



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

May 2004

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

Next Meeting

The April meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, May 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 May program will continue our Field Day planning.

2004 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2004 as follows:

June 5	October 2
August 7	December 4

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 \$12 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club web site at www.TarRiverARC.com or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT
VE Team Coordinator
Rocky Mount, NC
(252)-442-6131
Email: N2BT@arrl.net

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Another month has gone. Time to recap last months meeting.

Last month we suppose to talk about Field Day. We didn't. Tom Brown (N4TAB) gave us a lesson on BPL. This is a very important issue facing Amateur Radio. The proposed BPL rules are now with the FCC. We have until May 3rd to post comments. Please spend some time examining the following links from the ARRL.

Mail BPL page

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

Second Page

http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#Amateur_Radio_Articles

Thoughtful comments page

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/03/24/3/>

Notice that on the ARRL pages there are links to the FCC proposal, and links to the FCC comment page.

This issue was covered at length during RARSfest. Mr. Hollingsworth also made some interesting points. Here are a few to consider.

The existing FCC enforcement is complaint driven. That is the FCC usually won't even look. They investigate COMPLAINTS. Pay particular attention the ARRL comments on complaints and interference mitigation. This is a good area to comment on.

The FCC does not care if businesses make money. Many of us feel that BPL as its proposed is a money loser. But remember, utilities are guaranteed a profit. If BPL fails they are still going to make their profit. As much as we would like to comment on this, it will fall on deaf ears. You might however make an appeal to Progress Energy's Board of Directors. Since I have stock in Progress Energy, I plan to do this.

Personal insults will be ignored. Only the issues concerning BPL will be considered. Please read the ARRL information. Make your comments in a business like manner. If you must, just restate the ARRL position.

The ARRL has asked for an extension to the May 3rd date. Extensions are very rarely given. The easiest way to file comments is via the

FCC web page. If any one needs any help with this please contact me. I will do my best to make arrangements for you to get on the Internet for your own study.

Since the next meeting is on May 3rd, and the comment period is set to end on May 3rd, if we have to will spend the next meeting filing comments. But this puts us really behind on Field Day planning.

I presented a brief synopsis of BPL at the RMARS meeting on April 15th.

Now on the Field Day. Here is what we have thus far.

One firm commitment on an RV. Self contained with generator and AC.

One firm commitment on the Red Cross canteen. This will not be used as a canteen. We have permission to use it for an operating position. It does not have AC, but it's waterproof and off the ground. The Red Cross will have a public information table set up.

One firm commitment for a camper.

One firm commitment for a 3 element StepIR yagi.

One firm commitment for an Icom 756Pro complete with computer, an Icom 746 and one other HF rig.

Boddie-Noell has agreed to let us use some old computers, and the yard if we so choose. I have a 4 port switch. Cat 5 cable will not be a problem.

One individual wants to be Antenna Captain.

Possibilities:

Three boom trucks, one 90 foot, one 70 foot and one 30 foot.

Use of the Rocky Mount Fire Training Grounds.

Use of the Rocky Mount Stadium at the old airport.

A triband Yagi.

Wireless network.

The BNE tent (provisos on this, more at the meeting),

What we need to decide one.

What kind of antennas do we want to use.

The club has a 40 meter rotatable dipole. It's still in the box. I will have it at the next meeting. Our weakness last year was low band antennas. I have a 75 meter dipole here the club can use (it's the one that Isabel blew down).

Let's consider antennas at the meeting.

Let's consider location at the meeting.

Band Captains.

Other participants.

PR efforts.

Other Bonus points.

See everyone at the meeting.

2004 Club Dues

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club dues were due in January. Full Membership is \$15 and Family Full is \$6 each. Associate Membership dues are \$10 and are for Non-licensed persons only.

Please make check payable to the TRARC, and bring to the April meeting or mail to Fred Winner, the club's treasurer.

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 145.290 MHz, 146.805 MHz, 146.745 MHz, 224.220 MHz, 444.500 MHz, 444.700 MHz, 442.125 MHz and 443.700 MHz repeaters. Check into the net, participate in ARES training, and enjoy the informal rag-chew afterwards.

Upcoming Hamfests

- May 1 – Greenville, SC
 - May 14-16 – Hamvention, Dayton, OH
 - May 15 – Antique Radio Show & Sale, Greenville, NC
 - May 29 – Durham, NC
 - June 5 – Winston Salem, NC
 - June 6 – Manassas, VA
 - June 12 – Franklin, VA (tentative)
 - June 19 – Chester, SC
 - June 20 – Frederick, MD
 - July 3 – Salisbury, NC
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Contests

- May 1-2 – 10-10 International Spring Contest
- May 1-2 – Microwave Spring Sprint
- May 1-2 – Indiana QSO Party
- May 1-2 – ARI International DX Contest
- May 1-2 – New England QSO Party

May 1-10 – North American Spring Meteor Scatter Rally

May 8-9 – Mid-Atlantic QSO Party

May 8-9 – Nevada QSO Party

May 8-9 – Oregon QSO Party

May 8-9 – FISTS Spring Sprint

May 8-9 – 50 MHz Spring Sprint

May 8-9 – Portugese Navy Day

May 15-16 – Baltic Contest

May 15-16 – US Counties QSO Party

May 29-31 – CQ WW WPX Contest (CW)

May 29-31 – Great Lakes QSO Party

May 29-31 – QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint (CW)

May 29-31 – MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

ARRL Dues

When you receive your dues notice from ARRL, pay your dues through the club so the club gets credit. Make the check to: Tar River Amateur Radio Club and send it to Fred, KE4LXW, or give it to him at a meeting.

FCC NPRM on Part 97

The FCC has released an "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97. The NPRM is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, all filed more than a year ago and some as long ago as 2001.

Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan, which can be seen on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>.

"Because the ARRL petition addresses the operating privileges of all classes of licensees on these Amateur Service bands, we believe that the ARRL petition provides a basis for a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges," the FCC said.

The ARRL referenced its Novice refarming proposal in its recent Petition for Rule Making,

RM-10867, which, along with three other petitions remains open for comment until April 23.

The FCC also has proposed essentially eliminating its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. The current rules "impose unnecessary restrictions on manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment and are inconsistent with the experimental nature of the Amateur Service," the FCC said.

The FCC proposed amending Section 97.201(b) of the rules to permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz, with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz, in addition to frequency segments already authorized.

The FCC proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation and use to include 222-225 MHz as well as 6 and 2 meters. Current rules limit SS emissions to frequencies above 420 MHz.

Among other things, the FCC also proposed to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per vanity call sign; permit retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations, including the International Space Station; allow current amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate Section 97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times; and add to Section 97.505(a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element.

The Commission ordered some changes in Part 97 without requesting comment. It ordered, among others, the revision of the definition of an "amateur operator" in Section 97.3(a)(1) to reflect that entry in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), not a license document, determines whether a person is an Amateur Radio operator.

The FCC adopted a technical change to specify that the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or

amplifier operating below 30 MHz be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

Among other petitions, the FCC turned down a proposal to establish distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band. Also denied were petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or transmission frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community and a request to add to the special event call sign system certain call sign blocks designating territories and possessions that lack mailing addresses.

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making, `o n t h e w e b a t ,` http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc, in WT Docket 04-140, is available on the FCC Web site.

As soon as the document has been posted, comments on the NPRM may be filed via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In either case enter the NPRM number in the "Proceeding" field as "04-140" (without the quotation marks).

E-Mail Addresses

A few of the e-mail addresses that were provided on the turn-over to the new editor are no good. If you have changed e-mail addresses in the last six months or so, please e-mail the editor with your correct address, do that you continue to get *The Amplifier*. Send an e-mail to LZAVADIL@earthlink.net (That address is not case sensitive). Thanks.
