



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

September 2008

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting SEPT. 8

Tar River Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday of the month (except when it is a holiday). The September meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, September 8, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Talk-in on WA4WPD repeater: 145.290-, PL Tone 107.2. The September program will be Build a Twin-Lead J-Pole.

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.

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

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President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

September. Wow. Two thirds of 2008 gone already. Let me thank everyone for the cards and flowers. My dad's passing gives 2008 dark marks.

Some business. The first Monday in September is labor day. So the meeting will be on the SECOND Monday. So please don't come on September first. Come on September Eight.

Having said that, we will be making twin lead dipoles. I have some twin lead I'm bringing. We are trying to find some more. We really want the cheap stuff. If you have any please bring it. I will have some old 50ohm network cable and some BNC connectors. Let's try to use all of it.

The Boy Scouts are talking about another merit badge class. JOTA has also been mentioned. I hope to have information from them at the meeting. Do we want to help again this year?

Don't forget, the fall contest season is almost on us. I plan on operating November sweepstakes (CW Nov 1-3, phone 15-17) and 160 meter (Dec 5-7). I plan to play with the CQ WW RTTY DX (Sep 27-28) and CQ WW DX (Oct 25-26). There are more. I bet Les will chime in on the VHF stuff. [See Contest Listing for VHF Contests in Bold - Les] I hope to have everything put back together by then.

Lastly. I'm changing ISP's. I'm tired of waiting for either DSL or Cable. I have satellite on order. It should be in before the September meeting. With that in mind. All folks using the Nashville address need to change it. For now use wa4wpd@arrl.net. I have already changed it to use my G-Mail account.

See y'all at the meeting.

Upcoming Hamfests

Aug. 30-31 – Shelby Hamfest, Dallas, NC
Sept. 20 - 21 – Virginia Beach, VA
Oct. 11 – Pfafftown, NC
Oct. 12 – Maysville, NC
Oct. 25 – Sumter, SC
Nov. 16 – JARSfest, Benson, NC
Feb. 7 – Charleston, SC
Mar. 14 - 15 – Charlotte Hamfest, Concord, NC
April 18 – RARSfest

Contests

Sep 1 - Sep 2

Labor Day Sprint – CW

Sep 6 - Sep 8

All Asia Contest – SSB

Russian Radio RTTY WW

IARU Region 1 Field Day
Ohio State Parks On the Air
North American Sprint – CW
DARC Digital 10M Corona
Tennessee QSO Party

Sep 12 - Sep 15

070 Club 80-Meter Autumn Sprint
WAE DX Contest – SSB
Arkansas QSO Party

ARRL September VHF QSO Party

Second-Class Operators Sprint

North American Sprint – SSB

Sep 18 - Sep 22

YLRL Howdy Days

ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

ARRL EME Contest

Colorado QSO Party

Scandinavian Activity Contest – CW

South Carolina QSO Party

Washington State Salmon Run

SE DX Club 50th Anniversary

QCWA Fall QSO Party

Feld-Hell Monthly Sprint

Classic Exchange – SSB

Fall VHF Sprint – 144

Sep 25 - Sep 30

BCC QSO Party

CQ WW RTTY Contest

CIS DX Contest

Scandinavian Activity Contest – SSB

Texas QSO Party

Fall VHF Sprint – 222

Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint – CW

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

SECTION SET IS OCTOBER 4

The 2008 North Carolina Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be held Saturday, October 4 from 8am to 12 noon. The test scenario will involve a major hurricane hitting our coast, causing widespread flooding along the coast and into the piedmont area. The mountains will also experience landslides due to heavy rainfall. Many portions of our state will suffer from power outages and communications disruptions. Less affected areas of the piedmont will have to deal with an influx of evacuees from other areas. The Tarheel Emergency Net will be active on 3.927MHz from 8am, opening immediately after the North Carolina Morning Net. We'll move to 7.232MHz if needed because of propagation. The Tennessee and South Carolina Sections are holding their SET on the same date and we will send liaisons to their section nets. I encourage everyone to hold their local SET the same day as the section event so that we can more accurately simulated a regional disaster. But local SET's can be held anytime from September to January, just make sure your results are reported to headquarters by January 30, 2009.

In last year's SET, North Carolina scored fifth in the nation for ARES activity and third for SET net activity. We achieved these strong results with only nine ARES groups and five nets reporting! This means we can improve our score significantly and raise our national ranking if only a few more nets and ARES groups participate! The 2007 results were printed on 63-64 in the July issue of QST. Don't forget that the annual SET is a great public relations opportunity. Your local public information officer or our section PIC, Bill Morine, N2COP (n2cop@ec.rr.com), can help with these efforts.

LIABILITY CONCERNS OF ARES MEMBERS

Many of you have expressed concerns about any personal liability you might have associated with your participation in ARES. Many ARRL affiliated clubs take advantage of ARRL's liability insurance program and this helps if the ARES event or activity is club sponsored. But not all ARES groups in our state work so closely with a radio club and I've been asked what other protections are available. Although I'm not a lawyer and can't give anyone any legal advice, I did want to share a response to this concern that was written by ARRL General Counsel, Chris Imlay, W3KD to our division director, Dennis Bodson, W4WPF. Thanks to Dennis for sharing this:

"ARES members can be reasonably assured that their volunteer activities in ARES on behalf of served agencies, if those activities are conducted in accordance with the ARRL's protocols for ARES operation, are protected to a large extent from liability exposure without any liability insurance at all. This is by virtue of the Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (VPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 14503, Public Law 105-19, Section 4. This statute, which ARRL successfully lobbied for more than ten years ago, provides that volunteers acting within the scope of their volunteer responsibilities for a nonprofit organization or governmental entity are not liable for harm caused by an act or omission. The volunteer has to have been acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization (which ARRL is, and which the ARES program is a part) at the time of the act or omission. They have to have been properly licensed, certified or authorized to perform the acts within the scope of the volunteer's activities (in the context of providing emergency or disaster relief communications, this means no more than FCC licensing in the Amateur Service, but ARES participants would be well advised to also complete the Emergency Communications Certification program that the ARRL offers). The VPA does not protect the volunteer from liability caused by the volunteer's gross negligence or willful or reckless acts that cause injury, but it does protect against ordinary negligence. Virtually all liability insurance has the same exclusions. Finally, the VPA does not protect against liability caused by the operation of a boat, car or aircraft, for which an operator's license is required. This exclusion is because if there is an operator's license, the vehicle has to be insured anyway, so there is no need to include this class of protection. If an ARES group does not want to rely solely on the VPA, they can organize and qualify as an ARRL affiliated club, and purchase the ARRL's affiliated club liability insurance. That plan, called the ARRL Club Liability Insurance Plan, covers lawsuits resulting from bodily injury and property damage at ARRL affiliated club-sponsored activities. That insurance is priced on the basis of the number of members as well as other factors such as activities and risk. The insurance is available, but only if [an ARES group] organizes into a club and has the requisite number of ARRL members within its roster (and the club would have to keep an official roster of members, current at all times, to prove their continued eligibility to remain an ARRL affiliated club) and do all things necessary to become an ARRL affiliated club. The affiliated club liability program is well-suited for ARES groups that are formally organized (that does not mean

incorporated necessarily), and those members of ARES who for whatever reason choose not to become ARRL members would still enjoy the insurance coverage, provided that the ARES group remains at all times an ARRL-affiliated club. If the club loses affiliated club status, of course, the liability eligibility lapses as well.".....from Chris Imlay, W3KD, ARRL General Counsel.

It's also worthwhile to note that Gov. Easley recently signed SB 1766: "An act to provide liability protection for private associations, private corporations, and private nonprofit entities and organizations when responding to in‑state incidents...". It's my understanding that this bill should provide some protection for us when we're working as volunteers under state emergency management, but I encourage you to read the bill yourself.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 28: Tropical Storm NWS Class, Shelby (see www.foothillswx.net)

August 30-31: Shelby Hamfest, Dallas

September 10th - Carolina Cycling Time Trials, Lowes Speedway

September 13th - Leukemia & Lymphoma Light the Night Walk, Raleigh.

September 18th - Leukemia & Lymphoma Light the Night Walk, Durham.

September 27-28 - MS-150 Bike Ride, Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

September 27th - ADA Step out for Diabetes Walk, RTP.

October 1: Carolina Cycling Time Trials, Lowes Speedway

October 11: Pfafftown Hamfest

October 12: Charlotte Crop Walk

October 12: Maysville Hamfest

October 18: State ARES Meeting, Morganton.

October 18th/19th - UCP Ride Without Limits, Triangle Area.

October 18-19: Scouting Jamboree On The Air.

October 18: Lung Strong 15k/5k, Cornelius.

JULY TRAFFIC

K4IWW 295, W2EAG 206, N3BW 164, W4DNA 135, KI4YV 106, KJ4WY 78, W4TTO 69, KD4WAX 62, WA4OBR 58, W3HL 53, W4FAL 41, KE4AHC 35, WA2YBM 20, W4EHF 8, KD4ZPS 7, KD4SM 5.

JULY PSHR

NC4VA 328, W4DNA 135, W4FAL 130, K4IWW 120, W2EAG 110, W4TTO 100, KI4YV 90, WA2YBM 70.

JULY ARES MEMBERS: 1,832 (up 4 from last month)

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