



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

May 2010

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WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.org](http://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 3, **at the Rocky Mount American Red Cross Offices, 326 S. Franklin Street**. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The May program will be Field Day Planning.

## 2010 VE Exam Schedule

*Bill, N2BT*

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2010 as follows.

June 5	August 7
October 2	December 4

Walk in candidates are welcome. No preregistration required.

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
- Test fee of \$15 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club website at [www.TarRiverARC.org](http://www.TarRiverARC.org) or contact

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

Email: [N2BT@arrl.net](mailto:N2BT@arrl.net)

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## President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

May.

Spring time. Warmer weather. Longer days. Dayton Hamvention. Field day.

Hope everyone had a good time at RARSFest. I did. Just had one little short coming. I tried in vain to get some mini UHF adaptors. Maybe it was just me. I bet I'll find them at Dayton.

Speaking of Dayton. I will be there. Come by Flea Market space FE2817. Buy something. Please. I know it doesn't make sense to drive all the way to Dayton just to purchase something from me. But we're talking Ham Radio. It's not suppose to make sense (like the wife's shoes, don't ask too many questions). Don't know where FE2817 is. It's right behind the food store (not the tent, the one inside) on the western side of the east parking lot. Clear as mud now? Don't worry about it. It's Dayton, you're suppose to get lost. We do have an "end" space. So every time you turn the corner, LOOK.

I plan to have most of the club's field day supplies with me at the meeting. I will also have my dad's 746 and a power supply. The coax we discussed at the last meeting will be there also.

We need get Field Day plans worked out. I will not be able to help in set up this year. I will be at the HDSA (Huntington's Disease Society of America) national conference Thursday through Saturday night. I will get computers and software ready by early June. I hope to have them ready by the June meeting. We will use the N3FJP software the club purchased several years ago.

We need to decide where the stations will be. This will dictate if we use a wireless router. I have several wired routers in my junk box. But all the wireless ones have flown the coop. I can find one if need be.

Right after our meeting (May 5 and 6) NCEM/FEMA will conduct a FSE (Full Scale Exercise). Look the Wake Ares web page <http://www.wakeares.org/> for details. Any help would be appreciated. All info is on the web page.

See 'ya at the meeting.

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## Upcoming Hamfests

May 8 – Reidsville, NC

June 19 – Kinston, NC

June 12 – Winston-Salem, NC

July 17 – Cary Swapfest

August 7 – Fayetteville, NC

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## Contests

May 1 - 2

Microwave Spring Sprint  
2 GHz and Up WW Contest  
MARAC CW and SSB Contests  
10-10 Spring Digital Contest  
QRP - QRP Party - CW  
7<sup>th</sup> Area QSO Party  
Indiana QSO Party  
Radio Club of America QSO Party - Phone  
ARI International DX Contest  
New England QSO Party

May 8 - 9

Armed Forces Communications Test  
CQ-M International DX Contest  
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest  
Portugese Navy Day - Phone & CW  
FISTS Spring Sprint - CW  
Nevada QSO Party  
50 MHz Spring Sprint

May 15 - 16

Portugese Navy Day - Digital  
EU PSK DX Contest  
His Majesty King of Spain Contest - CW  
All America Contest - CW  
Worked All Britain - LF Phone

May 22 - 23

EU EME Contest  
Baltic Contest

May 29 - Jun 1

CQ WW WPX Contest - CW  
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint - CW  
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

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## 2010 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

It is the end of the year and Fred is now accepting 2010 dues payments. TRARC dues are 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 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.

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## **DX Info**

{TNX to various ARRL email newsletters and ARNL}

**BARBADOS, 8P.** Members of the ARS of Barbados are QRV as 8P55AW throughout all of 2010 in celebration of the 55th anniversary of the club. QSL via bureau.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Xara, D44TD has been QRV on 10 meters around 1200z and 12 meters around 1600z. QSL via CT1EKF.

**NEW CALEDONIA, FK.** Claude, FK8IF is QRV as FK8KAB daily from 0600 to 0800z on 20 meters. QSL to home call.

**FAROE ISLANDS, OY.** Jan, OY3JE has been active on 60 meters between 1730 and 2100z. QSL to home call.

**CHAD, TT.** Phil, F4EGS will be here beginning April 10 and possibly QRV as TT8PK. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, but limited to his spare time. QSL to home call.

**MEXICO, XE.** In celebration of the bicentennial of Mexico's independence and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, Mexican stations may use the special prefix 4B throughout 2010.

**PAKISTAN, AP.** Tariq, AP2TN has been active on 20 meters CW around 1300z and 15 meters CW around 1100z. QSL direct to DJ9ZB.

**FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1FJ.** Victor, R1FJM has been active on 30 meters around 0500z and then 17 meters around 0700z. QSL via RX3MM.

**TUNISIA, 3V.** A group of operators will be QRV as TS8P and TS8P/p from Djerba, IOTA AF-083, from April 27 to May 4. This includes a stop at Kuriat Island, IOTA AF-092. Activity will be on all HF bands, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via IK7JWY.

**GHANA, 9G.** Station 9G1AA has been QRV on 15 meters around 1600 to 1800z. QSL via PA3ERA.

**BURUNDI, 9U.** Paul, 9U1P has been active on 15 meters using PSK31 around 0700z. QSL via ON4LN.

**IRAN, EP.** Mohammad, EP4MRG has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1600z. QSL to home call.

**MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.** Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 1800 to 2000z. QSL direct.

**POLAND, SP.** Piotr, SP2QCW is QRV as HF2010WECK until June 30 to celebrate the "World Enduro Championship" in Kwidzyn. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL to home call.

**VENEZUELA, YV.** In celebration of Venezuela's 200 years of independence, special event stations 4M200AJ, YV200D, YW200A, YW200ER, YW200L and YW200T are QRV until December 31. QSL via operators' instructions.

**CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7.** Kaz, JH1HRJ will be QRV as ZL7J from April 27 to May 3. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

In other D-X, the long hoped for Jan Mayen DXpedition is now set for July 4th to the 16th of 2011 and will be lead by SQ8X. He and his group of operators plan to be on the air for 10 to 12 days with 2 to 3 stations. More details will be forthcoming later this year.

Six female operators will be on the air as OX6YL from the western edge of Greenland between September 16 and the 20th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. A Web site for this operation is currently under construction at [www.qsl.net/la6rha/greenland](http://www.qsl.net/la6rha/greenland)

According to a report from the South African Radio League, its again been noticed that some operators in IARU Region 1 have been operating outside the allocation of the 160 meter band. The low frequency limit in Region 1 is 1810 kHz. This makes it illegal to work stations in IARU Regions 2 and 3 who are operating below that frequency.

A DXpedition to Mozambique is now slated for October which will include a scouting Jamboree on the Air or JOTA operation from the capital Maputu. The group also plans to operate the CQ World Wide SSB contest from the city of Xai Xai. For more information on the DXpedition check out the web pages at [www.3da0ss.net](http://www.3da0ss.net)

V73NS who is just finishing up his operation from Kwajalein will be deploying to Afghanistan at the end of April. Neil told the OPDX newsletter that once there, he will have his radio sent to him. He says that he plans to operate QRP CW only. QSLs for his V73NS operation should be sent direct via W3HMK.

PG5M, has made available his story called the 'Pacific 2009 Ultra Light Solo DXpedition' in PDF format on the World Wide Web. Its 12 pages long and goes into detail about his activities and netting 13000 QSOs from Fiji, Tuvalu and Tarawa. You can download it at [www.dx.to](http://www.dx.to)

Word that S53A is now active from Zanzibar as 5-eye-one-S. This is his first holiday style trip with some radio operation as when time permits. He has been reported on 20. 15 and 10 meters mostly on CW. QSL via S53A, direct or via the bureau.

J15RPT, will be active as JD1BLY from Chichijima Island between May 2nd and the 7th. His operation will be on 40 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, Digital and the Satellites. QSL via his home callsign J15RPT.

EA8AY, will be active from the Canary Islands as EF8E. This during the CQWW WPX CW Contest on May 29th and 30th. QSL via EA8AY.

ND9M is active as VQ9JC from Diego Garcia for the next four months. He reportedly prefers CW but also works in SSB and some of the digital modes. He also hopes to get the special call VQ90JC by the end of May in time for the CW portion of the WPX Contest. QSLs go to ND9M either direct or via the bureau.

UA9YAB says that he plans to arrive in Mongolia on May 25th and will be operating all band mobile until June 2nd as JT9YAB using simple antennas and an emphasis on 50 MHz. If all works out as planned he will be find a location for a second trip for this fall focused 160 and 80 meter operation. QSL via UA9YAB direct only.

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## NC Section News

**NEW SECTION MANAGER** – This is my first monthly newsletter as the new Section Manager. My thanks to all for the warm welcome on nets, ragchews and at the North Carolina State Convention at RARSfest and at the Wilmington hamfest. We are fortunate to have had a succession of great past Section Managers. At RARSfest I spoke with three of my predecessors: Reed Whitten, AB4W; John Covington, W4CC and Tim Slay, N4IB. I value their advice and insight. Tim has agreed to stay on as an Asst. Section Manager and will represent me occasionally at events where I can't be present. However, I plan to make it to hamfests and

club meetings around the state. For Field Day this year, the eastern part of the state is next in rotation for visits from the Section Manager. I look forward to saying hi to old friends and making new ones in my new job, and above all representing your interests.

**NEW ARRL WEBSITE** – On April 13th, ARRL's website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) changed from its old design to its new one. This has been a three year effort transitioning 40,000 webpages and thousands of databases. An introduction of this magnitude is never fail-safe, so there are bugs,

but overall the new website will be more interactive and user friendly. Take some time and get to know it and its capabilities. If you see errors, please drop me an email and I'll forward them to HQ. Meanwhile, our dedicated section webmaster, Susan Langley-Jones, WA4AKB,

has been revamping the section's website. Look for user friendly changes coming up at [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org).

**FIELD DAY PUBLIC RELATIONS WEBINAR** – Wish you could get more media coverage and attention to your Field Day activities? There is a free ARRL webinar next Thursday, April 22nd, from 9:00 PM to 10:30 PM, and is open to all hams. You'll learn how to lay out a Field Day PR

calendar, invite dignitaries and elected officials, get Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on radio and TV, and how to use social networks like Facebook and Twitter to generate more visitors to your FD location. To register, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/932645064>.

Also, our section Public Information Coordinator (PIC) Woody Woodward, K3VSA, and his team of PIOs across the state are ready to help you with your FD promotional plans.

**STATE ARES™ MEETING** – The annual state ARES™ meeting will take place at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) inside the North Carolina Dept. of Crime Control & Public Safety at 116 W. Jones St. in Raleigh on Saturday, April 24th, beginning at 10:30 AM. All ARES™ members and those interested in ARES™ are invited to attend. Topics this year will include ICS training requirements, upcoming drills and increasing use of digital communications like Winlink. You can find the agenda posted at [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org) Talk in will be on 146.88.

**HURRICANE DRILL** – The 2010 Atlantic hurricane season forecast calls for significantly more storms because of warmer waters and a lessening of the El Nino effect. There will be a state hurricane drill beginning at 0700 local on Tuesday, May 4th and lasting through May 5th. Please

monitor the Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) on 3923 KHz and its secondary frequency of 7232 KHz for details.

**NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLUB STATION** – Congratulations to the new Pitt County Community College Amateur Radio Club, K4PCC, in Greenville. We believe this is the first community college club station in North Carolina. Hats off to Prentice Tyndall, N4BVH, faculty member at PCCC, for creating the club and serving as its trustee and principal adviser.

**MEDIA HIT** – The web version of the Raleigh News & Observer had nice coverage of RARSfest.

The story is at <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/04/04/420451/ip-ad-zings-but-ham-radio-still.html?storylink=misearch> RARSfest's two special guests from Kansas were quoted, Duncan MacLachan, KU0DM, ARRL's Youth

Editor, and his uncle Brian Short, KC0BS, who conducted the APRS forum at RARSfest. Both talked how they use social networks like Facebook and Twitter to promote Amateur Radio and chase DX.

**SILENT KEYS** – A sad part of my job is to announce operators who have passed on. Two prominent section Hams recently died. George Stentz, Jr., WA4OBR, of Greensboro was an avid traffic handler for many years and a fixture on many of the section’s nets. And we recently learned that former Section Manager Ian Black, WD4CNR, of Murphy passed away. Ian was section leader in the late 1970s and early 1980s when the title was still “Section Communications Manager” (SCM) before ARRL shortened the title in 1984 to just “Section Manager” (SM). Also passing this past month were Joe Malik, W4VGX, of Wilmington; Charles Audrey Clark, WD4PJV, of Raleigh; and George Brannock, WA4CQK, of Mt. Airy. We extend our sympathies to their families. If you learn of an SK, please forward to me a copy of or hyperlink to his or her obituary which I can forward to ARRL to document their passing in QST’s Silent Keys column.

**HAMFESTS** – May 8, Rockingham County Swapfest, Calvary Baptist Church, Reidsville, NC 27320 Website: <http://www.rcarc.com> Talk-In 146.85 (PL 103.5).

May 29, DurHAMfest, Little River Community Complex, Bahama, NC 27503 Website: <http://www.dfma.org> Talk-In: 147.225

**PUBLIC SERVICE** – Busy spring and a chance to show the public the good Ham Radio does. For more opportunities, please go to [www.hampublicservice.org](http://www.hampublicservice.org) April 24th - 2010 MS Walk

May 1st - CAM Relay for Life

May 22nd - Red Cross Ride for Heros

June 5th/6th - ADA Tour de Cure

June 26th - Chatham County Habitat for Humanity Charity Ride.

**NTS** – Checkins – 2875, Incoming traffic (Listed) 401, Delivered Traffic (passed) 357 PSHR (Public Service Honor Roll) – NC4VA 195, W4DNA 165, K4IWW 130, W4FAL 130, W2EAG 110, W4TTO 105, KI4YV 100

**ARES™.**

Number of ARES™ Members	1798
Change since last month	+ 1
Number of Drills, Test, or Training	69
Man Hours	872
Number of ARES™ Nets	112
Number with Liaison to NTS	112
Number of Public Service Events	2
Man Hours	45
Number of Emergency Ops	5

Man Hours	45
Total Number of ARES™ Ops	82
Man Hours	670

**LAST WORD** – With any change comes the natural thought as to things are going to be run, especially when a new skipper takes the helm. Several people have asked me how I plan to manage the section. I like what ARRL’s founder Hiram Percy Maxim, the original W1AW, said in 1927, “Everything that A.R.R.L. undertakes must be 100% for the general good. That policy has bred loyalty and confidence. With those two things an organization can prosper forever.” His advice is applicable 83 years after he first said it. We will argue and debate over how to structure Amateur Radio to be responsive, effective and fun in the 21st century, but have the sense to retain those timeless values which have made Amateur Radio one of the world’s greatest hobbies and public services. Always for the greater good.

CUL

73 de Bill N2COP

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ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Mr William C Morine, N2COP  
[n2cop@arrl.org](mailto:n2cop@arrl.org)

**SVHFS Conference**

The Southeastern VHF Society Conference was held April 23 and 24 at the Morehead State University Space Science Center in Morehead, KY, with about 75 registered hams. Jeff, WA3ZKR, the Conference Chairman, hosted a cookout at his home on Thursday evening for the early arrivals.

Friday morning started with several of the attendees setting up their 10 GHz gear in the hotel parking lot and making QSOs with Dave, K4TO, about 40 miles away. It was not a trivial path in the rain! The rain also forced the antenna range indoors, to a large unfinished part of the building, but tests with the standard antennas showed that the measurements were still accurate.

Topics of the papers presented include Frequency Measuring; Software Defined Radio; 23 cm EME; Test Equipment; Transverters and Transverter control; and a presentation by Marshall, K5QE, on the K5N grid expedition to EL58.

The 2011 SVHFS Conference is scheduled for April 29 and 30, 2011 in Huntsville, AL.

**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](mailto:W4FRA@arrl.net)

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**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

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**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](mailto:jimdugan@embarqmail.com), [W1JFD@arrl.net](mailto:W1JFD@arrl.net)

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**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](mailto:learyl@gotricounty.com)

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**FOR SALE**

ICOM IC-28H with manual and plastic mobile mount with speaker for transmission hump. TT pad on mike inop, PTT works ok, \$50.

Carolina Windom 40LP, the "low profile" version of this antenna, never used, opened to read instructions then put on shelf, \$50.

Les Zavadil, W4FRA, 252-446-7816.

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