



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

April 2008

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

The April meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, April 7, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The April program will be Field Day Planning.

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.

April 5	
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

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE REPUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED BY CLUB MEMBERS IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN ANY FORM WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PERMISSION.

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Hi all. First I need to apologize for last months program. Next time I promise to be better organized.

Bill Edwards, owner of Omega Electronics in Knightdale is now a Silent Key. His wife preceded him by a mere two weeks. I have done business with him. I'm sure many of you have also. He will be missed. RIP Bill.

On a personal note. My father has been moved to Rocky Mount. Those daily trips to Greenville were really getting old. He is now in Life Care Hospital (two doors behind Boddie-Noell). He's not out the woods yet. He is improving.

The Raleigh Hamfest is April 12. Notice this a Saturday. It's been moved from Sunday to Saturday. Be sure to make a note. Along with this the state wide ARES meeting has been moved to May 3. Plan accordingly.

If ARES isn't your interest, maybe public service is. On May 3rd is a MS walk in the Raleigh area. June 7 and 8 is an ADA Tour de Cure. For more info go to www.hampublicservice.org <<http://www.hampublicservice.org/calendar.php>> .

Historically, the April, May and June meetings have been reserved for Field Day. So, the April meeting will be about Field Day 2008. Please come with your suggestions and thoughts. Any thing will be accepted and voted on.

See y'all at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

- Apr. 6 – Kinston, NC
 - Apr. 12 – RARSfest, Raleigh, NC
 - April 25-26 – SVHFS Conference, Orlando
 - May 10 – Reidsville, NC
 - May 16 - 18 – Dayton Hamvention
 - May 24 – DurHAMfest, Durham, NC
 - June 14 – Winston-Salem, NC
 - July 12 – Salisbury, NC
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Contests

April 4 - 6

- Montana QSO Party
- MO QSO Party
- QCWA Spring QSO Party
- QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party
- SP DX Contest
- EA RTTY Contest

April 7

- Low Power Spring Sprint
- VHF Spring Sprints - 144 MHz

April 12 - 14

- EU Spring Sprints
- PSK31 Flavors Contest
- EU EME Contest
- Japan International DX Contest - CW
- Yuri Gagarin DX Contest - CW
- GA QSO Party

April 15

- VHF Spring Sprints - 220 MHz

April 19 - 21

- EU Spring Sprints
- TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest
- EA QRP Contest
- Kids Roundup
- Michigan QSO Party
- Motorola QSO Party
- Ontario QSO Party
- YU DX Contest
- Holyland DX Contest
- ES Open HF Championship

April 23

- VHF Spring Sprints - 432 MHz

April 26 - 27

- Florida QSO Party
 - Helvetica Contest
 - Nebraska QSO Party
 - Old-Old-Timers Club QSO Party
 - SP DX RTTY Contest
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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

LICENSE CLASS IN GASTONIA

The Gaston Area Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring an amateur radio Technician licensing class. The class will last for 6 weeks, beginning on March 27, with testing on the 7th week. The cost of the class will

be \$35, which includes the cost of the book, the testing fee and a 1-year membership to the GAARC. The classes will be from 7:00pm --9:00pm and will be held at the Gaston County Police Department, located near the intersection of Franklin Blvd and Hwy 321 South (S. Chester St.). For more information, contact Joe Hullender, N4JAH, at hulljoe@gmail.com.

ARES MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO RISE!

ARES membership has been growing by 5 or so every month, but this month's report showed an increase of 35 from last month! Our Emergency Coordinators have been working hard to get new members registered and everyone trained. EC's are the backbone of our organization...thanks to all of you for everything you do!

RECOGNITION ITEMS

On February 6 Jim MacLeod, W4NHV, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Jim lives in Lumberton, but in 1949 he was the minister at a presbyterian church in Charlotte. At an informal gathering of half a dozen hams in his living room, the MARS club was formed. It's still going strong 59 years later and Jim is now the last surviving charter member.

John Bullard, Recreation and Parks Director for the City of Statesville has been named an Honorary Member of the Iredell County Amateur Radio Society. Although not a ham, John has been very supportive of the ICARS field day efforts.

CATCH THE WAVES - GET READY FOR FIELD DAY!

ARRL's Field Day is just around the corner (June 28 & 29). This year's PR theme is "Catch the Waves". Please visit our Field Day information page <<http://www.arr.org/fieldday>> for all the details on Field Day rules, frequencies, forms, pins, logos and T shirts. The complete Field Day packet can be downloaded from the site as well. If you have unanswered questions about Field Day, contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail <fcinfo@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0236. If you want to order exhibit kits containing printed flyers about Amateur Radio, you may order these materials <<http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>> on the ARRL Web site. The cost of the exhibit kits ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To make sure you'll have the display material in time for Field Day, your order must be received before June 13.

MEDIA HITS

Congratulations to Mike Costabile, WD4MGP, of Bolivia (Brunswick County) for an article on the front page of today's Wilmington Star-News. His

company, Precision Time, and its products are featured. Mike invented and holds a patent on a device that allows basketball referees to stop the clock instantaneously, thereby eliminating any accusations of lags in time or human error. The system, which uses RF technology tuned to the frequency of the ref's whistle, is in use in the NBA, NCAA and the Olympics. Mike developed the system with John Guerriero, KG4HDT, who lives outside Raleigh and is the ARES liaison to the State EOC. In the 10th paragraph of the story on page 3A, Mike credits ham radio with providing him with the knowledge to invent his system. Until recently, Mike served as ARES Area 5 DEC (District Emergency Coordinator). Mike is a frequent guest at Azalea Coast ARC and Wilmington VHF

Association club meetings. Here's a link to his story: http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20080318/NEWS/239224273/1005/NEWS&title=Bolivia_man_makes_time_stand_still_on_basketball_courts

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6: Down East Hamfest, Kinston - www.downeasthamfest.org

April 12: Raleigh Hamfest - www.rars.org/hamfest

April 18, 19 & 20: Eastern VHF/UHF Conference, Enfield, CT

April 19: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton - cvhamfest.com

May 3: State ARES Meeting, Raleigh

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

FEBRUARY TRAFFIC

N3BW 328, K4IWW 322, KI4YV 263, W4DNA 200, W2EAG 151, W4TTO 88, WA4OBR 64, KJ4WY 55, WA2YBM 50 W3HL 48, W4FAL 46, W4NCD 42, KE4AHC 30, KC4PGN 22, KD4WAX 17, WX4MMM 17, KD4ZPS 11, KI4PNL 11.

FEBRUARY PSHR

W4DNA 160, W2EAG 140, W4FAL 130, W4TTO 125, K4IWW 120, KI4YV 100, WA2YBM 100.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

n4ib@arrl.org

STATION LOCATOR SERVICE FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> and follow the instructions.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day <<http://www.iaru.org/rel030418.html>>. On this, the 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the radio amateurs, educators and administrators who use Amateur Radio to support technology education in the classroom.

To call attention to the occasion in advance, ARRL staffers will be activating W1AW in the CQ WPX SSB Contest <<http://www.cqwp.com/>> this weekend (March 29-30) using the IARU club call sign NU1AW. By celebrating the event, staffers hope to provide an opportunity for hams worldwide to put NU1AW in their logs, chase the WPX award <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqworldwidewpxawards.html>> and learn about HF propagation as the world turns through day and night not once, but twice! Springtime propagation near the equinox is enhanced on the HF bands, even during the Solar Cycle minimum, so it's worth taking a listen even if the HF bands have been quiet lately.

This year's theme for World Amateur Radio Day is "Amateur Radio: A Foundation of Technical Knowledge." What better way to express the theme than by engaging in one of the largest international radiosporting events. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said, "If you haven't tried HF contesting or the WPX contest, the general format is to exchange a signal report (a simple '59' will do nicely) and a serial number (the number of the contact in the contest for you). The contest Web site spells out the way to compute your score, but the fun of this contest is to contact as many different prefixes as possible. For example, NU1AW counts as the NU1 prefix and KX9X

counts as KX9. If you're new to HF, your prefix might be one sought after by those calling CQ! The WPX contest also features a 'Rookie' category for new radiosport folk, so be sure to send in your log as described by the rules -- it's easy!"

From ARRL Letter 3/28/2008

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

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