

THE AMPLIFIER

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.com

NEXT MEETING

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

VE EXAM UPDATE

Bill, N2BT

The next VE exam session will be Saturday, September 22nd 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.

CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR

August

6 Tar River ARC Meeting
 16 RMARS Meeting
 18 - 19 Lighthouse Weekend
 (Currituck) K4UP (see
www.qsl.net/cidxa/currituck.html)

September

1-2 Shelby Hamfest
 3 Tar River ARC Meeting
 20 RMARS Meeting
 22 VE Exams Rocky Mt.
 22-23 Va. Beach Hamfest

Upcoming Hamfest

Bill, N2BT

Sept 1-2 Shelby, NC Hamfest
Sept 22-23 Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest

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.

Castalia Island DX Association Currituck Lighthouse Expedition

The Castalia Island DX Association will be operating from the Currituck Beach Lighthouse August 18-19, Lighthouse Weekend. K4UP will have three radios set up and operating around the clock Saturday and Sunday. They will be staying at the Piney Island Gun Club near Coinjock, NC.



Piney Island Gun Club

NEW 60-METER AMATEUR BAND

ARRL Newsletter

A petition filed this week by the ARRL could result in a new high-frequency band for US amateurs. The ARRL has asked the FCC to allocate 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis.

The League told the FCC that the new 60-meter band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters. "There are times on certain paths when a frequency in the 80-meter band is too low, and a frequency in the 40-meter band is too high for reliable ionospheric propagation," the ARRL said in its petition. The ARRL said the propagation gap can hamper communication between the US and the Caribbean during severe weather emergencies.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the proposal at its July 20-21 meeting. The FCC has not yet invited public comments on the petition. Even if the petition finds favor with the FCC, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

As proposed by the ARRL, amateurs General class and higher would be permitted to operate phone, CW, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power. No mode-specific subbands were proposed.

The ARRL said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve

substantial overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40. If the new band is approved, hams would have to avoid interfering with--and accept interference from--current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL's petition cites the success of the League's WA2XSY experimental operation in the 60-meter band, carried out since 1999, which confirmed its communication reliability.

"An amateur allocation in this band would improve the Amateur Service's already exemplary record of providing emergency communications during natural disasters when even modern communications systems typically fail," the ARRL concluded.

A copy of the ARRL petition is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz>

Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award

ARRL Newsletter

William Morine, N2COP, of Wilmington, North Carolina, is the winner of the 2000 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award. The annual award honors an amateur who demonstrates outstanding volunteer public relations success on behalf of Amateur Radio, and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the award's namesake, journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ--the first chairman

of the ARRL's Public Relations Committee. As an ARRL PIO and the PIO for the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, he has been racking up the media hits in television, radio, and print since 1997. A former TV news writer and producer, Morine has been licensed for nearly 30 years.

ARRL Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting July 20-21 in Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted a goal of legislative action to provide amateurs the same protections from real estate covenants, conditions and restrictions now enjoyed under FCC rules by home satellite dish owners and others receiving over-the-air broadcast signals.

Board members felt that amateurs should be granted the right to install an antenna having a visual impact similar to that of a home television satellite dish or other antenna that falls under the FCC's Over the Air Reception Devices (OTARD) policy. The FCC reaffirmed the OTARD rule in 1999. It prohibits restrictions that impair the installation, maintenance or use of antennas used to receive video programming.

The ARRL Board of Directors also endorsed the Logbook of the World. An electronic alternative to collecting traditional QSLs for awards, the project goes beyond simply replacing printed cards with electronic versions. Logbook of the World will make use of

electronic confirmations within a giant repository of QSO information maintained by ARRL. Digital security methods will ensure data integrity and authenticity.

The Board approved a plan to invite all International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 countries to take part in Field Day starting in June of 2002. This would expand participation in the popular annual event to include stations in both North and South America.

Susan Helms, KC7NHZ

ARRL Newsletter

International Space Station Expedition 2 crew member Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, is proudly wearing her ARRL Field Day 2001 pin in space. The pin was ferried up to the ISS on the recently completed shuttle Atlantis mission and presented to Helms by crew member Jim Reilly.

Helms not only has been an outstanding participant in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts, she also took it upon herself to run the first Field Day operation from space.

"We were so impressed with Susan's abilities on the air that we wanted to give her a little recognition for her efforts," said ARISS International Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

The pin came with a formal letter of presentation that cited Helms' "pioneering efforts as a Field Day

contester." Carolyn Conley, KD5JSO, of NASA reports Helms was "thrilled" to get the Field Day pin and glad to learn that her participation was appreciated.

Using the ISS US Amateur Radio call sign NA1SS, Helms joined in the annual ARRL Field Day fray June 23-24, working several dozen stations. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, has said that NA1SS contacts will count for Field Day credit, but they will not count for satellite bonus points.

SCOUTS TALK TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

They were happy campers indeed July 25 at the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Virginia's Fort A.P. Hill. That's because several of them got to speak directly with astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, operating NA1SS aboard the International Space Station. The approximately eight-minute 2-meter contact was arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. Various K2BSA youth staff members took turns handling the radio gear for the contact.

Following the contact, ARISS Operations Chairman Will Marchant, KC6ROL, who was among those observing, delivered the first International Space Station QSL card to the K2BSA staff.

An audience of about 200 Scouts and Scout leaders was on hand at K2BSA for the early morning contact.