for the NCQSO party. It's nice to get a new one.

We had a good meeting last month. Everyone passed.

ARRL finally made official some "new" ARES positions. Everyone was using them. It's nice of them to recognize that.

For those who don't know, my father (WB4WPC) was in a automobile accident. He is mending. I am spending lots of time in Greenville. It's nice that Pitt that has WIFI available for us peons. Just wish they wouldn't be so restrictive. Oh well. Free loafers shouldn't complain.

Speaking of the internet. Web page "how to" is suppose to be the subject. I'll be there. May not be as slick as I would like it to be. We'll wing it. OK?

Sorry for the short note. I've got to get back on the road. See y'all at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

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

International DX Association

International DX Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 123

Catawba, SC 29704

U.S.A.

January 28, 2008

ROBIN D KELLER, WA4WPD

TAR RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

224 Foxhall Drive

ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804

Dear ROBIN:

We are sending this letter to you since you are the contact person shown on the ARRL web site for your club. This same letter is being sent to hundreds of ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs who have indicated an interest in DXing in their club profile. We wish to provide you some information about the International DX Association—most often referred to as INDEXA—and ask that you share our message with

all of your members, either at one of your meetings or via your club newsletter. If you or other members of your group find what we are doing is worthwhile, then we ask that you support INDEXA by becoming a member.

In 1983 INDEXA was incorporated as a non-profit organization to provide assistance to various DXpeditions to rare and semi-rare DXCC entities. This year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary of providing that support. In that time, INDEXA has helped over 175 expeditions to operate from many countries on the DX "most wanted" list. We have supported expeditions to many very rare DXCC entities, sometimes more than once. In our earlier years we actually supplied radio equipment such as rigs, antennas, coax, etc., along with purely financial support. Over time our support has become principally financial contributions since most of today's DXpeditions are receiving valuable support from the various equipment manufacturers.

The latest information on propagation predictions are that the next Solar Cycle began in early January 2008. It looks like we are now beginning that positive climb to what is believed to be a very strong cycle which in turn leads to great propagation on the bands. This positive propagation trend will certainly lead to more DXpeditions wanting to activate countries from the "Most Wanted" DXCC list. Between December 2007 and March 2008, INDEXA is supporting five separate DXpeditions. We have a lot more fun in store the next few years in our DXing hobby.

What does this mean for INDEXA? Simply, INDEXA will be solicited for financial support to help send DXpeditions on their way. DXpeditions make possible all time new DXCC entities for some and new band entities/countries for many. Yet, many DXpeditions are undertaken only when sufficient "seed money" is pledged to render them possible, and that is where an organization like INDEXA comes into play.

As a group which has expressed interest in Amateur Radio DXing, we are certain that your club is interested in making DX happen. Perhaps your group already supports DXpeditions with "up front" contributions or possibly after the DXpedition with donations included with your QSLs.

If you think you can and would like to do more to sponsor DXpeditions in advance, we ask that members of your group consider joining INDEXA. A visit to our web site at www.indexa.org will provide an informative overview of our organization and our

DXing history. The web site also provides information on how to join electronically or by mail.

If you are already a member of INDEXA, we value your support so we can continue supporting DXpeditions as we have done for a quarter century.

Thanks and best DX !!

--73

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, INDEXA President

John Scott, K8YC, INDEXA Vice-President

Bill Jennings, W4UNP, INDEXA Secretary-Treasurer

Contests

Mar. 1 - 2

ARRL International DX - Phone
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship
DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"

Mar. 8 - 10

AGCW QRP Contest - CW
RSGB Commonwealth Contest - CW
Idaho QSO Party
EA PSK31 Contest
Oklahoma QSO Party
North American RTTY Sprint
Wisconsin QSO Party

Mar. 11 - 15

CLARA and Family HF Contest

Mar. 15 - 17

10-10 Mobile QSO Party
Russian DX Contest
EU EME Contest
Virginia QSO Party
QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint - CW
9KCC Contest

Mar. 22 - 24

BARTG Spring RTTY Contest

Mar. 29 - 30

CQ WPX SSB Contest

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

UPDATE FROM HQ

Steve Ewald, WV1X, recently joined the section cabinet on a conference call for an update from ARRL headquarters. Steve shared with us that the ARRL board has approved new field appointments for Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and Assistant District Emergency Coordinator. While we in NC have had appointees serving these roles for years, there was no official ARRL appointments established for those levels of leadership. Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, will be working with his ARES organization to have the new appointments made where appropriate. An addition has been made to the public communications manual. Section 13-16 was changed to allow National Traffic System (NTS) regional chairs to establish guidelines for setting limits on the large volume of routine traffic being sent through NTS. This should help address the concern of local traffic handlers over what some consider "spam" radiograms. But we do need traffic in the system to provide us with plenty of opportunities to practice our traffic handling skills. Why not initiate some of your own traffic through NTS?

SECTION PIC TO HEAD ARRL COMMITTEE

Our section public information coordinator, Bill Morine, N2COP has been appointed by ARRL president Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to lead the ARRL's National Public Relations Committee. Congratulations to Bill and good luck!

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB MEETINGS

One of the best things about being an ARRL section manager is that you get to visit so many ARRL affiliated clubs. I really enjoy meeting so many hams across the state and learning about the wonderful activities sponsored by the 53 ARRL clubs in North Carolina. We're lucky to have so much going on, but I frequently hear these clubs discuss ways to get more members to attend their meetings. Ham radio clubs and other civic organizations have so much competition for their member's time. All of us have plenty to keep us occupied without having to attend a club meeting every month. That's why it's so important to make club meeting programs as interesting as possible. I think many clubs spend too much time on the "business" portion of the meeting. Making decisions about club financing and organization, hearing committee reports,

and discussing the complexities of Robert's Rules of Order might be important, but it's not going to be a big draw for your next meeting! I think we should delegate as much club business as possible to a board of directors or other elected officials and save valuable club meeting time for the presentation of topics of interest to members. Many members have an area of interest or specialty they would be happy to discuss at a meeting. Also consider non-ham topics that might interest spouses and other non-ham family members. Invite a guest speaker from your served agencies to talk about activities in their area (Red Cross, Salvation Army, Emergency Management, elected officials, etc.). Have a "Mobile Hamming" night where members show off their mobile installations. Ask members to discuss recent ham radio projects or give a video tour of their ham shacks. Ask a member to share pictures and stories from their latest trip overseas. Invite section ARRL officials (including me!) to present a program. Have someone from your local power company discuss RFI. Bring in an ARRL volunteer counsel to discuss legal issues or an ARRL technical specialist or volunteer engineer to discuss grounding and lightning protection. Also, don't forget to publicize your meeting topic with plenty of advance notice. Have other great ideas? Send them to me and I'll share in an upcoming newsletter.

UPCOMING ARRL FORUMS

If you're attending the Charlotte Hamfest on March 8 or the Raleigh Hamfest on April 12, be sure to check out the ARRL forums. Officials from headquarters will be presenting, in addition to many of your section appointees. Also, stop by the ARRL booth to say hello!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

JANUARY TRAFFIC

N3BW 232, W2EAG 215 KI4YV 214, K4IWW 205, W4DNA 161, WA4OBR 126, W3HL 60, W4TTO 51, W4EHF 47, W4NCD 46, WA2YBM 46, W4FAL 42, KD4WAX 38, KE4AHC 33, KD4ZPS 27, KJ4WY 18, KC4PGN 16, WX4MMM 9, KI4PNL 7.
JANUARY PSHR

W4DNA 135, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W2EAG 110, KI4YV 100, W4TTO 100, WA2YBM 100.

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; 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

252-446-5319

jimdugan@embarqmail.com

W1JFD@arrl.net
