



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

July 2008

President	Robin Keller, WA4WPD	252-459-9345
Vice President	Bruce Batchelor, N4XUN	252-823-1463
Secretary	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816
Treasurer	Fred Winner, KE4LXW	252-459-4332
VE Director	Bill Thomas, N2BT	252-442-6131
Newsletter Editor	Les Zavadil, W4FRA	252-446-7816

WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

The July meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, July 7, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The July program will be Field Day Debrief.

FIELD DAY WILL BE AT THE NASH COUNTY EOC IN NASHVILLE, SETUP AT 1000 SATURDAY, JUNE 28.

2008 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2008 as follows.

August 2

October 4

December 6

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 \$14 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

July. OK, it's still June. Les wanted to get the July newsletter out a little early, before Field Day. So, here I am wondering what to write.

Field Day is at the Nash county EOC. It's on Washington Street in Nashville. We plan to use the coax from the existing VHF/UHF antennas for HF. This makes talk in a little tricky. So, I'll be listening on 146.520 and 145.430 (PL107.2). If you need help holler on both.

The club plans to run 2F this year. Here are the rules for class "F".

1.4.8. (Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): An amateur radio station at an established EOC activated by a club or non-club group. Class F operation must take place at an established EOC site. Stations may utilize equipment and antennas temporarily or permanently installed at the EOC for the event. Entries will be reported according to number of transmitters in simultaneous operation. Class F stations are eligible for a GOTA and free VHF station at Class 2F and above.

a.4.8.1. For Field Day purposes, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is defined as a facility established by:

i.a) a Federal, State, County, City or other Civil Government, agency or administrative entity; or,

ii.b) a Chapter of a national or international served agency (such as American Red Cross or Salvation Army) with which your local group has an established operating arrangement;

iii.c) A private company EOC does not qualify for Class F status unless approved.

b.4.8.2. Planning of a Class F operation must take place in conjunction and cooperation with the staff of the EOC being activated.

c.4.8.3. Other provisions not covered are the same as Class A.

d.4.8.4. A Class F station may claim the emergency power bonus if emergency power is available at the EOC site.

1.4.8.4.1. The emergency power source must be tested during the Field Day period but you are not required to run the Class F operation under emergency power.

We meet these requirements. We plan to combine the VHF and GOTA. IF we get lots of GOTA ops maybe we'll split them. The radios will be one Icom 756PRO, one Icom 746 and one Icom 706MKIIG. The 706 will be sold after Field Day (that is if the purchaser

still wants it). I should get computers in my hand next week. Plans are to run the N3FJP Field Day logging program.

This is new for us. In years past we've been at some "remote" location. It was fun. But we need to work on new skills. Physically this will be easier. We'll be inside, A/C, running water, working kitchen. On the air, well maybe not. The EOC is electrically noisy. Just no way around it. We will be there during the weekend. That alone helps us (fewer computer's on). Along with a higher noise floor, the VHF station will have to compete with normal EOC traffic. Nash county runs VHF repeaters. Although the repeaters are a mile or so away, there are lots of signals being transmitted out of there.

Course all this is part of the learning process. Six meters should be OK. I need to find out if Nashville is still using their low band stuff. That might be a kink. But that's the point. We've never done FD from the EOC. We will identify opportunities. I have faith we will "work em out".

So everyone. Plan to be in Nashville 10AM on Saturday the 28th. We will set everything up. Should have plenty of time for the 1800 UTC start time. See ya there.

Don't forget the regular meeting will be on Monday, July 7. Boddie-Noell. Seven PM.

Upcoming Hamfests

July 12 – Salisbury, NC

July 19 – Cary, NC

Aug. 9 – Fayetteville, NC

Aug. 30-31 – Shelby Hamfest, Dallas, NC

Sept. 20 - 21 – Virginia Beach, VA

Oct. 12 – Maysville, NC

Nov. 16 – JARSfest, Benson, NC

Contests

July 1

Canada Day Contest

July 4 - 6

MI QRP July 4th Sprint

Venezuelan Independence Day Contest

DL DX RTTY Contest

DARC 10-Meter Digital Corona

July 11 - 13

FISTS Summer Sprint

IARU HF World Championship

West Coast Regional Challenge

QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew

July 19 - 20

DMC RTTY Contest

Feld-Hell Monthly Sprint

NA RTTY QSO Party
CQ WW VHF Contest
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush

July 26 - 27

IOTA Contest
Flight of the Bumblebees

2008 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the 2008 TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals \$6 per additional family member for family's.

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.

NC Section News

GOVERNOR DECLARES "AMATEUR RADIO RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION WEEK"

Governor Easley has declared the last week in June 22-28 "Amateur Radio Recognition and Appreciation Week" as part of our celebration of the 76th annual ARRL Field Day. An image of the signed proclamation will be posted at www.ncarrl.org and I encourage you to exhibit a copy at your field day site.

TRAFFIC HANDLERS NEEDED FOR FIELD DAY

Our Section Traffic Manager Dave Roy, W4DNA, is looking for experienced Official Relay Stations (ORS) to handle NTS traffic during Field Day. Stations will be assigned a specific time (every 2 hours on the hour for 30 minutes starting at 1400L Saturday until 1200L Sunday, on or about 3923 kHz) to receive NTS traffic generated by Field Day sites. They will then bring this traffic to the North Carolina Evening Net (NCEN) Saturday evening, NC Morning Net (NCMN) Sunday morning, and again to the NCEN Sunday evening. This will give Field Day operators an opportunity to bring NTS traffic to the system and allow them to earn bonus points for passing NTS traffic. Stations acting as NTS ORS's will get credit by handling additional traffic during the event. The Field Day rules allow 10 points for each formal NTS style message, up to a maximum of 100 points. If you

are interested in participating, contact Dave Roy, W4DNA at 919-778-8316 or w4dna@nc.rr.com for additional information. He will need to know the callsign being used and the time desired. Field Day stations originating traffic can use a regularly schedule NTS net or can try 3923kHz at the top of an even numbered hour.

EASY WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR FIELD DAY SCORE

CW contacts count twice as much as SSB contacts. If some of your prospective operators are a little intimidated by the CW speed of many contest stations, it won't hurt to get a little technological assistance. I've been playing with CW Skimmer, a CW decoder designed for contests. It's no substitute for the ability to copy Morse code (it's not that good), but it can be a good backup for you if the other station is running just a little too fast.

You can earn an easy 100 points by originating a radiogram to your Section Manager (me)! I will be available to receive this traffic via SSB on the North Carolina Evening Net on 3.923MHz at 6:30pm on Saturday, then again on the North Carolina Morning Net on 3.927Mhz at 7:45am on Sunday morning. You can also send messages to my packet station (N4IB-1) on 145.01MHz in Mooresville. I'm looking forward to visiting Field Day sites in the Western Branch this year.

Hold your event in a public location and earn 100 points. Send a press release inviting your local media outlets and earn another 100 points. A public information table at your site gets you another 100 points. Invite visitors to your site to help you originate NTS radiogram traffic and earn 10 points per message, up to 100 points. A formal educational activity at your site earns 100 points. There's also bonus points for visitation by public officials and served agencies. Youth participation also can add to your score. Check out the Field Day rules on www.arrl.org for other ideas.

FIELD DAY LOCATOR ON WWW.ARRL.ORG

A new feature of ARRL's Field Day efforts this year is a "Field Day Locator" on arrl.org. The web site includes a database of field day locations and these are plotted on a map. This makes it much easier for visitors (like me!) to find your field day locations, so be sure your Field Day operation is registered!

MEDIA HITS

The Winston Salem Hamfest received good coverage in the Winston-Salem Journal on June 15. The Museum Ships special event weekend operation from the Battleship North Carolina was a feature on WWAY-TV in Wilmington. Congratulations to our

Bill Morine, N2COP, our Section Public Information Coordinator for his brief discussion and photo op with FCC Chairman Kevin Martin. Martin was in Wilmington to discuss the city's early transition to digital TV. Bill spent about three minutes talking one-on-one with Chairman Martin and had time to thank him for the opportunity to be an amateur radio operator, and reminded him of the many hours of community service that hams donate for public events and emergencies. Amateur Radio also received good exposure during Hurricane Expo events in Wilmington and Elizabeth City.

The Charlotte Observer published an excellent article about one of our newest hams, Cameron Hasson. KJ4EDF. As far as I know, Cameron is currently the youngest radio amateur in North Carolina at age 6. Cameron and his parents Eric, KJ4DLJ and Beverly, KJ4EDE attended a licensing class sponsored by the Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club and received their licenses in May. Congratulations to Cameron and the Hasson family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28-29: ARRL Field Day
July 12: Rowan County ARS Hamfest, Salisbury
July 19: Area 13 ARES Meeting, Gastonia
July 19: Mid-Summer Swapfest, Cary
July 26: WCARS Hamfest, Waynesville

MAY TRAFFIC

N3BW 243, W4DNA 206, K4IWW 195, KI4YV 144, W2EAG 142, WA4OBR 76, W4TTO 59, W4FAL 50, KE4AHC 32, KC4PGN 23, KD4WAX 23, WA2YBM 23, KJ4WY 19, W3HL 17, W4EHF 14, WX4MMM 13, KD4SM 6, KD4ZPS 5.

MAY PSHR

W4DNA 145, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W2EAG 110, W4TTO 105, KI4YV 90, W1REP 85, WA2YBM 60.

MAY ARES MEMBERS: 1,829 (continuing to rise!!)
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; KLM Beam Antenna, KT-34A, 10, 15, 20M w/manual \$100; 5 Rohn 25 tower sections, 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

HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE

1. ROHN 50' TOWER (5) SECTIONS (ON GROUND) w/ tapered top section (good shape)... with Hazer w/top bearing, crank & cable, house bracket, and Hy-gain rotator with cable. Complete package\$500.00 (or best reasonable offer)
2. Commercial HD tapered tower (3 sections) and with tapered top (57'+/-)...\$300.00
Call - FRED WINNER 459-4332