



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

May 2009

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

Tar River Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday of the month (except when it is a holiday). The May meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, May 4, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The May meeting 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 2009 as follows.

June 6	August 1
October 3	December 5

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 \$15 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

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE REPUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED BY CLUB MEMBERS IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN ANY FORM WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PERMISSION.

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Last month's skywarn was a hit. Almost needed a larger room. I was asked if we could offer an advanced spotters course. It is certainly possible. We need to discuss this after Field Day.

I'm still working on my new vehicle. Just been busy.

It's May. Time for Field Day planning. There have been two choices laid on the table. First is to go back to the Nash EOC. Second is to go to the Red Cross. Are there any others? Be sure to bring all ideas to the table.

See ya at the meeting.

New ARRL EMCOMM Course

Over the past several months, ARRL staff have been reviewing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications online course program and have decided to combine two of the three Emergency Communications courses. According to ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, the review included a critical examination of the course content, as well as methods of course delivery and interrelationships with government organizations. Johnson said that the decision was made to revise the Level 3 course to become a new Advanced Emergency Communications Course; this, she said, will replace both the current Level 2 and Level 3 courses. The new advanced course is set to be released during the last quarter of 2009.

"Our aim is to develop professional level courses which are widely accepted by other organizations for the emergency communication component of Amateur Radio," she said. "We are investigating requirements that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently putting in place for approved courses, as well as other possibilities to develop emergency communications training that meets the emerging training needs surrounding emergency communications."

Students who have previously taken the Level 2 course will need to have the new advanced course to complete the current Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program, Johnson explained. "Those who have completed the Level 1 course may progress directly to the advanced course when it is made available; this new course contains content formerly included in the former Level 2 and 3 courses."

Johnson said that there are no current plans to change the Basic Level 1 course and that that course will continue to be offered in its current format. With

the combining of the Level 2 and 3 courses, Johnson said that anyone who had signed up for the Level 2 course set to begin April 17 may apply for a refund. Any scheduled field instruction of the Level 2 content, as well as Level 2 exam sessions, will also be suspended. "We will honor exam sessions that have been previously scheduled and award Level 2 certificates for any exams successfully completed up to May 31," she said. "Our training program mandate is to provide the training that ham radio communicators need to be prepared to serve our communities in time of communications emergencies," Johnson explained. "This consolidation of program content will streamline the delivery of the training and apply volunteer and administrative support resources more effectively."

Upcoming Hamfests

May 9 – Reidsville, NC

May 15-17 – Hamvention, Dayton, OH

May 23 – DurHamFest, Bahama, NC

June 13 – Winston-Salem, NC

July 18 – Cary, NC

August 8 – Fayetteville, NC

September 12 - 13 – Virginia Beach, VA

Contests

May 2 - 3

EU EME Contest

MARAC CW and SSB Contests

10-10 Spring CW & Digital Contests

Microwave Spring Sprint

7th Area QSO Party

Portugese Navy Day

Indiana QSO Party

Radio Club of America QSO Party

ARI International DX Contest

New England QSO Party

2 GHz and Up World Wide Contest

May 9 - 10

Armed Forces Communications Test

CQ-M International DX Contest

Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest

FISTS Spring Sprint – CW

Nevada Mustang Roundup QSO Party

50 MHz Spring Sprint

May 16 - 17

EU PSK DX Contest

All America Contest – CW

His Majesty King of Spain Contest – CW

Baltic Contest

Worked All Britain – LF Phone

May 23 - 26

Bill Windle QSO Party – CW

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint
May 30 - 31
CQ WPX Contest – CW
EU EME Contest
Kids Roundup
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint – CW

2009 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

It is the end of the year and Fred is now accepting 2009 dues payments. Please pay early and let's all try to recruit one new member this year.

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.

DX Info

{TNX to various ARRL email newsletters}

ITALY, I. Adriano, IT9CCB will be QRV as IO9ROTA from April 19 to May 19 in celebration of the 141st birthday of Paul Harris, the founder of the Rotary International Club. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

BANGLADESH, S2. Ramon, DU1UGZ is QRV as S21UGZ from Dhaka City until June 20. He will be active on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and RTTY in his spare time. QSL to home call.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Davide, IZ3EFL is QRV as S79DF for about one year. He is currently active on 20 meters but hopes to be QRV on other bands as well. He may also try to activate Aldabra Island, IOTA AF-025. QSL via IV3TDM.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Sharon, K7WZB and Garry, K9WZB will be QRV as ZF2ZB from Cayman Island, IOTA NA-016, from April 21 to May 6. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL direct via K9WZB.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Cliff, SV1JG will be QRV as 8Q7SV from April 29 to May 5. Activity will be on all HF bands using mostly CW with some digital modes. QSL to home call.

KUWAIT, 9K. Yaser, 9K2YM is QRV from Failaka Island, IOTA AS-118, and has been active on 40, 30, 20 and 15 meters using SSB and RTTY. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via EA5KB.

TONGA, A3. David, W6ZL will be QRV as A35KL from Vava'u, IOTA OC-064, from April 25 to May 6. Activity will be mostly on 40 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call. In addition, Paul, A35RK will be joining David on April 25, but may not be active until May 6. He

will be QRV as A35RK/p until June 1. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via W7TSQ.

BHUTAN, A5. Hisa, JA1DOT is QRV as A52DT until May 6. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Operators M0MJH, 2E0WMG, 2E0XIS and M0ZZO will be QRV as MD0MJH, 2D0WMG, 2D0XIS, MD0ZZO, respectively, and using the club calls GT3CO and GT7SRA from April 26 to May 1. Activity will be mainly on 80, 40 and 20 meters, and possibly 160 meters using SSB. QSL via operators' instructions.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Koji, J1LET will be QRV as homecall/JD1 from April 29 to May 5. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

BRAZIL, PY. A group of operators from the Teresina DX Group will be QRV as ZW8BBC from Canarias Island, IOTA SA-072, in memory of Doctor Flavio Araujo, PS8BBC. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes activity on all the current active Satellites. QSL via PS8DX.

POLAND, SP. A group of operators will be QRV with special call sign 3Z0LH from Chelminck Island from April 30 to May 9. This includes activity from several Lighthouses. QSL via SP1TMN.

COSTA RICA, TI. Operators K9KEJ and W9YOR will be QRV as TI6/homecalls from April 28 to May 1. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 17 meters using SSB. QSL TI6/K9KEJ via EB7DX and TI6/W9YOR to home call.

VANUATU, YJ. Kaku, JA6REX will be QRV as YJ0KS from Espiritu Santo, and Tanna Island, both IOTA OC-035, from April 28 to May 3, and then from May 5 to 7, respectively. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL to home call.

NC Section News

DANNY HAMPTON, K4ITL IS DAYTON "AMATEUR OF THE YEAR"

The Dayton Hamfest has selected our own Danny Hampton, K4ITL, as "Amateur of the Year". Danny is the architect of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network, established in the early 1970s, which today

sports more than 40 machines in North Carolina. The system is heavily used for public service work. Hampton has enhanced the network's utility with custom audio processing boards and RF components. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Management and SKYWARN have recognized the network's vital role in emergency communications. Recently, Danny helped coordinate the development of the "CARES" system - a local hospital-based Amateur Radio emergency repeater system that ties 10 facilities together. A ham since 1958, Danny is the Southeastern Repeater Association (SERA) technical committee chairman as well as the ARRL North Carolina Section Technical Coordinator.

EARTHQUAKE DRILL SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 23-24

North Carolina ARES members are being asked to participate in a state emergency management drill on Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24. The drill will involve a large earthquake in the Buncombe County area and the resulting damage will affect structures and communications facilities that are not "earthquake resistant" with a special emphasis on cellphone facilities/towers. The focus of this exercise is on communications and interoperability and the scenario depicts massive communications infrastructure failure from damage and circuit overload. NC Emergency Management expects Amateur Radio to play a key role in this exercise. We'll have more detail later, but we know we will need operators in Buncombe and the surrounding counties, at the NCEM warehouse in Badin, at the western branch EOC in Conover and at the state EOC in Raleigh. Please contact your local EC with your availability for this exercise.

STATE ARES MEETING AGENDA - MAY 2

The semi-annual state ARES meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2 at the state EOC in Raleigh. The meeting starts at 10am and agenda items include: Introduction to the State EOC; Preview 2009 Hurricane Season; Overview of EOC WINLINK System; Update from ARRL HQ; Update on State Digital Plan; State Government Update; Roundtable. These are always interesting and informative meetings and all ARES members are encouraged to attend. Another meeting will be held in the Western Branch this fall.

2009 YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

In 2007 our North Carolina's Grant Morine, W4GHM was named "Young Ham of the Year" by Amateur Radio Newsline and CQ Magazine. If you know another young radio amateur in NC who has done

something very special in the Amateur Radio hobby, consider nominating him or her for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. Nominations are open until May 30. For more info, see www.arnewline.org.

CAROLINAS NET MANAGER STILL NEEDED

We're still looking for someone to take the reins of the Carolinas Net (CN). As a National Traffic System net, the CN-Early meets at 7:00pm and CN-Late meets at 10pm, both on 3.573MHz. You don't have to be a CW speed demon to participate, but I'll bet your code speed will go up after a few sessions! Check in often and if you're interested in helping as net manager, contact Section Traffic Manager Dave Roy, W4DNA at w4dna@nc.rr.com.

SECTION POCKET GUIDE AVAILABLE

A pocket guide with NC section information debuted at the Raleigh Hamfest and it is now available at www.ncarrl.org. The guide was created to give everyone something to carry around in their glove compartment or "go kit". Let me know if you have ideas for additional information that should be included in this document.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton
April 18: Azalea Coast ARC Swapfest, Hampstead
April 24-25: Southeast VHF Society Conference, Charlotte
May 2: State ARES Meeting, Raleigh
May 9: Rockingham County Swapfest, Reidsville
May 9: Area 1&2 ARES Meeting, Plymouth
May 23: DurHAMfest, Bahama
June 13: Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest
June 23-24: State Emergency Management Drill
June 25: Western Carolina Hamfest, Waynesville
June 27 & 28: ARRL Field Day

MARCH TRAFFIC

K4IWW 336, N3BW 328, W2EAG 186, KI4YV 173, KD4WAX 109, W4DNA 70, KI4ZJI 65, W4TTO 49 W4FAL 41, K8SKX 40, W4EHF 39, KE4AHC 35, W3HL 22, WX4MMM 14, KD4ZPS 13, NC4VA 5.

MARCH PSHR

NC4VA 243, W4DNA 140, KI4ZJI 135, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W2EAG 110, KI4YV 100, W4TTO 100.

MARCH ARES MEMBERS: 1,831, +2 from last month.

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; 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, 252-446-5319

jimdugan@embarqmail.com, W1JFD@arrl.net

FOR SALE – Benq 17-inch flat screen LCD Monitor, works good, I just treated my old eyes to a 22-inch monitor. Includes CD and all original documentation. \$65. – Les Zavadil, W4FRA, 252-446-7816

FOR SALE

TH6 Antenna

Hygain Rotator

65' Rohn 25G

Tower and antenna have been dismantled and on ground

Contact KG4SPT at 252.946.7197 or

learyl@gotricounty.com

HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE – COMET TRIPLEXER CFX-324 600w, 1.3-150, 200-320, 300-500 MHz, NEW \$89.95 – \$50.00; CUSHCRAFT 148, 2 METER BEAM, \$50.00; ASTATIC D-104 with T-UGB stand, NEW \$50-\$60 – \$40.00; MFJ J-1116 DELUXE MULTIDC POWER STRIP, NEW

\$59.95 – \$30.00; KENWOOD PC-1A PHONE PATCH CONTROLLER – \$20.00. Call -- FRED WINNER - KE4LXW - 459-4332.
