

# THE AMPLIFIER

P.O. BOX 267

SHARPSBURG, NC 27878



|                        |                              |          |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| President .....        | Jim Lewis, N4PE .....        | 459-8003 |
| Vice President .....   | Bobby Griffin, NF4C .....    | 443-6695 |
| Secretary .....        | Wendell Peed, KC4UVT.....    | 237-8753 |
| Treasurer.....         | Lonnie Pridgen, WB4BZZ ..... | 446-3389 |
| VE Director.....       | Bill Thomas, N2BT .....      | 442-6131 |
| Newsletter Editor..... | Lonnie Pridgen, WB4BZZ ..... | 446-3389 |

*WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.com](http://www.tarriverarc.com)*

## NEXT MEETING

The June meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES** located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7 pm.

Please enter the building through the main entrance. Parking is available in front of the building or in the parking lot.

At the May meeting, Bill McDowell, K4CIA and Bert Carter, WA4TLI put on a very interesting program on Bill's 40 years of Amateur Radio and DX'ing.

Enclosed is a picture of Bill's QTH station from Bert. Thanks Bert for finding and bring Bill to the meeting.



*Bill McDowell, K4CIA*

## CQ FIELD DAY de W4DCG

The June meeting will be the last meeting before Field Day 2001. Will be tying up loose ends at this meeting and you do not want to miss it.



Field Day 2000

Field Day: June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Bridgersville Campground,  
Bridgersville, NC ( HWY 42  
East of Wilson)  
Setup: Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 6PM  
Setup: Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9AM  
Start: Saturday, 2 PM  
Take-down: Sun, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM

## FIELD DAY 2001 T-SHIRTS



2000 FD T-Shirt

Anyone interested in 2001 Field Day Tee Shirts this year? The ARRL Field Day 2001 is fast approaching, the dead line for the FD 2001 Tee Shirts is this meeting. We will need the orders

and money. Last meeting, we pass around a order sheet and we are still lacking the minimum order of 24. If you were not at the last meeting you may order at the June meeting or send me the order with the payment. All money for the Tee Shirts are due at the June meeting.

This year the color of the Tee Shirt is gray with red printing. Sizes are Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, XXLarge, XXXLarge and XXXXLarge (in white only. Prices are \$10.00 each

Please mail your orders with payment to:

Lonnie Pridgen, WB4BZZ  
P.O. Box 267  
Sharpsburg, NC 27878.0267

## ARES NET

Don't forget the Nash/Edgecombe /Wilson county ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) net every Tuesday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Please check-in and become involved in emergency communications training.

## VE EXAM UPDATE

Bill, N2BT

The next VE exam session will be Saturday, July 28th at 9 a.m. Exams are held at the JC Penney store, Golden East Crossing Mall. The exam fee for 2001 is \$ 10. Please contact Bill, N2BT, at 442-6131 for further information.

**Congratulations** to the following who passed exams on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Rick Hasal KF4NOV Element 3  
General written  
David Dixon KG4EQC Extra Class  
Robin Keller WA4WPD Extra Class  
Charles Gagliano Technician  
Melissa Winner Technician  
Dicke Whitley Technician  
Charles Vaught Technician

Thanks to Bill, NG4W, LLoyd, NG4V, Bill, N2BT, and Marvin, KD4NLX for assisting at the May test session.

## CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### *June*

4 Tar River ARC Meeting  
21 RMARS Meeting  
23-24 ARRL Field Day

### *July*

2 Tar River ARC Meeting  
19 RMARS Meeting  
21 Cary Swapfest  
28 VE Session

## Upcoming Hamfest

Bill, N2BT

June 2 Manassas, VA Hamfest  
June 2 Atlanta, GA Hamfest  
June 9 Winston-Salem, NC Hamfest  
July 21 Cary, NC Swapfest  
Sept 1-2 Shelby, NC Hamfest

## DX NEWS

Bill, N2BT

There are no major DX'peditions scheduled for the upcoming few months. Check the following web site for upcoming DX'pedition activity <http://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/adxo.html>

Several area DX'ers worked the recent 3B6RF Agalega DX'pedition including NF4C, W4LW, N4PE, NG4W, KD4NLX, N2BT, and WA4TLI.

## DAYTON HAMVENTION HOSTS BUOYANT CROWD

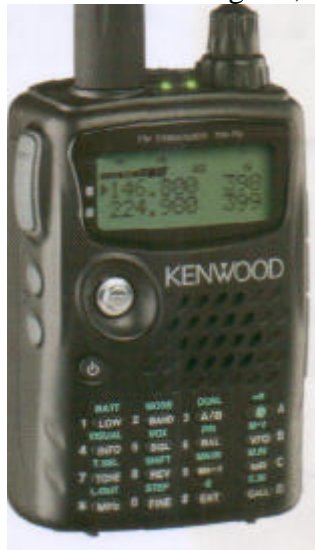
ARRL Newsletter

Rain on the opening day of the 50th Dayton Hamvention did not deter the crowd from having a good time. Show-priced bargains offered by some dealers enhanced the enjoyment, and the weather improved immensely on Saturday and Sunday.

General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, said Hamvention officials believe that between 27,000 and 28,000 turned out for this year's show--nearly the same number as last year. Graver said he was happy to see a good crowd despite higher gasoline prices and Friday's rain.

Unlike past Hamventions, major manufacturers had comparatively little new to offer this year. Among the most noticeable items were: The new Kenwood TH-F6A compact triband

hand-held FM VHF transceiver with wideband receive including HF;



Ten-Tec's long-awaited 6 and 2-meter all-mode transceiver, the Model 526 "6N2"--the Tennessee company's first factory-built VHF radio; Yaesu's MD-200 desk mike "for elite-class Amateur Radio operators;" and Alpha Power's Alpha 6/2 maximum legal power VHF amplifier--the first amp produced under the company's new management and ownership.

ARRL Advertising Manager John Bee, N1GNV, said he got "almost universally positive comments" from Dayton Hamvention 2001 exhibitors. "'They came to buy,' was a common refrain," he said. Bee called the number of new vendors at this year's show "an encouraging sign" for Amateur Radio.

During the ARRL Forum Saturday, Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "It's been great year for Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Things are moving in the right direction on a number of fronts." ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, echoed Sumner's sentiments. Pointing to his career in

sales, Haynie said Amateur Radio is "the best product that I have in my repertoire of things to sell." Haynie called upon those on hand to think about "the product" that is Amateur Radio and how they can share the fun with others. "I'm asking you to talk to your neighbor, I'm asking you to talk to your brother, your sister, your city council, your mayor, your congressman, and tell 'em about your product, which is Amateur Radio," Haynie exhorted.

Haynie presented a plaque to Graver in recognition of the 50th Hamvention. Speaking on behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and the Hamvention Committee, Graver thanked the League for its efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio.

Saturday morning's AMSAT forum included a telephone visit with "space tourist" Dennis Tito, KG6FZX. Tito told the gathering that Amateur Radio provided a great boost to his recent visit to the International Space Station. "The opportunity to do a phone patch five days in a row was a very important part of my flight, and I looked forward to it every day," he said. A planned ham radio contact with the ISS crew from the Hamvention did not work out, however. In addition to handling the Tito interview, Roy Neal, K6DUE, of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, also chatted with astronaut Janice Voss, KC5BTK.

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, not only was one of the Saturday banquet speakers but the highlight of the Sunday morning FCC forum. Playing to a packed house, Hollingsworth and

FCC colleague Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, reviewed regulatory and enforcement issues confronting ham radio (see below, "FCC to Amateurs: Detailed Regulation "Not in the Picture.")

Hollingsworth told the crowd that amateur enforcement complaints are way down. With tongue only somewhat in cheek, Hollingsworth said "California" topped his list of enforcement issues that keep him awake at night. "If it weren't for California, amateur enforcement would be a one-day-a-week job," he said, "and we wouldn't need most of the rules." Hollingsworth also cited "stupidity" and unlicensed 10-meter operation as other factors that continue to provide grist for enforcement. He played taped excerpts of contentious on-air amateur discussions to demonstrate his point. "There was nothing illegal--nothing against our rules" on the tapes, he said. But, he continued, their content presents a poor image of the Amateur Service to anyone listening in--and that could include the media, decision makers and the general public.

Graver said there are no current plans for Hamvention to move from the venerable Hara Arena. Dayton Hamvention's contract to use Hara runs through 2003.

## DAYTON HAMVENTION REVISTED

Bill, N2BT

Dayton Hamvention 2001 saw some of the lowest prices ever on new amateur radio equipment. The two biggest dealers in the United States were side by side in the main arena. Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) and Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) were ready Friday morning with stacks and stacks of new-in-the-box radios. On the average, prices were about 20 % less than last year. Here a few examples

ICOM 2100H 2 meter transceiver \$ 130  
Kenwood TM-261A 2 meter transceiver \$ 130  
Yaesu FT-90R 2/440 transceiver \$ 265  
ICOM 756 Pro HF transceiver \$ 2,095  
ICOM IC-T2H 2 meter handheld \$ 119

The biggest announcement for the VHF/UHF crowd was from Kenwood. A new TH-F6A 2 meter/ 220 MHz/ 440 MHz compact handheld transceiver. This little unit also is a general coverage receiver from 100 kHz to 1.2 GHz including AM, FM, SSB, and CW. Kenwood expects sales to start sometime latter this summer and will be priced in \$350 range.

# KACHINA EXITS THE AMATEUR RADIO, HF MARKET

ARRL Newsletter

**K**achina--which made a big splash at the 1997 Dayton Hamvention when it introduced its then-revolutionary 505DSP PC-controlled Amateur Radio transceiver--has quit the ham radio market. The Arizona manufacturer discontinued production and marketing of the 505DSP, its only ham product, and all other HF radio products and accessories, effective May 24.

Kachina Vice President Cameron Earnshaw blamed "the slowdown in Amateur Radio in general, and HF radio in particular" for the company's decision to exit the HF market. "Any radio selling for over \$1000 is a pretty hard sell these days," he said. The Kachina 505DSP, the first amateur transceiver designed solely for control via a personal computer, has retailed in the vicinity of \$2000.

"Unfortunately, the 505DSP was too expensive to produce," he told ARRL. "For that we have only ourselves to blame. Performance costs money, but you really limit your sales when you cross that \$1000-\$1200 mark."

Earnshaw said he does not know how the Japanese manufacturers continue to produce and market top-end Amateur Radio gear. He suggested they must be doing so "out of a labor of love, supporting the losses from other more-profitable ventures."

Earnshaw said Kachina will continue to provide service and spare parts for all Kachina HF radio products for the foreseeable future and will honor all factory warranties through their duration. Amateur Radio products remaining in Kachina's inventory were being discounted through Kachina's Web site, <http://kachina-az.com>.

Kachina Chief Engineer Doug Smith, KF6DX, said he's sad to see the product line come to an end. "Some might say that this is another blow to Amateur Radio, but I would say it is just an indicator of the need to adapt to changing conditions," he said. "The Amateur Radio Service should see several exciting developments in the coming years, including digital voice, high-speed digital modes, remote control and further improvements in so-called software-defined radios, to name a few."

Smith says he'll be moving on "to greener pastures," but will continue to edit QEX/Communications Quarterly for the ARRL.

