



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

May 2005

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

The May meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, May 2, 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 be 2nd Field Day Planning Session.

2005 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2005 as follows:

June 4	October 1
August 6	December 3

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 or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT
VE Team Coordinator
Rocky Mount, NC
(252)-442-6131

Email: N2BT@arrl.net

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Hello one and all. Spring has sprung. Days are getting longer. Hopefully it will get warm sometime.

There are lot's of things happening. If you're interested there are several Public Service events coming up. Go to <http://www.hampublicservice.org/> for some examples.

There was a state ARES meeting the Saturday before the Raleigh Hamfest. Lot's of things were covered. The big honcho from the state was there. The National Weather Service was there. Many of the DECs and ECs were there.

We learned that they really want us to use Anderson Power Pole connectors. I have some of them. Maybe we can hold a class of them some day.

There is a push to go PACTOR III for digital. WOW. The technology is reaaaaally slick. Lot's of things any geek could really like. A little pri\$ey. OK, a lot PRI\$EY. It will be infesting to see how the funding for this pans out.

We have a request from NWS to have a class on lighting. This has been scheduled for July. This will happen before the scheduled Field Day debriefing. Remember, the meeting for July will be on the second Monday (July 11). This is to accommodate the July fourth holiday.

The executive committee has met several times. The first draft of the proposed constitution has been sent to everyone. Please take time to look it over. Let us know of any corrections, changes and explanations desired. This will be discussed in the upcoming meeting.

It's May. Field Day is less than two months away. As noted earlier, May's meeting will be Field Day planning. All ideas are encouraged. Please come and share them with us.

See ya'll on Monday.

Upcoming Hamfests

Apr. 29-30 – SE VHF Conference, Charlotte

May 14 – Rockingham County, NC
(Reidsville)

May 20-22 – HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH

May 21 – Williamston, NC

May 21 – Greenville, NC (Winterville)

May 28 – Durham, NC

June 11 – Winston Salem, NC

June 11 – Franklin, VA

July 2 – Salisbury, NC

July 16 – Cary, NC

July 30 – Waynesville, NC

Contests

April 30 - May 1

2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest

April 30 - May 9

NA HSMS 2005 Spring Rally

MARAC County Hunters Contest – CW

10-10 Int'l. Spring Contest – CW/Digital

Microwave Spring Sprint

Indiana QSO Party

ARI International DX Contest

New England QSO Party

Oregon QSO Party

Nevada QSO Party

North American Spring Meteor Scatter

Rally

Radio Club of America QSO Party

May 14-15

Armed Forces Amateur/Military Crossband

Communications Test

Mid-Atlantic QSO Party

FISTS Spring Sprint – CW

Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest

50 MHz Spring Sprint

EU EME Contest

Portugese Navy Day

May 21-22

40th Annual Baltic Contest

His Majesty King of Spain Contest – CW

US Counties QSO Party – SSB

Portugese Navy Day – PSK31

May 28-30

CQ WW WPX Contest – CW

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint – CW

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

2005 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 for family's. Most have already paid and we thank you !

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.

VHF/UHF SSB Nets

6 Meter Nets

Monday 50.145 NI4I Jim 9 pm Roanoke, Va
Tuesday 50.250 K4IRT 8pm Lexington, SC
Wednesday 50.150 9pm Wheeling, WV
Wednesday 50.400 WA4JNL 9pm Lynchburg, Va
Thursday 50.200 KJ4RB 8pm Pink Hill, NC
Thursday 50.030 AC4UD 8pm Raleigh, NC (FM)
Saturday 50.200 KD4MYE 8am till 930 am Wake Forest, NC
Saturday 50.213 8pm Charleston, SC
Saturday 53.01 9 PM Lexington, VA
Sunday 50.135 7pm K4RKO Richmond, Va

2 Meter Nets

Sunday 144.220 N1GMV 8:30 pm Zebulon, NC
Not running presently
Monday 144.190 NO4FR KG4KWW Richmond, Va 8:30 pm
Monday 144.230 Tidewater, VA 9 pm Starts again 1/10/2005
Tuesday 144.225 K4HC Chris 8 pm Greensboro, NC

440 MHZ Nets

Wednesday 432.090 W4DEX 9pm Locust, NC

ARRL NC Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC -
SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC:K4ITL. BM:
KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W.
ACC: N4JCK.

Public Relations is a subject matter I've brought up several times in this column, and will continue to do so from time to time. I know that we aren't hams because we want to see our pictures in the newspaper. We don't volunteer our time during disasters just to get in the limelight; we do it because it's the right thing to do. Nevertheless, it is important for ham radio's survival that the public have a positive impression of ham radio.

Think about another public service for a moment (one often done by volunteers). What community would think of banning fire trucks because they are noisy? The public easily tolerates being woken up by sirens because they know that someone in their community needs help. The public knows the value of firefighters to their community, and would not ask for

some ridiculous rule to make it hard for them to fight fires.

We should hope for the day that no community would ban antennas because they know the value of amateur radio communications during disasters. They will only know this if we do what it takes to let them know.

Field Day, Simulated Emergency Test and Jamboree On The Air are just three possibilities of scheduled events that your community should hear about. Your club or ARES group should do what it can to let the news media know about your participation in these events. Field Day and SET shows our value as disaster communicators, and JOTA shows the "magic" of ham radio in a way that the public can easily understand. Of course, we want good public relations during real disasters too.

Good public relations can rarely happen if you think about it at the last minute. For scheduled events such as Field Day, it's not too early to start thinking about your public relations strategy NOW. Even for disasters and other unscheduled events, you can plan in advance how best to handle public relations when the time comes.

Some resources that will help you include the ARRL Public Relations Department web page, located at: <http://www.arrl.org/pio/>

Each club or ARES group should consider having a member seek the ARRL Public Information Officer appointment. The PIO program will be helpful to those learning how to effectively deal with the news media. We have 13 ARRL PIOs in North Carolina; I'd sure like to see several times that many.

Silent Keys: John Sherwood, W4DRJ (ex-N4BWO), of Charlotte.

Upcoming Hamfests: Reidsville/Rockingham County Saturday May 14, Williamston Saturday May 21, East Carolina Antique Radio Club Saturday May 21, Durham Saturday May 28. The ARRL National Convention will be in Dayton OH Friday-Sunday May 20-22. I plan to be at Reidsville, Dayton and Durham; my regrets to the other events on the 21st.

The 9th Annual Southeastern VHF Conference will be held in Charlotte on April 29-30, 2005. This should be an interesting event for anyone interested in modes beyond VHF FM. They are rotating sites each year and we are fortunate to have it in our state this time. Their web site is: http://www.svhfs.org/conf_2005.htm

March Traffic: W4DAC 2122 (BPL), W4EAT 649 (BPL), W0UCE 263, K4IWW 221, AD4XV 210, AA4YW 127, W3HL 89, KE4JHJ 84, W4DNA 58,

WA4OBR 55, W4LN 54, KG4YNM 50, AG4ZB 46, K7UGT 42, W4NCD 42, KD4FUN 40, KI4YV 39, KE4AHC 37, W4EHF 32, W4TTO 29, W4IRE 26, KG4OQA 25, WA2EDN 9, KE4YHR 5.

March PSHR: W4NCD 230, K7UGT 195, AG4ZB 151, W4DNA 145, W4DAC 130, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, KE4JHJ 110, W0UCE 110, KI4AHA 93, W4LN 90, KI4YV 89, KG4YNM 80, AA4YW 80, KG4OQA 78.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: John M. C Covington, W4CC

w4cc@arrl.org

ARRL Executive Committee

EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE, BPL COURT CHALLENGE ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

The ARRL has applied to the FCC for a Part 5 Experimental license on behalf of a group of amateurs interested in operating in the vicinity of 500 kHz. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, announced the filing during a meeting of the ARRL Executive Committee April 9 in Denver. The experimental application was among several items the EC dealt with in addition to its recommendations <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/13/1/>> <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/13/1/>> to the ARRL Board of Directors regarding a planned regulation-by-bandwidth petition.

If granted, the two-year Part 5 license would permit experimentation and research between 495 and 510 kHz using CW and PSK31 at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power. ARRL Member Fred Raab, W1FR, of Burlington, Vermont, would manage the project, which calls for 23 discrete fixed sites from New England to California and Minnesota to Louisiana.

In other business, Imlay noted that the pleading cycle on petitions for reconsideration of the FCC's October 14, 2004, Report and Order (R&O) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) has closed. He also reminded the panel that the FCC has yet to take effective enforcement action in a single case of ongoing BPL interference.

Imlay informed the EC that he sees at least two strong procedural bases to challenge the BPL R&O in the US Court of Appeals. After some discussion, the committee instructed Imlay to develop a recommendation for outside counsel to assist with such an appeal. In March, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League did not expect the FCC to make any substantive changes to the R&O in response to various petitions for reconsideration and that the BPL proceeding ultimately would wind up in court.

On other legal and legislative matters, Imlay indicated that the FCC R&O in another proceeding, "Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966," WT Docket 03-128, has implications for radio amateurs who might want to install antennas near historic sites. Required procedures could be cumbersome and

expensive, he told the EC. The committee asked ARRL staff to begin discussions with FCC staff to come up with the best way to minimize the burden on both Amateur Radio licensees and the Commission.

The EC reviewed the status of enforcement action against an unlicensed individual in Southern California and agreed that the process has been unacceptably slow. The result has been continued and ongoing interference to repeaters in the Los Angeles area.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, reported to the EC on recent informal discussions with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) personnel regarding the possibility of increasing amateur privileges in the 60-meter band. Haynie cited the favorable experience to date sharing five discrete channels with federal government stations. A possible presentation to federal government spectrum managers could be the next step.

Haynie also reported briefly on his February visit to Central America to promote Amateur Radio as an educational tool. Haynie expressed appreciation for the help of ARRL Technical Relations Office staff member John Siverling, WB3ERA, and noted that the ARRL delegation was warmly received.

Minutes of the April 9 Executive Committee meeting are on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/ec_minutes_476.html>.

NWS Duties Act of 2005

Sen. Santorum of Pennsylvania has introduced S786, the National Weather Services Duties Act of 2005 (Could also be known as the AccuWeather Support Act of 2005) That would prohibit the NWS from providing any service that is **or could be** provided by the private sector unless the Secretary of Commerce determines that the private sector is unwilling to provide such service, or the NWS is required to provide the service under international agreements. If you have reason to write your congressman of either of our senators, ask them to oppose this bill. It probably has nothing to do with the fact that AccuWeather has their corporate headquarters in State College, PA.

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.

RELAYS for sale – If you are interested in building the "Low Cost Remote Antenna Switch" described in the April 2005 QST, I have an extra set of the relays used for this project. Had to buy more than I needed to meet minimum order requirements. Will sell 6 or 7 for what they cost me, \$2.40 each. The relays are American-Zettler AZ755-1C-12DE, with 12VDC coils. Contact W4FRA.

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.