



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

May 2008

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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 5, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The May program will be Field Day Planning.

2008 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2008 as follows.

June 7	August 2
October 4	December 6

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 website at www.TarRiverARC.org or contact

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

Email: N2BT@arrl.net

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President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

May. Wow. One more month till Field Day. More on that later.

Seems like the ARRL has won one round in the BPL front. Y'all remember BPL don't ya? It didn't go a w a y . L o o k a t <http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>. Time will tell if this helps Amateur radio. Are you an ARRL nay-sayers? They do lots of things I don't like also. But that's the way things are with large groups. Amateur Radio needs a voice with resources. For now it's the best game going. Please follow the link, read the decision, make up your mind if the ARRL did OK.

Force 12 has a new owner (<http://www.force12inc.com/>). Let's hope it's change for the good. Their "Flag pole" series looks really good. The old Force 12 made some of us sour (no bad feeling here). But as y'all know I bought a SteppIR.

Speaking of SteppIR. They have a new antenna out. Eighty through six meters. OK, it's just a rotatable dipole on 80. One hundred sixty pounds, 36 feet long, 48 foot element. Price? Don't ask. Let's just say it's not cheep. Gee, now I'm glad I don't have my tower up. I wonder how much that heavy duty tower is?

Now to Field Day. The group agreed to run class "F" at the Nash EOC. Plans are to run 2F. This will qualify us for one free VHF/UHF station and one GOTO station. If you know anyone who wants to operate, tell me. Please. We need lots of GOTO operators.

See y'all at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

May 10 – Reidsville, NC
May 16 - 18 – Dayton Hamvention
May 24 – DurHAMfest, Durham, NC
June 14 – Winston-Salem, NC
July 12 – Salisbury, NC
Sept. 20 - 21 – Virginia Beach, VA

Contests

May 3 - 4
Microwave Spring Sprint
MARAC CW and SSB Contests
10-10 Spring CW & Digital Contests
Indiana QSO Party
ARI International DX Contest
New England QSO Party
7th Area QSO Party

Radio Club of America QSO Party
Portugese Navy Day

May 10 - 11

FISTS Spring Sprint
Armed Forces Communications Test
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party
CQ-M International DX Contest
2 GHz and Up World Wide Contest
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest
50 MHz Spring Sprint
EU EME Contest

May 17 - 18

Baltic Contest
EU PSK DX Contest
His Majesty King of Spain Contest – CW
All America Contest – CW

May 24 - 25

CQ WW WPX Contest – CW
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint – CW

May 26 - 27

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

2008 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2008 TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals \$6 per additional family member 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.

NC Section News

USS NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONING

On May 3, from 1200Z-2000Z, the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, NI4BK, is sponsoring a special event station celebrating the commissioning of the Navy's newest Virginia class attack submarine, USS North Carolina. The commissioning ceremony will occur in Wilmington near the submarine's historic predecessor, the Battleship USS North Carolina. Efforts are underway to arrange a ham radio contact between the Battleship USS North Carolina and her new namesake as part of the commissioning ceremony! In addition, a special event station, NI4BK, will be

operating SSB and CW in the 20 and 40 m General bands. They will also operate on EchoLink 353118 KI4RMS-L IRLP 9120 N4JDW VHF/UHF and HF. QSL to the Azalea Coast ARC, PO Box 4044, Wilmington, NC 28406.

NEW HAM RECRUITING AND ELMERING

At a recent meeting of the ARRL Executive Committee, HQ staff learned that there was a discussion of the important role played by local clubs in recruiting, training and mentoring new licensees. Some clubs are very successful. A part of ARRL's effort to increase the number of new radio amateurs should be to help recognize the clubs that are doing a good job, and to educate and encourage other clubs to follow their example. Is your club doing a particularly good job with new hams? Is so, let me hear about it and I'll pass the info on to headquarters!

NCBEARS

I recently checked-in to the North Carolina Baptist Emergency Amateur Radio Service net and was happy to learn more about this active group. The NCBEARS net meets each week on 3.923 Sunday afternoon at 3:15 for check-ins and announcements and on Thursday nights at 8:00 for check-ins, announcements, and rag-chew. The nets help keep the group prepared to respond during disasters. NCBEARS is one part of the North Carolina Baptist Men Disaster Relief Ministry. They support the disaster relief units deployed by NCBM with communications assistance as needed. Working with the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army, NCBM sends out its three large mobile kitchens with trained volunteers in response to disasters. They may be involved in mass feeding, recovery, chainsaw, house repairs, mud-out, chaplains, showers, laundry, and communications. They also work in cooperation with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Ministries and SouthBEARS, the Southern Baptist Emergency Amateur Radio Service. SouthBEARS has a regional net on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 ET on 7.260.

Every year NCBEARS has a series of training meetings in the spring in preparation for hurricane season. Each meeting will have training in the various disaster relief ministries with which they are involved, including Emergency Communications. Upcoming training dates include:

April 25-26, Laurenburg

May 16-17, Lincolnton

June 6-7, Robinsville

Any interested hams may call Gaylon Moss at 800-395-5102 for more information.

NTS NEEDS YOU!

Mark Rappaport, W2EAG, has wrapped up his outstanding traffic handling course and now it's time for you to put your new skills to work. The National Traffic System needs you! We need not only skilled traffic handlers, but also net control stations and some net managers. If we don't exercise the system regularly using routine traffic, it won't be ready to serve the public after the next disaster! So please consider contacting our Section Traffic Manager Dave Roy, W4DNA and volunteer for one of his open positions (w4dna@arrl.net). Our section and local NTS nets include the following:

Eastern NC Traffic Net, 8:30pm on 146.685MHz (-600kHz)

Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, 9:00pm on 146.88MHz (-600kHz)

Central NC Traffic Net, 9:30pm on 146.82MHz (-600kHz)

Southeastern NC Traffic Net, 8:00pm on 147.045 (+600kHz)

NC Morning Net, 7:45am on 3.926MHz

Carolinas Slow Net, 8:00pm on 3.571MHz

NC Evening Net, 6:30pm on 3.923MHz

Carolinas Net -- Early, 7:00pm on 3.573MHz

Carolinas Net -- Late, 10:00pm on 3.573MHz

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton - cvhamfest.com

May 3: State ARES Meeting, Raleigh

May 10: Rockingham County Hamfest, Reidsville - www.rcarc.com

May 24: DurHAMfest, Durham - www.dfma.org

May 25-31: Hurricane Preparedness Week

June 14: Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest - www.w4nc.org

June 28-29: ARRL Field Day

MARCH TRAFFIC

N3BW 261, W2EAG 228, K4IWW 206, KI4YV 187, W4DNA 117, WA4OBR 72, W3HL 66, WA2YBM 57, W4TTO 46, W4FAL 45, W4EHF 26, KE4AHC 33, KD4WAX 25, KG4YNM 22, KC4PGN 19, K8SKX 18, WX4MMM 11, KJ4WY 10, KI4PNL 6, KD4ZPS 2.

MARCH PSHR

W2EAG 140, W4DNA 140, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W4TTO 115, KI4YV 100, WA2YBM 95.

MARCH ARES MEMBERS: 1,802

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy 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@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; KLM Beam Antenna, KT-34A, 10, 15,20M w/manual \$100; 5 Rohn 25 tower sections, 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

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