



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

August 2010

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

Tar River Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday of the month (**except when it is a holiday**). The August meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held **Monday, August 2, at the Rocky Mount American Red Cross Offices, 326 S. Franklin Street**. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The August program will be FEMA ICS Courses.

2010 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2010 as follows.

August 7
October 2 December 4

Walk in candidates are welcome. No preregistration required.

Exams will start at 10 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
- Test fee of \$15 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
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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

It's August. It's scorching. I'm not working on any antennas. Matter of fact, I'm really glad the A/C is working. Outside activities can wait.

I've not done much hamming. I was going to work some of contest. However, personal issues kept me away. August look worse. Looks like it will be fall before I get much hamming in.

Congratulations on Fred (KE4LXW) getting the required ICS courses done. For those that don't know, Uncle Sam is requiring most folks to get four ICS courses before they can work at any EOC. I know some folks don't like it. But it's not our sandbox. If you want to be in their sandbox, you gotta play by their rules. Y'all remember the golden rule don-cha (He who has the GOLD, makes the rules). So with that understanding ARES is also requiring them. I'm not saying you have to have them. But, when the need arises, don't be surprised if you're ignored.

It sort of makes sense. In any emergency, most of the folks there are paid. Be it fireman, police or EMS. They are simply working their job. To us it might be a disaster, to them it's OVERTIME. We should never be in their way. That's really all the ICS courses are about. They want us to have the knowledge of where we fit. We need to understand that.

So speaking of ICS courses, the club decided to do the ICS 100 online course. Between the Red Cross and us we should be able to pull this off. We'll get the test printed, take the course and fill in the answers as we go. If it goes OK we'll tackle some more.

See ya at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

July 31 – Roanoke, VA
August 1 – Berryville, VA
August 7 – Fayetteville, NC
September 4 – Shelby – Dallas, NC
September 11 – Virginia Beach, VA
October 2 – Rock Hill, SC
October 9 – Pfafftown, NC
October 10 – Maysville, NC
November 21 – JARSfest, Benson, NC

Contests

Aug. 1

European HF Championship
South Africa DX Contest – Phone

Aug. 6 - 8

NS Weekly Sprint – CW
TARA Grid Dip Contest – Digital

10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party
ARRL UHF Contest
North American QSO Party – CW
Straight Key Weekend Sprint – CW

Aug. 11 - 15

CWops Mini-CWT Test – CW
Worked All Europe – CW
Keymen's Club of Japan Contest – CW
Maryland-DC QSO Party
Feld Hell Monthly Sprint – Digital
ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone

Aug. 21 - 23

ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
SARTG WW RTTY Contest
Russian District Award Contest
Silent Key Memorial Sprint – CW
North American QSO Party – Phone
New Jersey QSO Party

Aug. 28 - 29

Hawaii QSO Party
YO DX Contest
SCC RTTY Championship
Kansas QSO Party
Ohio QSO Party
ALARA Contest
South Africa DX Contest – CW

2010 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

It is the end of the year and Fred is now accepting 2010 dues payments. TRARC dues are Please pay early and let's all try to recruit one new member this year.

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 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.

DX Info

{TNX to various ARRL email newsletters and ARRL}

BAHRAIN, A9. Dave, A92IO has been QRV on 6 meters around 1530z and around 0330z. QSL direct.

ANGOLA, D2. Valeriy, UA0QV is QRV as D2QV. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Freddy, F5IRO will be QRV as J28RO beginning July 6 and is expected to be here for 2 years. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. His activity will be mainly on the weekends and around 1200 to 1300z. QSL direct via F8DFP.

MONGOLIA, JT. Ken, K4ZW is QRV as JT5DX from Zuunburen and has been active on 20 meters using CW around 1230 and 1500z. QSL via JT1CO.

NAMIBIA, V5. Derek, V51DM is QRV until August 4 and active on 20 meters using SSB and PSK daily. This also includes activity on satellite AO-51. QSL direct.

ZAMBIA, 9J. Katsumi, JF1OKX, will be active as 9J2KK from Lusaka until the end of September 2011. Activity will be on 80 through 6 meters, concentrating on the digital modes (PSK31 or 62, RTTY, WSJT and SSTV), with some SSB and CW. QSL via JK1NSR.

SARDINIA, IS0. Flaviano, I2MOV, will be active as IS0/I2MOV until the end of September. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters using mainly CW. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

PUERTO RICO, KP4. Members of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL) will activate special event station K4C until August 1 to celebrate the XXI Central American and Caribbean Games that will take place in Mayaguez. QSL direct to KP4ES.

CROATIA, 9A. Special event station 9A10P is QRV until the end of 2010 to celebrate the city of Djurdjevac. QSL cards will be sent automatically via the bureau.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q. Patrick is QRV as 9Q50UN and has been active on 20 meters around 1400 to 1600z and then around 2300 to 0030z. QSL via ON4BR.

TAIWAN, BV. In celebration of its 100th anniversary, special event station BP100 is QRV until December 31, 2011. Special event station BV100 will be QRV from October 10 to December 31, 2011. QSL via BX4AQ and BV2KI, respectively.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Luke, SQ9IVD will be QRV as EA8/home call from Fuerteventura Island, IOTA AF-004, from July 19 to August 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW, and possibly SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

BURKINA FASO, XT. A group of operators are QRV as XT2EME as well as XT2CVC, XT2LW and XT2HLV from Ouagadougou until August 2.

Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL all calls via HB9EOU.

RWANDA, 9X. Tom, DL2RUM is QRV as 9X0TL while on work assignment in Kigali and is here until the end of August or early September. He is active on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

Down the log a bit plan for S79K to be active from Mahe in the Seychelles during the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest on October 30th and 31st. QSL via G3NKC.

JF1OKX, will be active as 9J2KK from Lusaka, Zambia beginning through the end of September 2011. Operation will be on 80 through 6 meters concentrating on the Digital modes such as PSK, WSJT and RTTY, but there may be time for some SSB and CW as well. QSL via JK1NSR.

Members of the Czech and Slovak OM0C Contest Crew have announced another DXpedition to Gambia to take place between November 18th and December 1st. They plan to renew the call signs from their previous 2007 operation as C50C or C52C. The special call sign C5A has been reserved for use during the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. For more details and updates, visit their Website at tinyurl.com/334e79q

F4DBJ, will be active as 5R8HT from Madagascar between September 5th and November 28th. Operations will be on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via his home call sign.

DL4HG and DL5XAT will be active from Gozo Island between November 23rd and the 30th. They plan to be active as 9H3TX during the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via DL5XAT.

F2JD is back to Manilla for the next 5 months or so and is now signing portable DU1. He plans to be active on all bands and modes during his stay. He will also try to activate some Islands on the Air while there. QSL via F6AJA.

F5RBB and F0FRL will be active stroke TK between September 12th and the 25th. F5RBB will operate on 80 through 10 meters using SSB and some of the digital modes, while F0FRL will be on 2 meters using SSB. QSL as directed on the air.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Crozet Island, FT5WO, for the period from December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2009. If QSOs were rejected for this operation, send an email to dxcc@arrl.org with the date of your submission.

NC Section News

RECENT FCC DECISIONS – Late last week the FCC announced two decisions. The first was the long awaited Report & Order concerning hospital employees who are Amateur Radio operators participating in emergency drills. The ruling frees employees who use the CARES (Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services) system in southeastern North Carolina and those at standalone hospitals to participate in exercises up to one hour per week and in two 72 hour drills per year. The second ruling came from a federal appeals court stating FCC's enforcement of profanity in commercial broadcasting was arbitrary. It is not yet clear the impact this ruling will have on Amateur Radio activities.

FIELD DAY – Congratulations to the dozens of clubs and even more operators across North Carolina who participated in Field Day. For the first time in several years, 10 and 6 meters were open, and many locations had GOTA stations (Get-On-The-Air) for the public and new and inactive Hams looking for more experience. You can see the media coverage many NC Field Day locations received at <http://www.arrl.org/media-hits> Also, there are photographs of club Field Day pictures in the new "Photos" section at the Section website at <http://www.ncarrl.org/Photos/photos.html> and on Facebook at NC ARRL.

ARES – July 1st was the deadline for county Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) to finish FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses 100, 200, 700 and 800b. These officials have a 30 day grace period until August 1st to finish the courses and retain their EC and DEC appointments. Completion of this training is a requirement from North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) for ARES volunteers to participate in government directed events or for deployment to other municipal, state or federal assignments. ARES organizations in surrounding states are placing similar training requirements on their ARES members too. This training will result in higher professionalism and better response capability in increasingly complex emergency situations. What is being asked of ARES members is asked of other emergency response volunteers. Thanks to all who are stepping up to earn these credentials.

TEXT BILL – Several Hams contacted me with concern about the anti-texting bill in the state legislature and its possible impact on mobile operations. We are very fortunate to have an excellent State

Government Liaison (SGL), Bob Conder, K4RLC, who constantly monitors pending legislation and regulations. Bob worked with legislators to ensure the most recent bill would not affect Hams operating from their cars. The bill did not pass before the legislature adjourned. Thanks Bob for his dedication and vigilance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Public Information Coordinator (PIC) Woody Woodward, K3VSA, of Hillsborough has come up with two great ideas to get people excited about Ham Radio. The first is for kids who try Morse code. They can earn a colorful certificate called "Talk With The Hand". Woody's other idea has caught the attention of ARRL and that is stickers to pass out at VE sessions which say, "I Passed My Ham Radio Exam Today". For more information on these two programs or other ideas for promotion, contact Woody at twth@ncarrl-pio.org Woody and ARRL Public Information Officers (PIOs) around the section are available to help you or your club promote events in your area.

SUMMER YOUTH FUN – Looking for something for the kids to do this summer? Try the Echolink net just for operators under age 18 Sunday afternoons at 5 PM Eastern time. If you have unlicensed people who want to participate in the net so they can try out Ham Radio, remember that a control operator must be present. Sponsored by the East Bay California ARRL section, check in on KR6DD (Node 271122) or N6WN (Node 477737).

JUNE NTS REPORTS – QNI (Net station check-ins) 2,321. Messages passed – 569

STATION ACTIVITY REPORTS (SARs) K4IWW 484, W2EAG 367, W4DNA 211, WK4P 170, KI4YV 145, W4TTO 115, W3HL 113, NC4VA 43, KE4AHC 38, K8SKX 29, KC4PGN 24, WX4MMM 14.

JUNE PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL (PSHR) W4DNA 380, NC4VA 281, W2EAG 210, K4IWW 135, W4TTO 110, KI4YV 100.

ARES – Members – 524*; ICS credentialed – 121*. DEC/EC reports: 26 out of 100 counties *-numbers are lower than previous months because ARES management is working to authenticate members for inclusion in the new ARES database. ATTN ECs and DECs – if you're not filing your monthly reports, your ARES members aren't included in section reports.

HAMFESTS – July 24th, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society (WCARS) Hamfest, Haywood Co. Fairgrounds, Waynesville. Talk-In 147.390 (PL 94.8); August 7th, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society (CFARS), Methodist University, Fayetteville. Talk-In 146.91 (PL 100.0)

PUBLIC SERVICE – Check www.hampublicservice.org for opportunities, and please complete an ARRL Public Service Activity Report (FSD-157) after each event. These reports help document the service we provide to communities. Available to complete online at <http://www.arrl.org/fsd-157-public-service-activity-report> When you file a report, I'd appreciate if you could please send a copy to me at n2cop@arrl.org

LAST WORD- A new ARES era is unfolding – an era from which we will all benefit and prosper. At the state ARES meeting in Raleigh in April, ARES leaders made the decision and secured my support in requiring county Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and higher to complete

NIMS/ICS courses 100, 200, 700 and 800b. Some questioned why this was becoming a requirement. Actually, former Gov. Easley signed an order in 2006 requiring volunteers on NCEM assignments to have NIMS/ICS training. This mandate was not actively enforced, but it's time we join our neighboring states in elevating our professionalism as emergency responders.

Interaction with many government agencies dictates we have this training to be effective. 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina changed how government responds to disasters. Amateur Radio shone brightly in these two events, but we can't rest on our laurels in today's world. Increasingly, municipal, state and federal officials will demand to see NIMS/ICS credentials in emergency situations. They are asking no more from us than they ask of volunteer firefighters and EMTs. As grant money becomes tighter, those organizations with higher percentages of credentialed and trained volunteers will have a greater chance to receive funds than those organizations with untrained volunteers. 21st century disasters require 21st century trained responders. Former SEC Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, started the ball rolling for NIMS/ICS credentialing of ARES volunteers, and current SEC Tom Brown, N4TAB, is making sure North Carolina Hams are at the forefront among trained ARES members. Central Branch ASEC (Asst. Section Emergency Coordinator) Steve Misel, K4WEB, and Section webmaster and Official Bulletin Station (OBS) Susan Langley-Jones, WA4AKB, are assisting Tom with the creation of a statewide ARES database which will share NIMS/ICS training and availability of ARES volunteers with NCEM officials. Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AECs) within counties aren't required to complete the four courses, but any ARES member who wants to serve in a government assignment using the Incident Command System (and that's the overwhelming number of

assignments) will need the NIMS/ICS training. Thankfully, there are only a handful of ARES members resisting this training, and instead of being a burden, I hope they will welcome this as an opportunity. If a 20 year old volunteer firefighter can complete these courses, so can most Hams in North Carolina. This is the chance to show government officials and the public that Amateur Radio is not only engaged and relevant, but is committed to ensuring the public's safety in times of need. Training is a very small price to pay for the freedom and access to the airwaves we enjoy, and the ongoing support of all levels of government for these privileges. If you're an ARES member and you haven't finished completing your NIMS/ICS training, please do it now. We'll all benefit from your investment in this education.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Mr William C Morine, N2COP
n2cop@arrl.org

Vanity Call Fee to Decrease

On July 19, the Federal Communications Commission announced via the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will decrease 10 cents, from \$13.40 to \$13.30. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making August 17, 2010, the first day the new fee is in effect.

In FY2010, the FCC expects to grant 14,800 vanity call signs, bringing in \$196,840 from the vanity call sign program. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM), seeking to lower the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

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 – TARHEEL Model 10-80 Screwdriver HF Antenna with whip, 20 ft. control cable, and rocker switch control....(just never used much)....paid \$300+.....asking \$175. [KE\\$LXW@touchnc.net](mailto:KE$LXW@touchnc.net) Fred Winner, KE4LXW, 252-459-4332.
