

# THE AMPLIFIER

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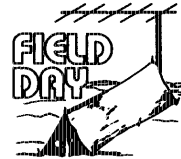
*WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.com](http://www.tarriverarc.com)*

## NEXT MEETING

The May meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** at **BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES** located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The supper 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.

Monthly dinner meeting of the Rocky Mount Amateur Telecommunication Association on Monday before the Club meeting at the Texas Steak House about 5:30 PM.



## CQ FIELD DAY de W4DCG

Field Day is an annual activity in which Amateur Radio Operators across the United States get together on the same weekend to simulate operating their radio stations under emergency conditions. This is done to help train and prepare Amateur Radio Operators to operate under emergency conditions in case they should be called upon for assistance during and after a local, state, or national emergency.

This month the meeting will focus on Field Day. Field Day will be June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

## VE EXAM UPDATE

Bill, N2BT

The next VE exam session will be held on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Exams are held at the Braswell Memorial Library, at the corner of Peachtree and Grace Streets, Rocky Mount, NC. Exams start at 9 am.

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 \$ 12.00 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

Beginning July 1, 2003, the new technician question pool will go into effect.

The Tar River ARC VE exam schedule for remainder of 2003 is as follows.

August	2
October	4
December	6

For further information visit our club website at [www.TarRiverARC.com](http://www.TarRiverARC.com) or contact

Bill Thomas N2BT

VE Team Coordinator

Rocky Mount, NC

(252)-442-6131

[N2BT@arrl.net](mailto:N2BT@arrl.net)

## CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### *May*

- 5 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 10 Durham Hamfest
- 15 RMARS Meeting
- 16-18 Dayton Hamvention

### *June*

- 2 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 7 VE Session
- 19 RMARS Meeting
- 28-29 ARRL Field Day

## MS WALK

Fred Winner, KE4LXW



Rick was NET CONTROL for the MS WALK held on Sat., April 8<sup>th</sup>. We had 11 hams participate from near and far... It poured down rain during the 'walk' but cleared up as soon as the walk ended... Over 100 people walked this year, up from

30 last year... Pizza Hut provided plenty of pizza and plenty of drinks were available, also... Our participation was greatly appreciated.

## ULS/GETTING READY

Marty Young, W4PX

**T**he new FCC ULS system has us old timers singing the 610 blues! It doesn't have to be that way! Hams have always been known for being on the cutting edge of technology. The FCC has really done a very good job to put the Internet to a practical use and amateur radio operators should be right up front! Hopefully I can help separate the wheat from the chaff.

In the last installment we got our FRN and password. The next step in dealing with the FCC regarding your ticket is to prepare your computer. It is important to note that filing on-line is not mandatory, as you can file a paper Form 605 and mail it to Gettysburg. But if you want a rare vanity call your chances of coming out on top of the competition are much improved when you can apply with exact timing. This is only possible on-line.

Everyone has heard horror stories about making on-line applications. I have. The secret to success, in my opinion, is preparation...preparation...preparation! There are lots of pitfalls. Most problems can be avoided if you spend some time getting your web browser set up properly BEFORE you dive into the ULS.

Go to

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/support/gettingconnected.html> This is the "Getting

Connected" page and you should print this

out (4 pages). This is your one stop for information to avoid all the traps most people fall in to. After you print it, read it carefully. After you've read it, I'll help point out the important parts next.

If you have decided that you want to do administration of your ticket on-line, you must have the version of web browser listed in the first paragraph under "Compatible Browsers". This may sound a little harsh, but if you don't have a listed browser/version, STOP! Get one, and don't even attempt this until you do. It's very unforgiving and this obvious thing is a source of a lot of unnecessary aggravation. Also, if you don't have Acrobat Reader 4.0 or above get that too.

You will need to have Sun's IE Java Plug-In installed if you are using MS-Explorer. You will also have to Enable Java, Enable Java Script, and Accept All Cookies. Instructions for doing that are on page 2 of your print out. You probably have figured out that this goes against everything we have learned about keeping unwanted processes (virus') out of our computer. You will have to enable this stuff, no choice. I've been using it for about 6 months with no virus problems from it.

Installing the Java Plug-In requires 6MB of HD space and 240MB of virtual memory. If you don't have that available, STOP! (see above about not having the right browser) 'nuff said!

If you've gotten this far and all is ok, you are ready to go on-line. Note that the Java Plug-In will be downloaded to you the first time you log-on, so don't worry about where to get it. If for some reason you

need it in the future, the link is provided on your printout. Also note that if you are using dial-up, the Java Plug-In is very large and takes over an hour to download. So take this into consideration when you are applying the first time.

That's it for now, next month we'll go through the on-line application process.

## WEEKLY ARES NET

The Northern Coastal Plain ARES Net meets Tuesday nights at 8:30 pm on 145.290 MHz, 146.805 MHz, 224.220 MHz, 444.500 MHz, 444.700 MHz and 443.700 repeaters.

Please check-in and become involved in emergency communications training.

## WA4MOK Appointed NC SEC

by Gary Pearce KN4AQ  
NC Section PIC

Bernie Nobles WA4MOK of Winterville will become the new NC ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), effective April 12th, 2003. Nobles was appointed by NC Section Manager John Covington W4CC after current SEC Dave Fleming KE4JHJ of Winston-Salem decided to step down after four years of service.

The SEC is appointed to take care of all matters pertaining to emergency communications and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in the section. The SEC generally has a statewide presence on the Tar Heel Net, nightly at 7:30

on 3923 kHz (the Tar Heel net is the official Section HF ARES net).

"I'm very pleased to be able to appoint a well-qualified person to this position," Covington said. "Bernie has served us well as the Eastern Branch Assistant SEC for four years, and served as a District EC for four years before that. He will do an outstanding job as SEC." Nobles was also Pitt County EC.

Bernie Nobles was first licensed in 1960. He is a past president of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club in Greenville (seven times), and chaired the club's Field Day effort at least 16 times, according to the club's newsletter, the Ham Chatter. Editor Dave Langley W4YDY adds that recently Nobles has been actively elmering new hams in the BARC club, running sessions on operating, setting up a station, emergency operations, antennas, demos, etc. Professionally, he is a site supervisor for the UNC Public Television system, and spends a lot of time several thousand feet in the air on towers around the state.

Outgoing SEC Dave Fleming served during two challenging disasters for ARES - Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and the December 2002 ice storms, and has been involved in development of the recently completed NC RACES Guidelines. "Dave will become the Area 9 District EC, which has been a difficult position to fill. I'm glad Dave is remaining a part of the team, he has been a big contributor to ARES in

many ways," Covington said.

NC Section leadership wish to thank both Dave Fleming and Bernie Nobles for their participation in ARES.



Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK  
ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)



Dave Fleming, KE4JHJ

## Upcoming Hamfests

May 3 Greenville, SC Hamfest  
[www.upstatehamfest.org](http://www.upstatehamfest.org)  
May 10 Durham, NC Hamfest  
[www.durhamfma.50megs.com](http://www.durhamfma.50megs.com)  
May 16-18 Dayton Hamvention  
[www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

June 1 Manassas, VA Hamfest

[www.qsl.net/olevahams](http://www.qsl.net/olevahams)

June 7 Atlanta, GA Hamfest

[www.atlantahamfest.org](http://www.atlantahamfest.org)

July 19 Cary, NC Hamfest [www.qsl.net/n4nc](http://www.qsl.net/n4nc)

## DX NEWS

Check

[www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/adxo.html](http://www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/adxo.html)

for the latest information on  
upcoming DX'peditions.

Marquesas Islands TX4PG April 25-May 9

[www.digilander.libero.it/i2ysb/marquesas/marg.htm](http://www.digilander.libero.it/i2ysb/marquesas/marg.htm)

South Cook Island ZK1/s April 27-May 26

Botswana A22 July 2-July 5

[www.qsl.net/xu7aay/africa/](http://www.qsl.net/xu7aay/africa/)

Lesotho 7P8 July 7-July 11

[www.qsl.net/xu7aay/africa/](http://www.qsl.net/xu7aay/africa/)

Lesotho 7P8 July 18-July 25

St. Paul Island CY9 July 24-Aug 2

St. Pierre and Miquelon FP July 27-Aug 5

[www.mhtc.net/~k9ot/](http://www.mhtc.net/~k9ot/)

## NEW MEMBER

Welcome Blake Cale, KG4WJT to the Tar River ARC. Blake is from Wilson and was licensed in December of 2002. Just in time for Field Day!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Juno Brantley, KG4TTX passed the General Class License this month. Juno was licensed in June of 2002 and passed the General in April 2003. Keep up the good work!