



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

April 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 April meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, April 6, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The April meeting program will be SkyWarn Training and will be open to the public.

## 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.

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  
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## President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

It's April. Springtime. Warmth. Storms.

As y'all know, March's meeting was a bust. The folks at the EOC worked the storm for over 24 hours. They needed rest. I feel sure the class can be rescheduled, maybe after Field Day.

April's meeting will be Skywarn. Virginia of Central Carolina Skywarn and Jeff from the National Weather Service will be here. Others have been invited. As I write this there are tornadoes south of us. So it seems appropriate having a program on weather. The program will be interesting. I urge you to come. You don't have to participate as a spotter (it would be nice if you do), The knowledge gained is useful for everyone (even couch potatoes).

I finally got a new vehicle. One of my old ones finally rolled tires up and just refused to get repaired. You haven't head me because it didn't have a radio. I'm finally getting one. It even has D-Star. New truck, new radio, new stuff to learn. I hope to have it all working before the meeting. I smell another program topic :).

May and June's meetings are reserved for Field Day. The folks at ARES just announce a state wide SET the week before Field Day. This needs to be considered in our Field Day plans.

See y'all on Monday.

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## FCC - What is a Repeater?

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), A repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels."

Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur

repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in re-transmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' re-transmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when re-transmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

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## Upcoming Hamfests

- 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

Apr. 4 - 6

Montana QSO Party  
LZ Open 40 Meter Contest – CW  
GEU EME Contest  
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party – CW  
SP DX Contest  
EA RTTY Contest  
MO QSO Party  
QCWA Spring QSO Party  
VHF Spring Sprint - 144 MHz

Apr 9 - 14

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party  
EU Spring Sprints – CW  
URE 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Contest  
Japan International DX Contest – CW  
PSK31 Flavors Contest  
GA QSO Party  
Yuri Gagarin DX Contest – CW  
Low Power Spring Sprint – CW  
VHF Spring Sprint - 222 MHz

Apr. 18 - 19

EU Spring Sprints – SSB  
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest  
Holyland DX Contest  
ES Open HF Championship  
Michigan QSO Party  
EA QRP Contest – CW  
Ontario QSO Party  
YU DX Contest – CW

Apr. 22 - 26

VHF Spring Sprints - 432 MHz  
SP DX RTTY Contest  
Helvetica Contest  
Florida QSO Party  
Nebraska QSO Party

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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.

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## DX Info

{TNX to various ARRL email newsletters}

NIGERIA, 5N. Bodo, DL3OCH is QRV as 5N/KT3Q until July 24 while on business. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including EME. QSL to home call.

UGANDA, 5X. Nick, G3RWF is QRV as 5X1NH for two months. He is active generally on 80 and 40 meters during his early mornings and evenings using mostly CW. If propagation permits, he may be active using SSB, RTTY and PSK31 as well. QSL to home call.

ZAMBIA, 9J. Gabriel, YO4HEK is QRV as 9J2YO and is here for one year. He is active on all bands using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via YO4ATW.

CROATIA, 9A. Special event station 9A09P is active until December 31 in celebration of the city of Djurdjevac. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

MELLISH REEF, VK9M. George, AA7JV and Tomi, HA7RY will be QRV as VK9GMW from March 22 to April 6. Activity is on all HF bands. QSL via HA7RY.

SENEGAL, 6W. Alessandro, IK4ALM will be QRV as 6W/home call from Saly from March 29 to April 9. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

CROATIA, 9A. Members of the Radio Club Varazdin are QRV as 9A800VZ until the end of the year to celebrate the 800th anniversary of King Andrija II. This includes an entry in the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via 9A7A.

TAIWAN, BV. Jimmy Lou, BX5AA will be QRV from Changhua City during the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via operator's instructions. In addition, a group of operators are QRV as BP0A from the P'enghu Islands, IOTA AS-103, until March 30. QSL via BV2KI.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Members of the Texas DX Society are QRV as C91TX from Bilene, Maputo Province until April 5. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes with three stations. This includes an entry in the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via W5PF.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Stations E51EME and E51SIX are QRV from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, until April 4. They are active using EME on 6 and 2 meters. QSL via ZL1RS and W7GJ, respectively.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Members of the Barry Amateur Radio Society will be QRV as GT4BRS and GT6BRS from March 28 to April 4. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters with one station using CW and SSB, and the other using RTTY and PSK, respectively. They will be active as GD8K in the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL all calls via GW0ANA.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Toshiyuki, JP1PZE will be QRV as K7XF/KH0 from Saipan from April 3 to 7. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

AUSTRIA, OE. In commemoration of the establishment of the Radio Club of America in 1909, members of the Amateur Radio Section of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation will be QRV as OE100M from April 1 to 30. This is also the callsign of the official International Marconi Day station. QSL via OE1WHC.

TUVALU, T2. Joe, LA5UF is QRV as T2UF until April 1. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW and PSK. QSL to home call.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL. Christian, TL0A has been active on 80, 20 and 17 meters at various times. QSL direct.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station R150A is QRV from the Central Museum of Communications in St. Petersburg until the end of April in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of A.S. Popov. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via RK1A.

VANUATU, YJ. Operators G3MXJ and G3TXF are QRV as YJ0MXJ and YJ0TXF, respectively, from the Aore Island Resort off Espiritu Santo Island, IOTA OC-035, until April 1. Activity is on 40 to 17 meters using only CW. They may try 80 meters if conditions permit. QSL YJ0MXJ via F5VHY and YJ0TXF via G3TXF.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Desecheo Island, K5D, 2009 operation.

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## **NC Section News**

### **CHARLOTTE HOSTS SOUTHEASTERN VHF SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The Southeastern VHF Society, SVHFS, will hold their 13th annual conference for 2009 in Charlotte, NC on April 24th and 25th, sponsored by the Carolina DX Association. This event is attended by those who operate or just have an interested in learning about VHF, UHF and microwave weak signal operating and contesting. The average attendance is 100+ and often

includes hams from distant countries. The two day event officially starts on Friday with testing of antenna gain and preamp noise figure measurements. These test are performed with state of the art laboratory quality test equipment. Friday also includes an optional lunch with guest speaker and the start of the technical presentations. Technical presentations start again on Saturday morning and run throughout the day with a late afternoon flea market and auction. On Saturday night there will be an optional banquet with awards, prize drawings and guest speaker. For more information and hotel accommodations please see: [http://www.w4dex.com/svhfs\\_2009.htm](http://www.w4dex.com/svhfs_2009.htm) and [http://www.svhfs.org/conf\\_2009.htm](http://www.svhfs.org/conf_2009.htm).

### **UPDATE FROM THE ROANOKE DIVISION CONVENTION**

Congratulations to the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society for hosting an outstanding hamfest at the Cabarras Arena on March 14 and 15! The new facility was excellent and drew a big crowd. Our Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF and ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND led the ARRL forum during the hamfest. Here's my notes from their update: There are no more than 200 million contacts in Logbook of the World and ARRL will soon be making VUCC and perhaps some CQ awards available through LOTW. The "Triple Play" Award has been very popular with more than 200 hams earning WAS on cw, phone and digital and confirming their contacts through LOTW. There's been a long backlog for DXCC awards over the past year, but the wait has been reduced to 4-5 weeks. Look for the debut of a new ARRL web site by the end of this year. The new site will be easier to navigate and allow us to enter activity reports online. Dan has been impressed by the FCC's new special counsel for enforcement, Laura Smith. Ms. Smith spent two days at HQ in early March and like her predecessor, Riley Holingsworth, she is committed to making the amateur community better. Otherwise, Dan doesn't expect much focus on Amateur Radio from the FCC until after the DTV transition which occurs on or before June 12. South Carolina SEC Charlie Miller, AE4UX was presented with the 2009 Roanoke Division Service Award.

### **RALEIGH SCHOOL MAKES ARISS CONTACT**

On November 17 the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society facilitated a successful contact between Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, aboard the International Space Station and students at Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh. Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, and Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, said Raleigh Amateur Radio Society members who mentored the Raleigh school gave talks to the

students about how ham radio and the ARISS system worked; they also explained how satellite and ISS Amateur Radio contacts work regarding orbital passes. "We focused on the ham radio fact that this was a line-of-sight radio contact, and from 200 miles up, the International Space Station was line-of-sight to the Earth station for less than 10 minutes," Pearce said. The contact went off without a hitch, with students asking many interesting questions. A video of the contact is available from KN4AQ at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d3D66DbBEo>. My apologies for failing to note this significant event in my December newsletter.

### **CLEVELAND COUNTY ARES ACTIVATED DURING WINTER STORM**

The winter storm that occurred on March 1 & 2 caused traffic accidents and stranded many motorists on I-85 near Kings Mountain and Grover. Cleveland County Emergency Management and Red Cross opened a shelter which eventually housed 70 people. Cleveland County ARES members provided communications between the shelter, EOC, Red Cross Headquarters and also helped provide 4WD transportation.

### **STATE ARES MEETING – MAY 2**

The first state ARES meeting of the year is scheduled for May 2 at the state EOC in Raleigh. An agenda will be included in next month's newsletter, but mark your calendars! Another statewide ARES meeting will be held in the western part of the state in the fall.

### **MEDIA HITS**

An article entitled "Citizens Donate Ham Radio Equipment to Fire Station" appeared in [news@norman.com](mailto:news@norman.com). Clif Brommer, WD4PIC and Jim Crisco, WA4YIZ donated and installed VHF/UHF equipment to provide backup communications for two fire stations in Lincoln County.

Tim Slay, N4IB was on public radio station WNCW discussing Amateur Radio and the Charlotte Hamfest.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 11: NC State Convention, Raleigh  
April 18: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton  
April 18: Azalea Coast ARC Swapfest, Hampstead  
April 24-25: Southeast VHF Society Conference, Charlotte  
May 2: State ARES Meeting, Raleigh  
May 9: Rockingham County Swapfest, Reidsville  
May 23: DurHAMfest, Bahama

### **FEBRUARY TRAFFIC**

K4IWW 527 (BPL), N3BW 466, KD4WAX 185, KI4YV 130, W4TTO 95, WA2YBM 89, W3HL 81, W4DNA 80, K3AEB 62, W4RSE 58, KI4ZJI 58, W4EHF 28, KE4AHC 29, K8SKX 27, NC4VA 19.

### **FEBRUARY PSHR**

NC4VA 139, W4DNA 135, W4FAL 130, KI4ZJI 128, K4IWW 120, KI4YV 100, W4TTO 100, WA2YBM 90.

FEBRUARY ARES MEMBERS: 1,829, +2 from last month.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

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

## **Global SET Scheduled for April**

The HQ Stations of all IARU Member-Societies, as well as the stations of Emergency Communications Groups, have been invited by IARU Region 1 to participate in the 2009 Global Simulated Emergency Test (GlobalSET), on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 1100-1500 UTC. The GlobalSET will take place on and near the emergency Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters, +/- QRM. Stations in the United States intending to participate need to register through their IARU International Emergency Communications Coordinator. For the United States, registrations should be e-mailed to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD at, [k2dcd@arrl.org](mailto:k2dcd@arrl.org).

Dura confirmed that W1AW will participate in the GlobalSET.

According to IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the GlobalSET is not a contest, but an emergency communications exercise to develop skills needed to provide an international emergency network.

Mossop said that the GlobalSET has four objectives:

- To increase the common interest in emergency communications.
- To test how usable the CoA frequencies are across ITU regions.
- To create practices for international emergency communications.
- To practice the relaying of messages using all modes: Voice (SSB), Data or CW.

"The exercise will build on earlier GlobalSET exercises and will focus on generating and relaying messages in a common format across country borders, rather than the information gathering capabilities that we've done in the past," Mossop said. "We will pass messages in a format that we may have to use for the

agencies we may serve. The message exchange will take longer than in previous exercises, and stations will have to be patient to transmit their messages across country and language boundaries."

Each participating station is to send messages to their Regional HQ station using the IARU International Emergency Operating Procedure, using IARU message forms. Stations should relay the messages they receive to their Regional HQ station; the Region 2 station is TG0AA in Guatemala. To comply with license regulations, all messages should be addressed to Greg Mossop, G0DUB, and should come from a licensed radio amateur. Messages should contain fewer than 25 words and should not include anything that would be considered as a "real emergency" message by a listener. Mossop suggests constructing messages that include weather conditions, the number of operators at the station or even an interesting fact about the station. "There is no limit on the number of messages to be sent," he said, "but each one must have a unique message number." Regional HQ stations will not be sending messages, only receiving them.

Mossop recommends that in order to create "a more realistic situation, please limit your transmitting power during the exercise to 100 W. We are especially interested in stations operating mobile/portable and/or on emergency power."

Usually held in May, the 2009 GlobalSET was moved to April to tie into World Amateur Radio Day. The theme of the 2009 World Amateur Radio Day is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication. "This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world," Mossop said.

For more information on the 2009 GlobalSET, including a list of CoA frequencies for Regions 1, 2 and 3, please see the GlobalSET announcement at <http://www2.arrl.org/news/files/2009GlobalSET.pdf>.

## 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).

**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; 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](mailto:jimdugan@embarqmail.com), [W1JFD@arrl.net](mailto:W1JFD@arrl.net)

**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

### 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)

**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 MULTIDC POWER STRIP, NEW \$59.95 – \$30.00; KENWOOD PC-1A PHONE PATCH CONTROLLER – \$20.00. Call -- FRED WINNER - KE4LXW - 459-4332.