

THE AMPLIFIER

P.O. BOX 267

SHARPSBURG, NC 27878



President	Adam Ipock, KG4IWI	252 937-4226
Vice President	Robin Keller, WA4WPD.....	252 459-9345
Secretary	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252 442-6131
Treasurer.....	Fred Dunstan, K4FMD	252 443-3301
VE Director.....	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252 442-6131
Newsletter Editor.....	Lonnie Pridgen, WB4BZZ	252 446-3389
Web Master	Bert Carter, WA4TLI	919 467-4522

WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

Next Meeting

The May meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, May 6th** 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.

This month's program will be about ARRL Field Day 2002 planning and Writelog logging software training. You will not want to miss this meeting, especially if you are planning to operate Field Day this year.

The Field Day 2002 rules can be found at in May 2002 QST magazine page 108 or www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2002/rules-fd-2002.html

VE Exam

The next VE exam session will be Saturday, June 1st at 9 a.m. Exams are held at the at the Braswell Memorial Library, at the corner of Peachtree and Grace Streets, Rocky Mount, NC. Exams start at 9 a.m.

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 \$ 10.00 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

Dates for the remaining Test Sessions:

August	3
October	5
December	7

For additional information, contact Bill Thomas, N2BT, at 442-6131 or n2bt@arrl.net.

A question pool based on the revised syllabus will be released later this year to take effect July 1, 2003. The Question Pool Committee will invite public input on the Technician questions as well.

A new Amateur Extra class question pool released last November takes effect on July 1, 2002.

The April exam session was very successful. There were 11 candidates present and upgrading as follows.

- 3 Extra Class
- 2 General Class
- 6 Technician Class

Thanks to the examiners Robin, WA4WPD, Marvin, K4MLC, Lloyd, NG4V, and Bill, N2BT.

Club Activity Calendar

May

- 6 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 16 RMARS Meeting
- 18 Williamston SwapFest
- 17-19 Dayton Hamvention

June

- 1 VE Exam Rocky Mount
- 3 Tar River ARC Meeting
- 19 RMARS Meeting
- 22-23 ARRL Field Day

Upcoming Hamfests

- May 18 Williamston, NC Swapfest
- May 17 - 19 Dayton, OH Hamvention
- May 25 Durham, NC Hamfest
- June 2 Manassas, VA Hamfest
- June 8 Winston-Salem, NC Hamfest

ARES Net

Don't forget the AREA 7 ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) net every Tuesday evening at 8:30 p.m. on the following repeaters:

- 444.700 MHz N4JEH/R Rocky Mount
- 444.500 MHz N4JEH/R Tarboro
- 442.125 MHz KG4IWI/R Henderson
- 145.310 MHz N4WFU/R Roanoke Rapids
- 146.805 MHz W4DCG/R Rocky Mount
- 224.220 MHz NF4C/R Rocky Mount

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

NEW CLUB MEMBER

The club welcomes Roy Lincoln, WA4DOU. Roy has a very interesting biography. I hope he does not mind if I put it in this newsletter.

First licensed as WN4DOU in Oct. 1961, Conditional class in May of 1962. Upgraded to Advanced and Extra in the mid 70's when the licensing fees were dropped. First rig was a homebrew 6L6 crystal oscillator and an old Hallicrafters S-38 receiver. Have operated portable/mobile in 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th call areas and KV4, and /mm in the Pacific/North and South Atlantic, Indian and Arctic Oceans. Served in U.S. Navy aboard destroyers for 6 yrs. as a sonar technician (I visited 39 countries on 5 continents) and spent 2 yrs. at Sonar School in Key West, Fl. Employed the past 29 yrs. as a radio communications tech.

My ham radio passions these days include homebrew, antennas, DX'ing, CW, QRP, contesting, etc.

I spent many years using low antennas, verticals, dipoles, windoms, random and long wires, etc. From '97-'99 I got a taste of Extended Double Zepps, 2 Half Waves in Phase, and Lazy H's thanks to having tall trees at that QTH. Finally at age 51 I managed to buy my first home, and on an acre of land. Now my principal antenna is a Force 12 C3SS on a 52 ft. tower. It didn't make me a big gun but DX'ing is easier.

Technician Class Update

Bill Thomas, N2BT

Congratulations to William Lawrence, KG4STW, and Connie Batchelor, KG4STV. William and Connie completed the Technician licensing class

in April. Please take time to welcome William and Connie into Amateur Radio and make them feel at home on the local repeaters.

Thanks to Robin, WA4WPD, Marvin, K4MLC, and Bill, N2BT for assisting at the classes.

A special thanks to Boddie Noell Enterprises for allowing us to use their building for the classes.

DX News

Bill Thomas, N2BT

Upcoming major DX'peditions are listed below. For the latest information on DX check out the Castalia Island DX Association website at www.gsl.net/cidxa

April 30 - May 10 Baker and Howland Island KH1 www.kragujevac.co.yu/kh1/
May 10 - 15 Maldiv Islands 8Q
May 16 - 19 Castalia Island VX5R www.gsl.net/cidxa
May 25 - 26 CQ WW WPX Contest CW

ARRL's DXCC Desk now is down to days in terms of application turnaround time. It was not long ago that DXCC hopefuls waited in line for more than two months to get their certificates or updates processed. Now, applications are taking approximately one week. "At one time this past year, we were up to nearly a quarter million cards and about 2500 applications," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "This is a good time to send in your cards!" He chalked up a lot of the earlier activity to the

popularity of the DXCC Challenge <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/listings/index.html#challenge>>. According to Mills, the DXCC workload shot up during 2001 by 60% or more over the previous year.

The basic ARRL DXCC is awarded to amateurs who submit confirmation for contacts with 100 or more "entities" (formerly called "countries") on the DXCC List

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/list_1a0.html>.

The DXCC Challenge evolved from the work of the DXCC 2000 Committee, which reviewed the DXCC program and recommended some changes. The revised rules that went into effect in 1998 included additional single-band DXCC awards, which have proven very popular in themselves. The DXCC Challenge grew out of that initiative as an overall competitive award for DXCC. At one point, DXCC awards trailed applications by nearly 12 weeks. Mills attributes the much shorter DXCC wait now primarily to the fact that additional staff members were brought aboard last summer. It also has helped that the DXCC Challenge application bulge for 2001 passed through the pipeline as the DXCC "season" ended last September. "We've been able to catch up," Mills said, despite the fact that application volume remains at about the same level as it was during the first quarter of 2001.

On a related note, Mills said the DXCC Desk will begin offering the last of the single-band DXCC awards--for 30 meters. An official announcement is pending, but it's expected the new award

will debut October 1, 2002. Those planning to participate may send cards now to get a leg up on the new award.

ARRL to PROCESS LICENSE RENEWALS

Bill Thomas, N2BT

(Note: Still confused with how to file for license renewal or address change ? Here is your answer ! Application forms NCVEC 605 will be available at the club meeting for those who need them.)

ARRL will process members' license renewals, address changes: ARRL members daunted by the FCC's Universal Licensing System

<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>>

Members can ask Headquarters to file their license renewal or change-of-address applications free of charge. ARRL members wishing to take advantage of this service should download Form NCVEC 605 (that's the form used by volunteer exam coordinators) from the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/ncvec605c.pdf>>

print it, fill it in and mail it to ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. The response of those wanting ARRL to process renewals has been very positive. For the first three months of 2002, ARRL handled 1721 applications for members--up from 514 for the same period in 2001. The ARRL VEC staff now can process any member's FCC license application request, except for a

vanity call sign application. Remember: Renewal applications may only be filed within 90 days of your license expiration date.

FCC NOTIFICATION LEADS TO SHUTDOWN OF UNCOORDINATED REPEATER

Bill Thomas, N2BT

An uncoordinated North Carolina repeater has been taken off the air as a result of a letter from the FCC to the repeater's owner. The FCC this month followed up on complaints registered last fall that an uncoordinated repeater on 147.030 MHz was interfering with a coordinated repeater, KU4OL, on the same frequency pair.

The FCC ordered the NY4X repeater shut down until the owner either obtains coordination or submits "a detailed, specific plan" to the FCC to prevent interference to KU4OL. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth on March 1 warned that failure to shut down the NY4X repeater could result in enforcement action, up to and including a fine and license revocation proceedings.

John A. Parker Jr, AG4AZ, owns and operates the repeater which, with permission, had identified using the call sign of Richard E. Howell, NY4X. In letters to both, Hollingsworth recounted allegations that the NY4X repeater "often keys up even if there are no legitimate communications on it" and that some users "deliberately interfere with the KU4OL repeater."

In a letter last November, Hollingsworth reminded Parker that §97.205 of the FCC's Amateur Service rules require that, in cases where an uncoordinated repeater is interfering with a coordinated machine, "the licensee of the uncoordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference." Parker conceded in responses to the FCC that the NY4X repeater was not coordinated but that he was attempting to obtain coordination from the SouthEastern Repeater Association (SERA) on 145.23 MHz. When the repeater still was not coordinated in February, the FCC gave Parker until the end of the month to remedy the situation or face FCC sanctions. Hollingsworth told ARRL that Parker opted to shut down the machine.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

This drawing by Marvin Catlett, K4MLC comes from an audio mixer that Bobby Griffin, NF4C uses to mix audio from his HF rig and 2 meter rig. He is able to monitor both radios wearing head phones. Bobby had constructed this mixer several years ago. Marvin added a volume control to adjust the volume. It mixes audio from a HF rig and a VHF or UHF rig so that head phones can be used and monitor two radios.

Any questions, give Marvin a call or drop him a e-mail.

Don't forget to check out the Club's Web Site www.tarriverarc.com.

