



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

May 2006

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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 1, 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 Field Day Planning.

2006 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2006 as follows:

June 3	August 5
October 7	December 2

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

Wow. May already. Where has the year gone?

Just got back from the NC ARES yearly meeting. The big topic this year. FEMA courses. The big rumor is that the Feds will stop funding any EOC that does not require all personnel to take the courses. October is the drop dead date.

What does this mean to us? Simply put, if you have not passed, you will be turned away during the next event. If you want to help in ARES you need to pass IS-700, IS-100, IS-200 and IS-800. They will be easier to pass if you take them in the order listed.

Where are they? They are on FEMA's web page. The easiest way to get there is the following link. <http://www.wakeares.org>. You will find a link there going to the courses. These are also being taught in the community college system. Right now their emphasis is on public service folks. It might be opened to the general public later on. For now the easiest way is via the Internet.

How long does it take? Took me eight hours for all four. On my DIAL UP line.

This will be talked about during the meeting.

OK. Field Day. Lots of rule changes. Most over the GOTA station. Here are some.

4.1.1.5. A maximum of 500 QSOs made by this station may be claimed for credit by its primary Field Day operation. In addition, bonus points may be earned by this station under rule 7.3.13.

7.3.13.1. When a GOTA operator successfully completes 50 QSOs, they receive 50 bonus points. Upon reaching 100 QSOs the same operator receives an additional 50 bonus points, for a maximum of 100 Bonus points per GOTA operator. An operator may make more than 100 QSOs but the QSOs over 100 do not qualify for an additional bonus.

7.3.13.1.1. Additional GOTA operators may earn the 50 or 100 GOTA bonus points under this rule, up to the maximum of 500 bonus points. (Remember that there is a 500-QSO limit for the GOTA station. But no single GOTA operator may earn more than 100 of the GOTA bonus points except as provided in 7.3.13.2.

7.3.13.1.2. A GOTA operator must complete all 50 QSOs required before the bonus is earned. There is no "partial credit" for making only a portion of the 50 QSOs.

7.3.13.2. If a GOTA station is supervised full-time by a GOTA Coach, the bonus points earned for each 50 QSOs completed under rule 7.3.13.1 will be doubled.

7.3.13.2.1. The GOTA Coach supervises the operator of the station, doing such things as answering questions and talking them through contacts, but may not make QSOs or perform logging functions.

7.3.13.2.2. To qualify for this bonus, there must be a designated GOTA Coach present and supervising the GOTA station at all times it is being operated.

Wow..... OK... The GOTA station can now make more Q's. If an op makes 50 QSO's, then the score has 50 points added. If we have a GOTA coach then another 50 are added. SO, if the GOTA station runs SSB, we get 10 operators, each one gets 50 Q's. That's 500 points for the Q's, 500 bonus and another 500 for the coach. That's 1500 points for the GOTA station. It's been 400 max for the last several years. Obviously the ARRL wants more emphasis placed on the GOTA station.

We need GOTA coaches (no where did it say the same person had to be the coach, just that one had to be present). Let's get all the technicians, in-active hams, spouses, friends, visitors we can get. This is too good to ignore. Maybe the GOTO station needs a better antenna this year?

We will talk about this at the meeting. See y'all there.

Vice-President's Ker-chunk

By Marty, W4MY

The days of Spring are upon us. We've set our clocks ahead, turned off the furnace, Skywarn training is preparing us for the hurricane season and summer thunder bumpers, ... the smell of antenna blossoms fills the air. Aluminum, copper, and coax are readied for summer antenna projects. A time for Field Day preparation, is there anything better?

As you know, we at TRARC do our Field Day effort as a "total club" effort. Small or Large, everyone has (or should have) a job. To those new to the club, our club president is customarily the Field Day Chairman. He has a few "Captains" reporting to him who are responsible for the major facets of the effort. They are: rigs/RF equipment, antennas, power, facilities/food/other equipment, and computers/network/logging. It is the job of each captain to coordinate the acquisition and implementation of the resources and materials all the way through. They do a lot of work off-line and report their state of affairs to the chairman. If you have been contacted by a captain, please follow through with any assignment and keep him/her apprised of your status. If you haven't been contacted, by all means let them know what you can do to help! And please, be available Sunday afternoon to tear down! This less

than pleasant task is made much easier when many hands are helping!

The highlight of the TRARC Field Day effort is the Saturday afternoon cookout. Radio operations take a back seat for a while for good food and good fellowship. If you can only spend a short time with us this year, this is the best time to be there. I think we are going to do the "Brats" again this year augmented with a few home made dishes and hopefully it will be as delightful as the 2005 effort when Ernie, K9LO, (from that unmentionable place) was with us.

For your information, Field Day comprises the weekend of June 23, 24, 25 this year, with set-up starting Friday afternoon on front lawn of Boddie Noell Enterprises. Radio Operations start 2:00 p.m. EDT on Saturday and go through 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Of course I mentioned the cookout Saturday afternoon, and we also are planning some breakfast for the "die hands" on Sunday morning early. We have decided to go 2A this year as K4B with GOTA, W4DCG. Les, W4FRA, will also have a 4th V/UHF station on air, so let him know if you want to operate those tiny wavelengths with him.

If this is your first Field Day, check out the good article on the TRARC website on the do's and don'ts. It's a couple of years old, but the advice is very good. I'll see everyone in the June meeting (I will be absent in May's meeting), try to make that one if you can and support TRARC!

CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, this is Kilo Four Bravo, Field Day!

Upcoming Hamfests

April 23 – RARS Fest, Raleigh, NC

April 28-29 – Southeastern VHF Society Conference, Greenville, SC

May 13 – Eden, NC

May 13-14 – Greenville, NC

May 19-21 – HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH

May 20 – Williamston, NC

May 27 – Durham, NC

June 3 – Pig Pickin' Franklin, VA

June 10 – Winston Salem, NC

July 8 – Salisbury, NC

July 15 – Cary, NC

July 29 – Waynesville, NC

August 5 – Roanoke, VA

August 12 – Fayetteville, NC

Contests

April 29 - 30

Helvetica Contest

Alabama QSO Party

April 29 - May 7

North American Spring Meteor Scatter Rally
May 6 - 7

MARAC County Hunters Contest – CW

10-10 Intl. Spring Contest – CW/Digital

Indiana QSO Party

ARI International DX Contest

New England QSO Party

7th Area QSO Party

IPA Contest

EU EME Contest

Radio Club of America QSO Party – SSB

May 13 - 14

Armed Forces Crossband Comm Test

Mid-Atlantic QSO Party

CQ-M International DX Contest

FISTS Spring Sprint – CW

Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest

50 MHz Spring Sprint

May 20 - 21

40th Annual Baltic Contest

All America Contest – CW

EU PSK DX Contest

His Majesty King of Spain Contest – CW

US Counties QSO Party – SSB

May 28 - 30

CQ WW WPX Contest – CW

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint – CW

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

2006 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2006 TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 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.

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 the 147.150 MHz repeater. Check into the net, participate in ARES training, and enjoy the informal rag-chew afterwards.

NC Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, Tim Slay, N4IB -
SEC: WA4MOK STM: K4HA TC: K4ITL BM:
KD4YTU PIC: N2COP OOC: W4ZRA ACC:
WA4KE

THANKS, JOHN!

I can't open my first monthly section news without once again thanking my predecessor, John Covington, W4CC, for his six years of outstanding leadership. John was one of the hardest working, most traveled, and most effective section managers in ARRL history. During his three terms, John devoted innumerable hours to our section, visiting countless club meetings, hamfests, and special events. John drove over 10,000 miles/year on league business and visited all 100 counties in the state. John brought a wealth of expertise and professionalism to this volunteer position and set a high standard for me and the others who follow him. I'm especially grateful that John recruited such an excellent section cabinet and I'm honored they've agreed to continue to serve North Carolina hams as I begin my term. In my 30 years as a ham, I've held numerous elected and appointed positions, but I've never held a section-level job. So I'm glad John will still be around to offer advice and I appreciate your input (and patience) as I learn the ropes!

WHO ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Of the 675,274 amateur radio operators licensed in the US, North Carolina has 18,539. We're the tenth largest state in terms of ham population. But only 3,792 of those hams are ARRL members, and that's probably a good estimate of the number of active hams in the state. There are 91 ARRL affiliated clubs in North Carolina, but only 51 are current in the ARRL database. There are currently 11 ARRL-affiliated hamfests scheduled in the section. Our section also has 210 volunteer ARRL appointees, not to mention hundreds more who have leadership positions in local clubs. There's a lot to be excited about, but also challenges to be faced. Our hobby is threatened by pressure on our bands from commercial interests and the interference threat of BPL. Restrictive covenants that prohibit antennas are almost ubiquitous in newer subdivisions. But

the biggest threat is in the numbers I listed...they're dropping every year. We're not recruiting enough new hams to replace the silent keys. The average age of an amateur radio operator is somewhere around 50 and for an ARRL member, its approaching 60. Those averages are going up by 1 every year. So where will our hobby be in 20 years when I'm ready to join so many of you as a retiree and full-time ham? And will my 6 year old daughter, who is learning Morse code, be able to have a CW QSO when she's my age? Over the next two years you're going to hear me talk (and listen) a lot about this problem and I'll be sharing some of the great things clubs across the state are doing to spread the magic of ham radio.

PRB-1 PROGRESS REPORT

Our PIO, Bill Morine, N2COP and former Wilmington mayor Ham Hicks, KB4BR are keeping up the momentum as we try to get a PRB-1 bill passed by the North Carolina legislature. Ham is scheduled to testify before the legislature's Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Recovery Study Committee on April 20. Write your state legislator to educate them on the problems faced by hams who try to install antennas in areas with restrictions. These restrictions not only threaten our hobby, but also affect our ability to provide emergency communications after a disaster.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Raleigh Hamfest, April 24 --
www.rars.org/hamfest

Rockingham County Hamfest, May 13 --
www.rcarc.com/hamfest2006.html

DurHAMfest, May 27 - www.dfma.org

Winston-Salem Hamfest, June 10 --
www.w4nc.org

MARCH TRAFFIC

W4EAT 905 (BPL), W0UCE 614 (BPL), W4UEF 228, AD4XV 210, K4IWW 185, KI4YV 181, W2EAG 131, KE4JHJ 110, W4DNA 85, K4RLD 72, W3HL 63, WA4OBR 62, W4FAL 48, W4NCD 40, KE4AHC 33, W4EHF 27, KD4FUN 24, W4TTO 21, KI4AHA 20, W4IRE 19, KG4YNM 19, W4CC 10

MARCH PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL

W4DNA 190, K4RLD 170, W4NCD 165, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, W0UCE 120, KE4JHJ 110,

W4FAL 110, W2EAG 90, KI4YV 90, KD4FUN
74, W4TTO 71, KI4AHA 70

ARRL North Carolina Section
Section Manager: Tim B. Slay, N4IB
n4ib@arrl.org

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.

This is a list of the Items from WA4TCC's estate. If you desire to bid for any of these items please send a message to me mailto:rdkeller@nashvillenc.com... do not send to list (If you do....Everyone on the list will know your bid). Please specify WA4TCC Estate in the subject line and identify the item for your in the text of your message. Please include your contact information. If you desire to bid for more than one item, submit separate bids for each.

The highest reasonable bid will be accepted. That is, if an item is worth \$100, please don't waste our time by bidding \$5.00 for it. Please examine the list carefully. If it says "condition unknown" it means we are either unable or UNWILLING to turn the device on and test it.

There is no financing involved. All sales are final. Cash, no checks or credit. All proceeds go to WA4TCC's widow.

All sales must be approved by WA4WPD, N4JEH AND WT4S.

ADI AT-600 S/N 8350001047
VHF/UHF dualbander HT with external mic

replacement battery by W & W Manufacturing

One original battery

Manual

missing charger

Aerotron External Speaker

Hallicrafters S108 S/N 284925 / 29602
receiver

unknown condition

Missing Manual

Hallicrafters S120 S/N 120000D 44309
receiver

manual

unknown condition

Heathkit HD 1426 S/N 00816

Field strength meter

unknown condition

missing manual

Icom TV-R700 S/N 03753

video from a scanner unit

Kenwood PG-5A

TNC data cable

new in box

\$15.00

KLM mutil 2700 S/N 93130

2meter 10 meter receive OSCAR

transceiver

unknown condition

missing manual

MFJ 280

compact speaker

MFJ 1278 S/N 3014854

TNC, CW, and RTTY decoder early 80's

model

condition unknown

power supply

interface cable for unknown radio

Parallel cable

missing manual

Mirage B108 S / N

5289-1181

Two meter AMP

condition unknown

missing manual

Realistic HTX 404 S/N 0075992

440 HT

works

charger

speaker mic

missing manual

Realistic BTX 124 S/N 70200578

commercial VHF business band radio

Realistic BTX 124 S/N 70200579

commercial VHF business band radio

Vibroplex Vibrokey standard

Ham Key

Yaesu FV-107 S / N O C
030150

external VFO

Yaesu FP-107E S/N OG 020594

power supply

