



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

August 2004

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

The August meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, August 2, 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 August program will be Antenna Modeling Software.

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:

August 7 October 2
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.org or contact:

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

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Field Day was a large success. Let's give Julian KG4TTX, Marty W4MY, Bruce N4UXN, Tim KF4IIC and Adam KG4IWI a large hand for making Field Day 2004. Our score improved 33% over last year. Congratulations to all who participated.

I want to reiterate what I said in July's meeting. If you have any ideas for next year's Field Day, please send them to me. All ideas and thoughts are on the table. I would like to re-visit these in the first Field Day 2005 planning meeting.

Also note that there is a new Amateur Radio Satellite in orbit. It's called "Echo". Go to <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php> for more information. Maybe we C*A*N get a satellite QSO for next year's Field Day. What y'all say?

The agenda for the rest of the year is as follows:

Aug.	Les.	Antenna Modeling.
Sept.	Roy.	PL259 installs
Oct.	Marty.	Balloons / contesting
Nov.	Fred.	ARES structure
Dec.	all	Christmas party

Please note that September's meeting will not be on the 6th (Labor day). It has been re-scheduled for Monday the 13th.

Also we might want to discuss the location for the Christmas party. I would like to get it scheduled for Monday Dec. 6th (regular scheduled meeting date) if possible. Come with your ideas.

On a personal note. I have been asked by NC ARES to serve on a task force to improve ARES in North Carolina. As some of y'all know, I've been vocal about some aspects of ARES. I now have a chance to make a difference. I believe I'll be called Area 7 Assistant DEC. Area 7 contains Edgecombe, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Wilson counties. This happens to be the same structure as North Carolina's Division of Emergency Management.

Many of us feel the existing NTS procedures are very much dated and need upgrading. Our experiences during Fran, Floyd, Isabel and Ice storms have served to prove to many of us it's shortcomings. We hope to examine and learn from the experiences of others.

The plans are to start up in August with open idea discussions. So if you have any ideas, anything you don't like or suggestions to improve ARES and it's service to North Carolina please let me know. I expect these will be very spirited meetings. Maybe Fred will have some nice, new and "juicy" stuff for November's meeting.

Let's all come out for the August meeting. Les has some antenna modeling software to show off. If you have any questions, or maybe even a new antenna project your trying, come to the meeting. Maybe we can talk Less into plugging your antenna into the mix.

See y'all on Monday August 2nd. Till next note.

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

July 31 – Roanoke, VA
 Aug. 1 – Berryville, VA
 Aug. 14 – Fayetteville, NC
 Sep. 4-5 – Shelby, NC
 Sep. 18-19 – Virginia Beach, VA
 Oct. 10 – Maysville, NC
 Oct. 30 – Myrtle Beach, SC

Contests

Aug. 7-8:
 ARRL UHF Contest
 North American QSO Party – CW
 SARL HF DX Contest
 Ten-Ten Intl. Summer Phone QSO Party
 European HF Championship
 TARA "Grid Dip" Contest

National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

Aug. 14-15:

50th Anniversary Worked All Europe DX

Contest – CW

Maryland-DC QSO Party

Aug. 21-23:

ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest

North American QSO Party – SSB

SARTG WW RTTY Contest

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest

New Jersey QSO Party

SEANET Contest

Summer VHF/UHF QSO Party

Aug. 28-29:

Ohio QSO Party

TOEC WW Grid Contest – CW

Hawaii QSO Party

YO-DX Contest

SARL HF DX Contest – CW

SCC RTTY Championship

Hurricane Net Presentation

The following information is from Jeff Orrock, National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the Raleigh Office:

As most of you are aware we will once again run a Hurricane Net this season from the State EOC on July 29th at 7:30pm. [Arrangements are being made to transmit the net over the Tarheel Emergency Net on 3923 kHz, PCRN, and on the Echolink WX-Talk Conference and IRLP Reflector 9210 - KN4AQ]. John Guerriero KG4HDT and Tom Brown N4TAB have been coordinating this along with me.

Hams monitoring the net from home can get the most out of it by watching the graphics on their computer. I have loaded 3 versions of the Hurricane Net presentation onto the SKYWARN page. One link contains images of each slide (loads the fastest, the second link is an online presentation and the third is the actual PowerPoint which you can download and run on your own PC if you have PowerPoint. The PowerPoint presentation file is 15MB.

The Hurricane net files can be found at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rah/skywarn/> Last year's net was a huge success! – Jeff.

Tom Brown has started coordinating efforts to link communications systems including HF, repeaters and IRLP. Please email Tom (n4tab-public@earthlink.net) if you would like to link your system.

As a measure of this effort I would ask all operators who connect to this presentation to provide feedback as to the number of listeners, quality of signal and of course any suggestions or comments. Please send this feedback to <aradio@ncem.org>. Please feel free to forward this email to other amateur related lists to help get the word out.

John Guerriero/KG4HDT, ARES EC for NCEM

<jguerriero@thalescomputers.com>

Tom Brown/N4TAB, ARES DEC Area 7/Wake Co. EC

<n4tab-public@earthlink.net>

NC Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC:K4ITL. BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W. ACC: N4JCK.

Many thanks to all who participated in Field Day. I enjoyed visiting some sites primarily in the northeastern part of the state. I only wish I could travel faster or Field Day was longer, so I could visit more of them. I drove a total of 795 miles, so I was quite tired when I finished, but I had a great time doing it and was warmly received at each site.

The 2003 Simulated Emergency Test results were published in July QST, and once again North Carolina comes out on top. For some reason we were not listed in the top sections box for ARES participation, but if you examine the line scores on the following page, it shows we were on top for both ARES and NTS categories. Being on top numerically is always nice, but the most important thing it shows is that we participate in significant numbers, and that's definitely a good thing.

Some have been asking lately whether we need to continue to use formal traffic techniques over the air. The answer to that is most emphatically yes! Just consider how we communicate in our daily lives. Most of what we communicate can be done informally over the phone and via e-mail, but there is still a definite need for verified delivery of printed letters. Verbal contracts are fine for many situations, but how many of us would seek a mortgage or buy a house without a written contract? For some circumstances, there is no substitute for having it written down. The same applies

to disaster communications for Amateur Radio. Most of our tactical traffic can be handled informally, but most messages that have to be relayed through multiple stations and important official requests (such as a request for supplies) should be handled in a structured format (which for us is the NTS format) and should bear the signature of the requesting official. This gives us an audit trail, and provides additional mechanisms to make sure the message is delivered accurately and completely, without any introduction of extraneous content by the radio amateurs involved. For some messages, this is extremely critical.

Regardless of which method is appropriate at the time, it is essential that we always strive to be accurate. We have a "highly survivable" form of communications that we can offer to our communities, but if we cease to be accurate, then there is no reason for us to be used.

Attention club officials: there has been a lot of good information added to ARRLWeb's club page recently. Norm Fusaro, W3IZ ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Manager has been working to put up all kinds of information that will be useful to clubs to help them grow and provide interesting programs for their members. Check it out at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/>

There is also now an ARRL Affiliated Clubs Presidents reflector, with members exchanging ideas about membership, fund raising, programs and many other topics. This is open to club presidents, past or present, and VPs. Go to the webpage for more information or to sign up: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arrl_prez/

Upcoming hamfests: Waynesville July 24th, Fayetteville August 14th, Shelby September 5th-6th. Hope to see you at one of these events.

June Traffic: W4EAT 1364 (BPL), W4DAC 878 (BPL), WD4LSS 341, K4IWW 216, W0UCE 160, AA4YW 119, KE4JHJ 119, AD4XV 53, KG4OQA 49, W4FAL 24, WA2EDN 21, AG4ZB 16, K4BMH 9, WA4SRD 6, W4IRE 5.

June PSHR: KE4JHJ 135, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, AD4XV 120, W4DAC 120, W0UCE 110, KG4OQA 100, WD4LSS 96, N4JBP 91, W4FAL 82, AA4YW 80, K4BMH 72.

Lobbying

The ARRL Board of Directors has formalized a grassroots congressional lobbying program with an initial focus on BPL. Acting July 16 during its second meeting of 2004 in Windsor, Connecticut, the Board

acknowledged the need to "immediately begin a BPL grassroots lobbying campaign" this year.

To establish a coordinating structure, the Board created the positions of Division Congressional Action Chair, Congressional Action Coordinator and Congressional Action Assistant. The Board authorized the League's 15 division directors to appoint qualified volunteers to these positions.

Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who headed the Ad Hoc Committee on Grassroots Lobbying, sees the creation of a national "political machine" as a practical way to protect Amateur Radio spectrum. "We're going to use our members as constituents to talk to key legislators," Fallon said after the meeting. While the campaign will zero in on BPL in the near term, it eventually could expand to support bills dealing with spectrum protection with and deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and their impact on amateur antennas.

Fallon said member-constituent contacts can serve to open the door to later meetings between members of Congress or their staff members and League officials.

Under the plan the Board adopted, the Division Congressional Action Chair, one in each ARRL division, would be a cabinet-level volunteer with some experience in lobbying activities. There would be at least one Congressional Action Coordinator in each state, ideally selected in consultation with section managers. These volunteers also would be members of the director's cabinet. Working with the director, the Congressional Action Coordinator will designate and develop a number of Congressional Action Assistants to "accomplish the mission of getting the ARRL message to legislators," the ad hoc committee's report explained.

Fallon said the grassroots lobbying effort will fold into a comprehensive broadband over power line strategy, which the Board discussed at length but did not make public. The Board expressed the hope that the lobbying effort could be up and running by fall.