



# The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

August 2005

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WEB SITE: [www.tarriverarc.org](http://www.tarriverarc.org)

## Next Meeting

The August meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, August 1, 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 on Skywarn by Virginia Enzor, NC4VA.

## 2005 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2005 as follows:

August 6                      October 1  
December 3

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 web site at [www.TarRiverARC.org](http://www.TarRiverARC.org) or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT  
VE Team Coordinator  
Rocky Mount, NC  
(252)-442-6131

Email: [N2BT@arrl.net](mailto:N2BT@arrl.net)

## President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Hello on and all. It's August already. I finally got the Field Day stuff mail to the ARRL. I did the web applet. It sent me an E-mail telling me to mail the stuff also. I'll have copies at the meeting. I'll also get the numbers to Adam so he can update the web page.

Speaking of Field Day. I'm still waiting on suggestions. I've only had a few turned in. I really want the feed back so we can improve.

We had a great July meeting. Jeff from the NWS gave a great presentation on lightning. This month we have Virginia (NC4VA) on the stump. It's all about Sky Warn. It's on the normal Monday this month. Come out and listen to what she has to say.

I had intended to get the Executive committee together and present the final version of the constitution. OK, fuss at me. I didn't get it done. That IS on the LIST for August.

The FCC has finally put out the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235. They propose dropping Morse code.

This has been a highly charged arena. I'm going to add my two cents worth. I'm all for it. Dropping the code that is. Upset yet? Disagree? Read on.

I've heard all the dire predictions. I don't believe them. Here is what I do know. AM has been dead a long time, it's still alive.

Model T Fords haven't been made in a LONG time. Doesn't seem to matter. They seem to be everywhere. So here is one of my dilemma's. Mr Smith (not his real name) might be the best model T mechanic around. Do you want him to work on your car? I don't care how good he is on Model T's, 50 vintage chevy's or 60 vintage British sports cars. Does he know what current era automotive computer codes are? How bout PCV systems? Stability control? ABS brakes? Just because you're an expert in one arena does not automatically qualify you in all. Personally I want the guy with CURRENT qualifications working on my car.

How does knowing Morse code make you a better SSTV op? SSB op? The best way to make a good OP is for YOU to make it happen. Tune in the novice sub bands. How many CQ's do you hear? How many do you answer? I've tried it. I called CQ for hours on 80 meters. The only person that answered me started off slow. But when he discovered my call in his log (thus revealing that I was better the 5 WPM) he bumped me off. He seemed upset that I was wasting his time. OK,

what a great example. How many good CW ops are we getting out of this?

Do you want CW to survive? Become a mentor. Don't complain. Don't try to hold back progress, make CW come alive for someone else. Don't tell me CW is so much better than SSB, show me.

Look at what the VHF/UHF guys are doing with digital. Most of the digital modes are just grown up versions of CW (CW is the original DIGITAL mode). We should celebrate their successes, not tell them to go backwards.

Don't use the argument "I had to, so should you". That just continues the "misery loves company" theorem.

We need to learn from the past; not be held hostage by it.

See y'all at the meeting.

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## Upcoming Hamfests

July 30 – Waynesville, NC  
August 6 – Roanoke, VA  
August 7 – Berryville, VA  
August 13 – Fayetteville, NC  
Sept. 3-4 – Shelby, NC  
Sept. 10-11 – Gaithersburg, MD  
Sept. 17-18 – Virginia Beach, VA  
Oct. 1 – Rock Hill, SC  
Oct. 9 – Maysville, NC

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## Contests

July 30-31  
Flight of the Bumblebees – CW  
RSGB IOTA Contest

Aug. 6-7  
ARRL UHF Contest  
North American QSO Party – CW  
Ten-Ten Intl. Summer Phone QSO Party  
European HF Championship  
TARA "Grid Dip" Contest  
Natl. Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend

Aug. 13-14  
Worked All Europe DX Contest  
Maryland-DC QSO Party

Aug. 20-22  
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest  
North American QSO Party – SSB  
New Jersey QSO Party  
Intl. Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

Aug. 27-29  
Ohio QSO Party  
Hawaii QSO Party  
Kentucky QSO Party

YO-DX Contest  
Summer VHF/UHF QSO Party

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## 2005 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 for family's. Most have already paid and we thank you !

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.

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## ARRL 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.

I'd like to thank all who participated in Field Day this year. I visited 11 clubs, and received Field Day traffic from many more. Great job. I hope we can get good participation like this in the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test.

Tom Brown, N4TAB is now the Central Branch Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. Thanks to Tom and to outgoing Central Branch ASEC Tom Simpson, N4UCO.

Jim Rogers, N4FHM is now the Net Manager of the North Carolina Evening Net (3923 kHz, 6:30 PM). Thanks to Jim and to outgoing NM Chuck Wright, K4NYS for his service also.

Passing traffic is not hard, and it is necessary when messages must be relayed or are important enough to require that it be written and signed. Don't be afraid of giving it a try. If you are unfamiliar with the format, it's OK to ask for help or to ask for something to be repeated. Accuracy is more important than speed (that's true for tactical traffic also). Digital modes will continue to grow, but old-fashioned voice traffic will not be obsolete any time soon. Be flexible enough to work with whatever is available at the time.

We have several VHF traffic nets in the state which provide an opportunity for most operators to get proficiency in passing traffic. Our main traffic nets are:

Central NC Traffic Net, 146.82 (Wilkesboro),  
9:30 PM.

Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, 146.88  
(Raleigh), 9:00 PM.

Eastern NC Traffic Net, 146.685 (Grifton),  
8:30 PM.

Southeastern NC Traffic Net, 147.045  
(Lumberton), 8:00 PM.

In addition, there are many club and ARES nets on VHF which might offer an opportunity to pass traffic.

If you are interested in practicing traffic on CW, we have the Carolinas Slow Net which meets nightly on 3695 kHz at 8:00 PM. Speeds are typically 5-8 WPM. I should remind you that all of NTS Cycle 4 takes place using CW, so this is still a useful skill, and besides, it's fun.

Claude Chaffin, K4CWZ became a silent key just before Field Day. Claude was manager of the Tarheel Emergency Net (THEN, 3923 kHz, 7:30 PM) until about a year ago. Claude encouraged all net participants to learn new techniques, practice them regularly and to be ready in case they were needed. He will be greatly missed, but because of him, many more of us were ready when disaster struck than would have been otherwise.

I also regret to report that Jim Williamson, NQ4T of High Point became a silent key. Jim was manager of W4VEC VEC for many years; coordinating exams that many of you took.

Upcoming Hamfests: Western Carolina (Waynesville) Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>; Fayetteville Saturday August 13th. Shelby is Saturday-Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th. Hope to see you there.

June Traffic: W0UCE 390, W4EAT 350, W4UEF 331, K4IWW 259, KE4JHJ 148, WA4OBR 111, KI4YV 103, KD4KVG 94, W4IRE 79, W4DNA 75, K4RLD 66, W4LN 59, W3HL 55, KG4YNM 41, W4NCD 40, NC8D 37, N4FHM 37, KE4AHC 33, KG4OQA 32, KI4AHA 14, W4TTO 14.

June PSHR: W4NCD 345, W4DNA 320, KI4AHA 200, W4LN 195, NC8D 170, KD4KVG 150, K4RLD 135, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 130, KE4JHJ 110, W0UCE 110, N4FHM 110, KI4YV 90, KG4OQA 89, KG4YNM 80.

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ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: John M. C Covington, W4CC  
w4cc@arrl.org

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## 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.

## 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@trarc.org](mailto:W4FRA@trarc.org).

This is a preliminary list of the Items from WA4TCC's estate. There are more. When I get additions I will post. All Bill's items will be listed here first, then the Rocky Mount Amateur Radio Club liaison then E-Bay. Timing yet to be decided.

If you desire to bid for any of these items please send a message to me [mailto:rdkeller@nashvillenc.com](mailto:mailto:rdkeller@nashvillenc.com)... do not send to list (If you do...Everyone on the list will know your bid). Please specify WA4TCC Estate in the subject line and identify the item for your in the text of your message. Please include your contact information. If you desire to bid for more than one item, submit separate bids for each.

The highest reasonable bid will be accepted. That is, if an item is worth \$100, please don't waste our time by bidding \$5.00 for it. Please examine the list carefully. If it says "condition unknown" it means we are either unable or UNWILLING to turn the device on and test it.

There is no financing involved. All sales are final. Cash, no checks or credit. All proceeds go to WA4TCC's widow.

All sales must be approved by WA4WPD, N4JEH AND WT4S.

ADI AT-600 S/N 8350001047  
VHF/UHF dual-bander HT with external mic replacement battery by W & W Manufacturing Works OK One original battery - unknown condition Manual missing - charger

Aerotron External Speaker - Mobile

Hallicrafters S108 S/N 284925 / 29602  
receiver - unknown condition - Missing Manual

Hallicrafters S120 S/N 120000D 44309  
receiver - manual - unknown condition

Heathkit HD 1426 S/N 00816  
Field strength meter - unknown condition - missing manual

Icom TV-R700 S/N 03753  
video from a scanner unit in original box

Kenwood PG-5A

TNC data cable new in box

KLM multi 2700 S/N 93130  
2meter xmit 10 meter receive OSCAR transceiver - unknown condition - missing manual

MFJ 280  
compact speaker

MFJ 1278 S/N 3014854  
TNC, CW, and RTTY decoder early 90's model condition unknown - power supply - interface cable for unknown radio - Parallel cable - missing manual

Mirage B108 S/N 5289-1181  
Two meter AMP - condition unknown - missing manual

Realistic HTX 404 S/N 0075992  
440 HT - works OK - charger - speaker mic - missing manual

Realistic BTX 124 S/N 70200578  
commercial VHF business band radio - condition unknown - missing manual - charger

Realistic BTX 124 S/N 70200579  
commercial VHF business band radio condition unknown - missing manual - charger

Swan WM 3000 S/N  
peak reading watt meter has NC 963847 carved onto bottom - condition unknown - missing manual

Teletec DXP-L180 S/N 149  
VHF Amplifier - 6 meters - 15 in 180 out - 28amp draw - all mode - List for \$380.00 - wires have been cut. - condition unknown - missing manual

Vibroplex Vibrokey standard  
Ham Key - condition dirty

NOTE - These will be sold as a set

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Yaesu FV-107 S/N OC 030150  
external VFO

Yaesu FP-107E S/N OG 020594  
power supply

Yaesu FC-107 S/N OE 030700  
Antenna Tuner

Yaesu FT-107M S/N OE 050118  
160-10 HF transceiver - desk mic - Display malfunctions - missing manual(s) - no WARC bands

END OF YAESU SET

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Yaesu FTV 107/R                    S/N 040326  
transverter 430 MHz - new in box  
Yaesu FTV 707                    S/N 020170  
2 meter transverter - missing manual  
Yaesu FTV 700                    S/N 6K140050  
6 meter transverter - missing manual

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## Input Wanted

If you would like to see something in particular in YOUR newsletter, let me know. If you have an article of interest, send it to me. – Les, W4FRA.

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## ARRL Board Meeting

Following considerable discussion and debate, the ARRL Board of Directors has approved a modified set of recommendations to regulate the use of amateur spectrum by emission bandwidth rather than by emission mode. Last April, the ARRL Executive Committee reached consensus on a set of regulation-by-bandwidth proposals (which can be found [on the web at, http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html](http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html)) to serve as the basis of an FCC Petition for Rule Making. Following additional fine tuning based on hundreds of comments from the amateur community, the Board formally adopted a further-modified plan at its July 15-16 meeting.

The revised plan includes a stipulation that the League "will promptly undertake a procedure to establish a band plan to be utilized with the proposed subband allocation petition, and, until such time as that band plan is in place, the existing band plan will be in force." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, remarked after the Board's 12-3 vote that improved band planning is critical to the success of the League's regulation-by-bandwidth proposals and will require the support of the amateur community at large.

"I think it's fair to say that the Board recognizes that regulation by bandwidth is not going to work without a spirit of cooperation among amateurs pursuing different interests," he said, "any more than current regulations would be adequate without a spirit of cooperation." Sumner pointed out that under the current rules, RTTY and data enthusiasts may, by rule, operate in the low end of the CW subbands. "They don't, because to do so would disrupt amateur CW," he said.

Sumner said that if the FCC ultimately implements the modified ARRL recommendations, there's no reason to believe that amateurs will operate right up to the absolute limit of what the FCC says they may, any more than they do now.

The regulation-by-bandwidth issue dominated the Board's second meeting of the year in Windsor, Connecticut. After a great deal of give and take among its members, the Board ultimately okayed raising the maximum bandwidth proposed for frequencies below 29 MHz from 3.0 kHz to 3.5 kHz. A provision permitting the continued use of double-sideband AM with bandwidth of up to 9 kHz was retained.

Significantly, the Board also agreed that maximum permitted bandwidth should be defined in terms of necessary rather than occupied bandwidth. In addition, the modified proposal removes the exception for independent sideband (ISB) emissions and drops certain mode restrictions on Novice and Technician class operators.

The ARRL proposal would leave two important FCC rules unchanged. Part 97.307(a) says: "No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice."

Part 97.101(a) reads: "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice."

Per the Board's motion, the ARRL Executive Committee will review the final rule making petition, which will be filed with the FCC at the Committee's discretion.

The Board began work on the bandwidth concept in 2002.

In other action, the ARRL Board adopted a resolution to establish an ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) to address contesting issues over a period of no more than three years. The new panel, to be comprised of "exceptionally qualified and recognized members of the VHF/UHF community," will seek input from VHF/UHF contesting "public," identify important issues and "seek the sense of the 'public'" on those issues.

The Board also adopted five strategies to address improvements in the ARRL advocacy program and members-only features of the Web site, and review and analysis of ARRL programs.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, chaired this month's Board meeting. Radio Amateurs of Canada President Earle Smith, VE6NM, was a guest of the Board.

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## CW Exam NPRM

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to

obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the recommendation in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Changes to Part 97 that the FCC proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that had proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's NPRM.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose

scrapping the Morse requirement altogether, although the League had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140 already addresses some of the other issues petitioners raised.

A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.