



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

April 2006

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Newsletter Editor	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816

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

## Next Meeting

The April meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, April 3, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The 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. The April program will be Initial Field Day Planning.

## 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](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)

## President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

It's April already. Spring time, warmer temps, longer days, and Field Day planning. But before I get to Field Day.....

I've had several request for all the local repeater info. So here is what

I have.

29.660	open PL N4JEH	Sponsor SCAR
53.050	open PL N4JEH	Sponsor SCAR
53.110	open PL K4SER	
145.290	107.2PL WA4WPD	Sponsor SCAR
145.430	107.2PL KB4CTS	
146.805	118.8PL W4RMT	Sponsor TCRG
147.120	131.8PL WR4RM	Sponsor RMARS
224.220	open PL NF4C	Sponsor TCRG
224.580	open PL KR4AA	
443.700	107.2PL NC4FM	Sponsor SCAR
444.500	100.0PL N4JEH	Sponsor SCAR
444.700	107.2PL N4JEH	Sponsor SCAR
444.850	131.8PL WN4Z	Sponsor A.B. Gentry
444.925	118.8PL N4NTO	Sponsor Trip Owens
444.975	156.7PL N4JEH	Sponsor SCAR

There have been lot's of positive responses from the Pen Boddie Eagle project. It's been in the Evening Telegram and the Nashville Graphic. The story was picked up by the North Carolina PIO. It was talked about on the Tar Heel Emergency Net. Thank you Fred Winner for a job well done.

Along with the Eagle project Fred also arranged for last month's meeting at the EOC. It was a great meeting. Brian and Robbie gave a great program. The tour of the 911 center was wonderful. Thanks again Fred for a job well done.

On a sad note, Ray Wells (K4FLY) lost his battle with Leukemia. Ray was a kind soul and a wonderful person. He will be missed.

Now to Field Day.

As always, nothing is a sacred cow. Here is what I know thus far.

Hall's Tree Service has offered two trucks for this year.

The fold out camper is no longer available.

The RV is supposed to be in North Dakota - but... plans have been put on hold.

Ernie is not here.....

Marty doesn't want to do antennas this year.

Nash General is a no go for this year.

I have call K4B reserved again this year.

Looks like we have lots of planning to do. Last year's effort was superb. Our score was very good. And I hope everyone had a great time. I've had a few suggestions for this year. Every thing from bigger, bigger, bigger to smaller, smaller, smaller. So how do

y'all feel? Come to the meeting, get your preferences known.

See y'all at the meeting.

## Vice-President's Ker-chunk

By Marty, W4MY

I'm here in my shack writing this and looking around the shack as I write. I can't help think how fortunate I am to be a radio amateur. I was as excited to work the Peter 1 Island dxpedition last month as I was after my first QSO with Leon, W3IHA, in the fall of 1976. Much has changed since then, but for me, the flame for radio burns bright. How is it for you?

Back when I first got my Novice ticket, Ham Radio was the "Internet" of the time. People were truly impressed by the ability to communicate around the world. A ham ticket really labeled you an official techno wizard geek! A label I was proud to wear. Times have changed. I just got a cell phone the other day and my son had to show me how to use it! What happened?

As you may or may not know, I work a lot of CW. That is the most fun in ham radio for me. But, at age 48, I find I am usually younger than the folks I meet on CW. Scary, who will be around for me to have a CW QSO with when I'm 75?

My first Field Day was in the summer of 1977 with the Palm Beach County ARC, W4SS, in Lake Worth, Florida. I remember it like it was yesterday (calling "Whisky Four Sugar Sugar - Field Day" endlessly). Hey, I have an idea, as we kick off our Field Day effort in the April meeting can we spend a few minutes everyone sharing their first Field Day experience? I think that would be lots of fun!

I am optimistic about the future of amateur radio and the Tar River Amateur Radio Club. Keep the magic alive. The world has changed, we have changed, and so too must amateur radio change if we are to keep the passion alive for the future.

See you on the air! Dit-dit

## Upcoming Hamfests

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

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## Contests

Apr. 1 - 2

Missouri QSO Party  
Low Power Spring Sprint – CW  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual QCWA Spring QSO Party  
EA RTTY Contest  
SP DX Contest  
Kids Roundup

April 4 - 9

144 MHz Spring Sprint  
DX YL to North American YL Contest – CW  
Montana QSO Party  
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party – CW  
EU Spring Sprints – CW  
Japan International DX Contest – CW  
Georgia QSO Party  
Yuri Gagarin DX Contest – CW

April 12 - 16

222 MHz Spring Sprint  
DX YL to NA YL Contest – Phone  
YU DX Contest – CW  
Michigan QSO Party  
Ontario QSO Party – CW  
TARA Skirmish – Digital Prefix Contest  
Holyland DX Contest  
Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party  
ES Open HF Championship  
EU EME Contest  
EU Spring Sprint – SSB  
EA QRP Contest – CW

April 20 - 23

432 MHz Spring Sprint  
Florida QSO Party  
Nebraska QSO Party  
DX Colombia International Contest  
SP DX RTTY Contest

April 29 - 30

Helvetica Contest  
Alabama QSO Party

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## 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.

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## ARES Report

### FELLOW HAMS:

ARES ( Amateur Radio Emergency Services ) has been asked to 'set-up' some amateur radio equipment in the Mall for a BOY SCOUT MINI-JAMBOREE ( for lack of a better term ), and I would like to see as many hams participate in this event as possible, help set up, hang out, and dismantle.

I plan on arriving around 9 am Saturday morning to bring in some equipment and set up on tables provided, I think near the pool in front of Belks...( not sure )...

I have ARRL brochures to give away to any young scout and would like to have some hams available to talk with these young folks, show them your hand-helds, and maybe even demonstrate how it works..

I suspect it will all end by 3-4 pm.

IF you cannot be there in person, maybe you could at least be available on one of the local repeaters, or SIMPLEX, for us to demonstrate.

If you have any questions, just email me or call by phone. (See numbers below.)

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With all the radio equipment we have installed in our EOC's , the American Red Cross, and now looking at putting antennas at various schools used as shelters, we need to look closely at our VOLUNTEER manpower....

ARE WE READY ? I FEAR that we are NOT...

If you haven't heard by now, the predictions for this coming hurricane season is that it may be one of the worst on record. I understand they are basing this on the fact that this past winter was the warmest on record.... I HOPE they are wrong... They UNDERESTIMATED it last year.

Since last year, I have been volunteering with the Red Cross and am on the Disaster Action Team. ( by the way, more volunteers ARE needed ) I have attended many meetings and listened to volunteers returning from the Gulf Coast. Each one can tell stories of how HAMS were the 'only' source of communications so vital to rescues and just making things happen on a daily basis. I was quite proud of

simply being a 'ham'.. We have a hobby that can save lives, or simply be sure everyone in a disaster area can get food and rest. There **IS interest** among many to become a 'ham', but most are frightened of taking that step. We need 'elmers' willing to work with these potential hams to help them get their license.

The Red Cross folks are very concerned and are getting things cranked up to be as prepared as possible WHEN our coast is hit....

Let's consider where we are at this point, and thankfully, we do have a few months to THINK about our obligation as hams, develop a plan, and then to get ourselves better prepared for what will eventually come our way,..... again....

First, we have all three counties; Nash, Edgecombe & Halifax EOC's equipped with amateur radio's. The City of Rocky Mount EOC and the American Red Cross locations are also equipped with 2m/440 radios. We can be very proud of this accomplishment.

My concern now is do we have the '**volunteers**' to man these stations should a disaster hit our area, or even along our coast. Remember, this area is a primary 'shelter' area with many buildings designated as shelters. The Red Cross has plenty of cell phones, but remember, these frequently DO NOT WORK for long, especially when the power goes out. Therefore, that leaves **amateur radio** as the primary **backup** communication. **WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS**, amateur radio normally can get through.

In Nash County, we have 3 PRIMARY shelters in the county set by Emergency Management.. They are , in order of priority: Benvenue Elem., Coopers Elem., and Spring Hope Elem. SECONDARY shelters are Northern Nash HS, Red Oak Middle, OD More Bldg (Nashville), and the Gateway Center.

In Edgecombe County, they are 3 PRIMARY shelters and are: Martin Middle, Carver Elem., and Johnson Elem. There are NO secondary shelters designated at this time.

In Halifax County, they are 6 PRIMARY shelters and are : Weldon HS, Hollister Elem., Roanoke Rapids HS, Wm. R Davie Middle, McIver Elem., and Enfield Middle. SECONDARY shelters are: T. J. Davis Rec Ctr, Kirkwood Adams Civic Ctr, and Belmont Elem., .

Now, consider that we are close to installing antennas and coax on some of these schools, BUT we will need to furnish our own personal radio and batteries. We CANNOT DEPEND on power at the schools. OF ALL these shelters, ONLY ONE, Wm R Davie in Halifax has backup generator power. Portable

generators will have to be brought in, but, I don't think we can always depend on this.

Now, I feel that our first concern is getting some commitment from 'hams' in the area. ALWAYS be sure your family is safe, and then consider where you would like to go should the need arise.

Please consider that the need to be at any one of these locations could last for days, therefore, I think it would be great if we could have at least 2 hams per site, minimum, on a rotating basis. These evacuations from the coast normally last only a few days, BUT, could last for a week, or more..

I will be handling Nash County.... Barry Evans, N4WFU, is EC for Halifax County, and A.B. Gentry, W4NZ, is EC for Edgecombe County. Let these EC's know that you are ready and willing to help when the time comes. An ARES form is available so please fill it out and turn over to your county Emergency Coordinator.

Hurricane season is fast approaching, therefore, in April, I would like to see a 'drill' where we can **man all the locations** to test out the equipment and it's usefulness at the various locations. We should be familiar with the equipment, test it out on various repeaters and SIMPLEX.

We need to work together and help each other out as much as possible, because when a disaster strikes, we literally, are all in the same boat.... And everyone must do their share to keep communications afloat.

OH, and I haven't even mentioned that Nash General Hospital is seeking a grant and wants to install some amateur radio equipment there also..

If we can pull this DRILL together by April, May at the latest, I think a meeting after the drill of all the hams that can come would be advisable to 'critic' ourselves and 'fix' the problems that I am sure will develop. AND, we can always improve.

Perhaps a meeting BEFORE the drill to discuss our options, locations, or simply to meet and get to know each other better would work.. We can always learn something from each other.

YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

FRED WINNER KE4LXW

NASH COUNTY EC

ARC Communications Coordinator

HOME : 459-4332

CELL: 883-1780

[KE4LXW@myexcel.com](mailto:KE4LXW@myexcel.com)

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## 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.

April Net Control schedule:

APRIL 4 – Fred Winner, KE4LXW

APRIL 11 – Les Zavadi, W4FRA

APRIL 18 – Marty Young, W4MY

APRIL 25 – Robin Keller, WA4WPD

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## NC Section News

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

I've always believed that studying for your first ham license should be the beginning of the learning process, not the end of it. Even if you have passed the Amateur Extra exam, there's plenty left to learn. Continuing education will improve your enjoyment of being a ham; you will learn new things you can have fun doing! Whatever your individual interest areas are in Amateur Radio, I encourage you to learn what you can about it and share it with others.

Public service communications requires this continuing education more than almost any other area of Amateur Radio. That's due primarily to changing expectations of our served agencies, brought on by an increased ability to communicate instantly in our day-to-day lives, but also due to a greater awareness of the impact of technological (i.e. man-made) disasters.

One way we serve the public is through the NWS SKYWARN program. To be an effective part of this program, you must complete spotter training and participate in SKYWARN nets regularly enough that you understand the procedures. You need to repeat spotter training from time to time, too. For the NWS, time is of the essence when storms appear, and if you haven't trained and practiced, you are probably in the way rather than being helpful.

Most agencies using volunteers require them to undergo training. Whether you are an American Red Cross volunteer, a volunteer firefighter or a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, there is some level of training required, and in many cases, you have to repeat this training once in a while so you understand the latest procedures and techniques.

Career professionals are sometimes wary of volunteers. Sometimes this is due to a bad first

impression with a volunteer leader; sometimes they are concerned volunteers will cause them more problems than they solve. This is especially true of spontaneous volunteers - people who just show up in the aftermath of a disaster offering to help, but have never been trained or even involved before. These volunteers present management challenges that most agencies simply do not have the time to deal with during a disaster.

An article in the recent ARES E-Letter discussed the remarks of one Emergency Response Coordinator in Mississippi who stated that he didn't want "a bunch of yahoos with walkie talkies" running around, getting in his way. As SM I am certainly glad this did not take place in North Carolina, but he illustrates something we need to think about. Being trained and practicing regularly improves our credibility and inspires confidence in the eyes of those we serve. They know they can depend on us to do our job without interfering with theirs. It also builds relationships that can survive turnovers in leadership; theirs or ours.

Those of us who work with Emergency Management will need some additional training in the near future. The Department of Homeland Security is requiring all first responders, including volunteers, to complete training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by 2007. There was some question about whether this requirement also applies to radio operators, and Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, a DEC in Iowa recently contacted FEMA to ask for a clarification. Here is the response, also from the ARES E-Letter:

"Thank you for contacting the NIMS Integration Center. The short answer is: Yes. In a response scenario that extends beyond local government, there needs to be common terminology and doctrine that everyone can follow so that personnel and resources are feathered in a seamless manner. This is especially true for radio communications. Radio operators need to understand

what is being said and asked of them during an incident so that they can convey this information effectively and efficiently. Please let me know if I can provide further assistance. Regards, Paul F. Ganem, NIMS Integration Center"

The specific courses recommended for entry-level volunteers are IS-100, Incident Command System; and IS-700, National Incident Management System. Both are available free of charge at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study web site. There are also instructor's materials available for download, so if you wanted to conduct an in-person

course for members of your ARES group, they have done a lot of the work for you! There are lots of other courses that you may find helpful also. The home page for the Independent Study Program is: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

I have taken several of these FEMA courses myself. If you have completed an ARECC course, you already have a head start and it will only take a few hours to complete them. If it's new material to you it may take a bit longer, but it is not a long time commitment at all and well worth the effort.

While there is value in independent study, it's also important to train with your local ARES group and practice regularly so you will know what is expected locally. You will be better at what you do, and there's great satisfaction - and fun - in belonging to a group that works well together.

Will Harper, K4IWW is stepping down at the end of March after 20 years as Net Manager of the Carolinas Net (3573 kHz, 7 PM and 10 PM daily). His replacement has not yet been determined, but should be shortly. I want to thank Will for his dedicated service to the net.

And as most of you already know, I am stepping down at the end of March after 6 years as Section Manager. Serving has been a great honor, and I want to thank you for the confidence you have shown in me by allowing me to serve three terms. I am humbled by the many kind things that have been said to me as I leave office.

However, I should emphasize that this has been a team effort; there are many hard-working hams who have made a big difference on my watch. Without their efforts, I would have accomplished very little.

My successor is Tim Slay, N4IB of Mooresville. I have known Tim for many years and I am confident the SM job will be in good hands. If you offer him the support and encouragement you have given me over the years, then I am certain good things will keep happening in North Carolina.

Upcoming Hamfests: Kinston/Down East Hamfest, Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Morganton/Catawba Valley Hamfest, Saturday April 15th, and Raleigh/RARSfest Sunday April 23rd.

Silent Keys: Ross Sigmon, W4DOU, of Charlotte; Norm Byerly, N4ANE of Winston-Salem, and Bob Phelps, WA4CFG of Thomasville.

February Traffic: W4EAT 1187 (BPL), W0UCE 898 (BPL), W4UEF 348, K4IWW 221, AD4XV 201, KI4YV 163, WA4OBR 128, W2EAG 121, KE4JHJ 116, KD4FUN 82, W4DNA 79, W3HL 70, K4RLD 55, KE4AHC 47, W4FAL 45, W4NCD 36,

KI4AHA 36, W4EHF 23, W4IRE 22, W4TTO 21, W4LN 20, NC8D 19.

February PSHR: W4NCD 206, W4DNA 160, KI4AHA 146, K4RLD 140, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, W0UCE 120, KE4JHJ 110, W4FAL 110, W4LN 92, KI4YV 90, W2EAG 90, KD4FUN 90, NC8D 77, W4TTO 71.

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ARRL North Carolina Section  
Section Manager: John M. C Covington, W4CC  
[w4cc@arrl.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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**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

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## **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.

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