



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

June 2004

President	Robin Keller, WA4WPD	252-459-9345
Vice President	Bill Fairley, WA4TCC	252-977-1477
Secretary	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252-442-6131
Treasurer	Fred Winner, KE4LXW	252-459-4332
VE Director	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252-442-6131
Newsletter Editor	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816
Web Master	Bert Carter, WA4TLI	919-467-4522

WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

Next Meeting

The June meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, June 7, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Please enter the building through the main entrance. Parking is available in front of the building or in the parking lot. The June program will continue our Field Day planning.

2004 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2004 as follows:

June 5	October 2
August 7	December 4

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 \$12 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club web site at www.TarRiverARC.com or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT
VE Team Coordinator
Rocky Mount, NC
(252)-442-6131
Email: N2BT@arrl.net

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Well, it's June. This is the last newsletter before Field Day 2004.

First an update on BPL. Lots of folks (including yours truly) sent comments to the FCC. If you want to view any of them go the FCC's search web page http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi. Then key in 04-37 in the first block (proceeding). This should give you lots to look at. The jury is still out on this issue. It seems that the major study on BPL interference by the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) did not come out until six days before the official comment period ended. To make matters worse, no-one knew until after the study was released that it was only phase ONE of a TWO phase study. Needless to say this has caused a minor up roar.

The date for filing comments is now over. If you want to learn more about BPL please refer to the ARRL. They have lots of data on their web pages.

I would like to encourage everyone to contact your elected officials. Ask them to request the FCC to delay actions on BPL until after the NTIA study is completed and examined.

The letter requesting access to all Tar River Amateur Radio Club Internet resources has been sent. Hopefully a response will be in hand by the June meeting.

Now on to Field Day.

We have confirmations on the following:

- Use of the Boddie-Noell front and side lawn.
- One 72 foot boom truck.
- One self contained RV with generator.
- One camper.
- One large tent.
- One Red Cross canteen trailer.
- Three stations with power supplies.
- One Carolina Windom 160.
- One Carolina Windom 80.
- One 160 meter Dipole.
- One full size 160 meter vertical with helium support.
- One 80 Meter Dipole.
- One SteppIR with rotor.
- One 40 meter rotatable Dipole assembled and tested.
- Two 5kw generators.
- 400 feet of coax.
- One superb cw op.
- One six meter through 70cm station.

Red Cross official.

We are still working on:

- One 30 foot boom truck.
- Another camper.
- More cw ops.
- Another RV
- Two more stations.
- Press release.
- Elected officials.
- Food.
- Post cards.
- Extension cords.
- Generator distribution box.
- Coax switches.

What we need:

- Volunteers to help Friday afternoon.
- Operators.
- One volunteer to send NTC message to W4CC.
- Operators.
- One volunteer to send five NTC messages out of NC.
- Operators.
- Driver to pick up KF4NOV at 3am(?). I'll verify the time.
- Operators.

Just a few more comments.

We might be able to use the bath room facilities at BNE. If not a porta potty will be provided.

There are suggestions to run 4A, 5A or 2A this year. These will be discussed at the June meeting.

There will not be a tower this year. With the 72foot boom truck this will not be needed.

John Covington (W4CC) will be touring Eastern NC this year. I have already sent an invitation to him.

I have also sent an invitation to Tom Brown (N4TAB).

Let's all come to the meeting. Any and all ideas are welcome. See y'all there.

2004 Club Dues

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club dues were due in January. Full Membership is \$15 and Family Full is \$6 each. Associate Membership dues are \$10 and are for Non-licensed persons only.

Please make check payable to the TRARC, and bring to the April meeting or mail to Fred Winner, the club's treasurer.

Weekly ARES Net

The Northern Coastal Plain ARES net, covering Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, and Wilson counties, meets Tuesday nights at 8:30 p.m. on 145.290 MHz, 146.805 MHz, 146.745 MHz, 224.220 MHz, 444.500 MHz, 444.700 MHz, 442.125 MHz and 443.700 MHz repeaters. Check into the net, participate in ARES training, and enjoy the informal rag-chew afterwards.

Upcoming Hamfests

June 5 – Winston Salem, NC
 June 6 – Manassas, VA
 June 12 – Franklin, VA (tentative)
 June 19 – Chester, SC
 June 20 – Frederick, MD
 July 3 – Salisbury, NC
 July 17 – Cary, NC
 July 24 – Waynesville, NC
 July 25 – Timonium, MD
 July 31 – Roanoke, VA
 Aug. 1 – Berryville, VA
 Aug. 14 – Fayetteville, NC

Contests

June 4-7 – QRP TAC Contest
 June 4-7 – World Wide Major Six Club Contest
 June 4-7 – IARU Region I Field Day - CW
 June 12-14 – ANARTS RTTY/Digital Contest
 June 12-14 – ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 12-14 – Asia-Pacific Sprint
 June 12-14 – WW South America CW Contest
 June 19-20 – Kids Day
 June 19-20 – WV QSO Party
 June 19-20 – All Asian DX Contest
 June 19-20 – SMIRK QSO Party
 June 19-20 – Quebec QSO Party
 June 26-27 – FIELD DAY

ARRL Dues

When you receive your dues notice from ARRL, pay your dues through the club so the club gets credit. Make the check to: Tar River Amateur Radio Club and send it to Fred, KE4LXW, or give it to him at a meeting.

Restructuring

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has assured US representatives Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), and Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), that the Commission will act "as expeditiously as possible" on Amateur Radio restructuring. Walden and Ross wrote Powell a month ago to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place. Powell said the League's petition was one of many.

"At this time, the Commission staff is reviewing and analyzing carefully all of the petitions, comments and proposed rule changes in this area," Powell responded May 21. "Because this matter is of great importance to you and the almost 700,000 amateur radio operators nationwide, the staff is working diligently to create a comprehensive solution to address the proposals the petitioners have submitted." The next step in the process, he said, will be to prepare a notice of proposed rule making for the Commission's consideration.

In addition to the League's filing, Powell pointed out, the Commission received 17 other petitions for rule making that address examination requirements and operating privileges for Amateur Service licensees. The various proposals attracted more than 5000 comments, he noted--more than 800 of them on the ARRL's petition alone.

In their letter to Powell, Walden and Ross expressed their belief that the ARRL's plan "will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country."

Other restructuring plans were filed by the Radio Amateur Foundation, RM-10868, and by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10870.

Fifteen other petitions for rule making came down on one side or the other of retaining the Amateur Radio Morse code examination requirement to operate on HF. Judging from Powell's letter to Walden and Ross, the FCC plans

to address all 18 petitions within the framework of a single rule making proceeding.

BPL

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, headed an ARRL delegation during a May 20 White House visit to discuss concerns about broadband over power line (BPL). Haynie, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met with Richard Russell, the White House associate director for technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The ARRL officials asked the Bush administration to heed its own experts at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and back away from its support of BPL in favor of less troublesome technologies. The NTIA's Phase 1 BPL study acknowledged BPL as an interference source. Haynie said the meeting was both revealing and encouraging.

"He assured us that based on the NTIA report, the interference issues would be addressed," Haynie said. "That was one of our main purposes for being there." Haynie said, however, that he remains "absolutely" convinced that a political agenda is driving the BPL proceeding. Russell told the ARRL contingent that the administration is "very excited" about BPL and is committed to finding ways to make it work.

Imlay said the League's problems were not with broadband access but with the "rush-to-judgment" approach the FCC seems to be taking in the BPL proceeding. As one example, he cited the timing between the release of the extensive NTIA study and the comment deadline on the BPL proceeding just a few days later. The Commission denied requests from the ARRL and others to extend the comment deadline. While somewhat sympathetic, Russell suggested that his office was in less of a position to influence the FCC than it was the NTIA.

After Rinaldo presented some of the ARRL's BPL interference test findings, Russell asked the League to provide a breakdown of the BPL systems and providers manifesting both lesser and greater degrees of interference.

Rinaldo also told Russell that representatives of the BPL industry have been double-talking their way around interference claims. Imlay pointed out that the FCC has yet to address dozens of BPL-related interference complaints from amateurs.

The administration does not want a flawed technology to result from the BPL proceeding, Russell said at the session's conclusion, and he offered assurances to the League visitors that the NTIA would work to address the interference.

"We did get listened to," Haynie said afterward. "Did I leave there feeling euphoric? No, I didn't, but at least I have a better feeling now of the overall big picture, of where BPL's coming from, and I hope that I can take to the bank the fact that they're going to address and continue to address aggressively the interference issues."

Derek Riker, KB3JLF, of Chwat & Company, the ARRL's legislative relations consultant, arranged the meeting and accompanied the delegation on the White House visit.

The ARRL already has asked the FCC to put its BPL proceeding on hold to allow more thorough research of its interference potential. The League contended in its comments on the February 23 Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47 that the FCC's "overly aggressive timetable" to proceed with BPL deployment will effectively preclude the development of cooperative interference avoidance and resolution mechanisms.

According to an item posted on the ARRL Web Site on May 27, the FCC has extended the deadline for reply comments to the BPL NPRM until Tuesday, June 22. – ed.