



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

March 2009

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WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.org](http://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 March meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, March 2, at THE NASH COUNTY EOC IN NASHVILLE (See article on next page).** The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The March meeting program will be FEMA ICS-100 Course.

## 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](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)

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## President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

March. Longer days. Warm weather soon to be here. The bands are even starting to be a little better. But not good enough to allow me to contact Fred and Wicky. I saw them spotted. But never heard them. Hopefully they had better luck.

I was hoping to get a lot of operating time in. Notice I said hoping. Things have been very busy with me. I am getting some mobile time in. Some of the best DX contest have eluded me. Oh well. But on a positive note I've finished the last project in the way of me getting a tower up at my house. Now comes the ifs. If the economy doesn't ruin me, if I have a job... You get the picture. I plan to start on the tower next month.

Don't forget the April meeting will be Skywarn training. Just before summer. Timing could not be better.

May and June will be Field Day meetings.

The March meeting will be at the Nash EOC. Nash county officials are going to teach us ICS-100. ICS-100 is one of the required courses in order for HAMS to participate in EOC activities. This is a great opportunity for us. I encourage everyone to come out. The course is open to all. You don't need an Amateur Radio license for the class. If your spouse, friend, child wants to come bring 'em. You might want to check age requirements on children.

## FEMA ICS-100 Course

The TAR RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB is sponsoring a class on the ICS-100, one of several classes now being required by FEMA on national disasters.

The class will be taught by Nash Co Emergency Management at the EOC in Nashville on Monday night, March 2nd at 7 pm.... ( please don't be late as exterior doors are secured at night ). Entrance will be from the rear of the Nash County Office building downtown Nashville..... plenty of parking..

Anyone interested is invited to come and there is NO CHARGE...

There may be discussion on future required classes if there is an interest. If there are any questions, you may call me.

Fred Winner KE4LXW  
459-4332

## Upcoming Hamfests

Mar. 14 - 15 – Charlotte Hamfest, Concord, NC  
March 22 – Chesapeake, VA  
April 5 – Kinston, NC

April 11 – Hampstead, NC  
April 11 – RARSfest  
April 18 – Morganton, NC  
April 24 - 25 – Southeastern VHF Society  
Conference, Charlotte  
May 9 – Reidsville, NC  
May 15-17 – Hamvention, Dayton, OH  
May 23 – DurHamFest, Bahama, NC  
June 13 – Winston-Salem, NC  
July 18 – Cary, NC  
August 8 – Fayetteville, NC  
September 12 - 13 – Virginia Beach, VA

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## Contests

Feb. 28 - Mar. 1

UBA Contest – CW  
Mississippi QSO Party  
North American QSO Party – Digital  
CQ WW 160 Meter SSB  
CQC Winter QSO Party  
High Speed CW Contest  
North Carolina QSO Party

Mar. 3

DARC 10-Meter Digital Corona

Mar. 7 - 8

ARRL International DX – SSB  
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship

Mar. 14 - 16

Heavy Metal Rally  
RSGB Commonwealth Contest – CW  
AGCW QRP Contest – CW  
EA PSK31 Contest  
Idaho QSO Party  
North American RTTY Sprint  
Wisconsin QSO Party

Mar. 17 - 23

CLARA and Family HF Contest  
10-10 Mobile QSO Party  
Virginia QSO Party  
Russian DX Contest  
Oklahoma QSO Party  
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest  
9KCC Contest  
QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint – CW

Mar. 28 - 29

EU EME Contest  
CQ WPX SSB Contest

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## 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.

## DX Info

{TNX to various ARRL email newsletters}

Radio Society of Bermuda Celebrates Founding of Island with Special Call Sign: Four hundred years ago, Sir George Somers settled the island of Bermuda. To celebrate, the Radio Society of Bermuda (RSB) <http://www.bermudashorts.bm/rsb/> will use VP9400/xx (xx is the operator's call sign -- VP9LN would use VP9400/LN). Be aware that some Bermudian Novices have three-letter suffixes.

HUNGARY, HA. Members of the Puskas Tivadar radio club are QRV from Bucharest using special event callsign HA130HALLO until March 31 to commemorate the first telephone usage in Hungary 130 years ago. Activity is on all bands using mostly CW but also in SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via HA5KHC.

NAMIBIA, V5. Klaus, DJ4SO will be QRV as V5/DJ4SO from the Matunda Guest Farm from February 15 to March 12. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, RTTY and PSK. QSL via bureau.

ITALY, I. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's Nobel Prize in Physics, special event station IY1GM is QRV until March 31. QSL via IK1UGX.

GRENADA, J3. Bill, K4LTA and Ruby, K4UPS are QRV as J37BO and J37RO, respectively, until March 4. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters. They will be active as J38A in the ARRL DX CW contest. In addition, look for AK4Z, KT4E and KE4TG to be QRV as J3/homecalls. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home calls.

CRETE, SV9. Willi, DJ7RJ will be QRV as SV9/DJ7RJ beginning February 24 and be here for three weeks. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Bhutan, A5100A, 2008 operation;

Afghanistan, T6EE, Additional documentation has been received to include 2006 and 2007 operations. If you had a QSO rejected for these dates send a note to dxccarrl.org to be placed on the list for an update; Republic of the Congo, TN5SN, current operation effective October 2008; Chad, TT8HA, operations for 2007 and 2008; Chad, TT8SK, operations for 2008 and 2009; Albania, ZA/F4DTO, 2008 operation; and Albania, ZA0/I0SNY, ZA0/I8LWK, ZA0/I8YGZ, ZA0/IK2AQZ and ZA0/IK7JWX, operations in 2008; Chad, TT8JT, 2008 operation.

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## W1AW to QSY on 160M

W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters: Starting Monday, March 9, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, will begin using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, there has been what he called "increasing activity" near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz. "In order to reduce the possibility of interference, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz," Carcia said.

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## NC Section News

### AMATEUR RADIO EXEMPTION ADDED TO CELL PHONE BAN BILL

Gary Pearce KN4AQ, ARRL Public Information Officer

The North Carolina Senate Commerce Committee has added language to Senate Bill S12 that would specifically exempt Amateur Radio operation from a proposed ban on cell phone use while driving in the state. The amendment was added by NC Senator William Purcell, at the request of Bob Conder K4RLC, ARRL NC Section State Government Liaison. The amendment was accepted without debate at the start of the committee meeting on February 17. After other aspects of the bill were discussed and amendments unrelated to Amateur Radio were adopted, the bill was tabled until a future date.

As currently written, the bill states that "no person shall operate a motor vehicle on a public street or highway while using a mobile telephone\* or any additional technology\*\* associated with a mobile telephone while the vehicle is in motion." The amended language changes the definition of a mobile telephone, adding, "This term does not include two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers used by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service." The language of the amendment was supplied by the ARRL.

Amateur Radio operation was never targeted by the bill, according to Sen. Purcell, a co-sponsor, and

would have been exempt anyway because it isn't covered under the definition of "mobile telephone." Conder requested the specific exemption, pointing out that Amateur Radio is not well understood by all law enforcement officers, so hams operating mobile might be cited by officers who don't recognize the difference between a ham radio and a mobile phone.

During committee discussion, one Senator asked if the bill would cover "push-to-talk" operation, like Nextel. Not everyone understood the distinction, and after it was described more completely, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Charlie Dannelly, said that "probably would" be included in the ban.

Media stories about the bill point out that similar bills have been proposed over the past several years, and have always been defeated or died in committee. That fate is also expected for this bill, although other states have enacted bans, and last year North Carolina banned cell phone use for drivers under the age of 18. Conder said even if this bill fails, having the Amateur Radio exemption is good because the language will likely be adopted automatically when the bill resurfaces next year.

Two others related bills are currently working their way through the NC legislature, SB22 and H9. Both target "texting while driving" and don't appear to pose any threat to mobile Amateur Radio operation. But ARRL NC State Government Liaison Bob Conder, K4RLC, will be monitoring the progress of these bills also. Thanks to Bob for all his great work as our SGL!

**NC QSO PARTY IS MARCH 1**

The annual North Carolina QSO Party is coming soon! Sponsored by the Forsythe Amateur Radio Club, W4NC, the event starts on 12 noon on Sunday, March 1 and runs to 10pm. The object is for out of State stations to work as many NC stations as possible. Stations may be worked once each per band/mode combination. NC mobiles can be worked again as they change counties. NC fixed stations work as many NC counties, states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible. NC mobile stations work from as many NC counties to as many NC counties, states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible. There is a 100W power limit for all participants. This is a fun event and gives you a chance to be at the bottom of a pile up! Go to [www.w4nc.org](http://www.w4nc.org) for more details and to activate your county on their tracking map.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA EVENING NET**

The North Carolina Evening Net was moved to 5:30pm a couple months ago to deal with the

propagation challenges we've been facing on 75m. On Sunday, March 8 daylight savings time returns and we will also return the net to 6:30pm. The NCEN is part of the ARRL National Traffic System and meets daily on 3.923MHz.

#### **ROANOKE DIVISION CONVENTION, MARCH 14-15**

The ARRL Roanoke Division Convention will be at the Charlotte Hamfest this year, March 14 & 15. The hamfest is at a new location -- the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4751 Highway 49 North in Concord. The Charlotte Hamfest is still an all-indoor show and parking is free at the new facility. More details are at [www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org).

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 1: North Carolina QSO Party  
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

#### **JANUARY TRAFFIC**

N3BW 436, W2EAG 248, K4IWW 230, KD4WAX 209, KI4YV 141, W4TTO 101, W4DNA 97, WA2YBM 97, W3HL 88, KI4ZJI 70, K3AEB 54, W4FAL 40, KE4AHC 31, W4EHF 29, WX4MMM 17, W4RSE 14, NC4VA 13.

#### **JANUARY PSHR**

NC4VA 231, W4DNA 160, WA2YBM 135, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, KI4ZJI 110, W2EAG 110, KI4YV 100, W4TTO 100.

JANUARY ARES MEMBERS: 1,827, -1 from last month.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

[n4ib@arrl.org](mailto:n4ib@arrl.org)

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### **FCC Emergency Declarations Policy**

[Recent questions have arisen concerning current FCC policy on emergency frequency declarations. Here is the policy as it was last stated. - ed.] *[from ARRL E-Letter]*

In 2004, the FCC formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. This policy became effective on August 2, 2004 and states that ECDs will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters--if the licensee consents--or on simplex channels in the 60-meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. The FCC said frequencies in other amateur bands--where emergency nets already

have been established--may be used during emergencies under the provisions of §97.101(c). That rule stipulates that emergency communications have priority at all times and on all frequencies. This is the basis for the decision, as these nets already receive protection under Part 97.

Past emergency communications declarations--typically issued during weather-related emergencies--have put frequencies on 75 and 40 meters off limits to general use in an affected region. "ECDs may only be issued after a disaster disrupts normal communication systems in a geographic area subject to FCC regulation," the FCC said, citing §97.401(b). Under its provisions, when a disaster disrupts normal telecommunications systems in a given area, the FCC may declare a temporary communication emergency that sets forth any special conditions and special rules stations must observe while it's in effect. The policy clarifies that the FCC has authority to issue ECDs only for communication emergencies and not on the basis of anticipated emergencies. It also tightens up the requirements to request an ECD. The policy calls for VHF and UHF Amateur Service channels to receive preference for ECDs. Requests may indicate a specific repeater system, subject to permission from the repeater's licensee or trustee. On HF, the FCC says, an ECD may authorize the use of one or two 60-meter channels, centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz, subject to §97.303(s). See ARRL's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding 60-meter operation for details.

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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** – 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

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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** – 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

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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 [leary1@gotricounty.com](mailto:leary1@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; ASTATIC D-104 with T-UGB stand, NEW \$50-\$60 – \$40.00; MFJ J-1116 DELUXE MULTI DC POWER STRIP, NEW \$59.95 – \$30.00; KENWOOD PC-1A PHONE PATCH CONTROLLER – \$20.00. Call -- FRED WINNER - KE4LXW - 459-4332.

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