Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

January 2004

Happy New Year 2004

Minutes of the December 15, 2003 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
W8EH, KC8WOF, KB8WKL, N8DHW, KC8QQH, Brenda Bowen, WA8PRA, K4BQE, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN, Bonnie Helton, N8CLT, Ben, Chris, KC8VJD, N8HP, N8GGE, Mary Frasik, N8PI, AB8QP, N8OZN, N8HRA, N8EH, N8RYS, W8LKU, KB8ZMO, KB8VSX, WA8DTU, WN8I, KD8W, Judy Williamson, WD8DFK, KD8OH, N8NQF.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Ron, N8NQF. Ron asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ernie, N8EH, second by Elizabeth, N8RYS, to approve minutes as published and dispense with the reading. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
In Carl's absence the report he prepared was read to the assembled group, providing the details on the club expenses and income for November. Motion to accept the report by Don, WA8DTU, and seconded by Dave, N8DHW. Motion approved.

At the end of November, our membership stands at 125 members / 81 families with 28 members (17 families) having renewed for the calendar year 2004.

Repeater/Station Report:
Ernie, W8EH, reported everything was working normally.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU, reported that the ARES group will have a drill this Saturday. *[December 20]*

Classes & Exams:
Beverley, N8GGE, reported that Technician classes will start January 14th at Miami U in Middletown. Time is 6:30 to 8:30 pm. She has announcement sheets for members to post and asked all to work to get the word out.

Dave, KD8W, reported on the progress of the current General class. Dave also announced there would be an examination session next Wednesday (December 17) evening in room 13, Johnston Hall, at Miami University-Middletown.

Old Business:
The Auditing Committee, consisting of Dave, KD8W; Beverley, N8GGE; and Ernie, N8EH, met with Carl, K8CM, to review and ponder the 1994 through 2002 financial records and have found no errors or discrepancies. They will complete their charge by examining the financial records for 2003 early in January 2004. A final report will be forthcoming at the January membership meeting.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Barney, N8HP, for the committee and listed the proposed slate for 2004.

Nominations are: Art Frasik, N8PI; President, Mark Johnson, WD8DFK; Vice-president, Carl Morgan, K8CM; Treasurer, Ernie

Next Meeting: Monday, January 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Howard, Jr., W8EH; Secretary, and Lorie Urschel, W8LKU; Activities Manager. Following this report, the floor was opened for nominations.

There being no action from the floor, Ernie, N8EH, made a motion that the nominations be closed and the proposed slate be elected by acclimation. Motion seconded by Dave, KD8W. Upon presentation to the membership, the motion approved. Duties of our newly-elected officers will begin January 1st.

Ernie, W8EH, reported that *DIAL*'s contest score, for the Spring 2003 CQWPX Phone contest (at Art and Jody's house), was listed in the January 2004 issue of *CQ* magazine. *DIAL* scored 7th out of 7 in the multi-op/multi-transmitter class.

New Business:

Herman, KC8VJD, visited the meeting and displayed some call sign badges, available from ***hamradiosign.com***, that he can order for us. Interested members should contact Herman direct.

Carl, K8CM, reported that the ***Digital Symposium*** would be the second Saturday of January (Jan 10) at Miami University in Middletown. This will be the 18th consecutive year that the ***Digital Symposium*** has been co-sponsored by the *DIAL* Radio Club.

Volunteer help, setting up the Symposium, will be most appreciated. Please plan to arrive at Thesken Hall by 7:30 am on Saturday, January 10.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Art, N8PI, and duly seconded by Lorie, W8LKU. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Officers Elected to Serve You for 2004

President	Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice President	Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary	Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Treasurer	Carl Morgan, K8CM
Activities Mgr.	Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

Amateur Radio Class Winter 2003-2004

*(Please note, this is a **revision** of our originally planned amateur operator license instruction class.)*

A Technician Class offering of the ***DIAL RADIO CLUB*** will begin on January 14, in Middletown, 6:30-9 pm. Meeting in room 110, Johnston Hall, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, this ten-week class will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in Technician Class amateur operator license.

Instruction will focus on the written examination and will conclude March 17.

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, in Middletown, on Wednesday, March 24, and again on Wednesday evening, May 19, 2004.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

The 18th Annual SWOH Digital Symposium

The 18th Annual SWOH Digital Symposium will be held on January 10, 2004, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Thesken Hall, Miami University, Middletown, OH. Co-sponsored by the Center for Chemistry Education, Miami University, and the *DIAL* Radio Club, Middletown, OH.

Program will, again, be under the able leadership of Hank Greeb, N8XX. Details may be obtained by contacting Hank at

Check out ***http://www.swohdigi.org/*** for up-to-date information.
*This is an **ARRL** sanctioned activity.*

Dues are Due

By the time you read this, the due date for your 2004 dues will have passed. The *DIAL* Radio Club operates on a calendar year; therefore, dues are due by January 1.

To those of you who paid your dues prior to January 1, the *Club* extends a big **THANK YOU**. To those who may have forgotten, your prompt attention will be appreciated. You may verify your membership status by checking the address label on this *Newsletter*; if the date "2004" is not shown, then your dues were not received by January 1 and a renewal application is enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

Membership cards, and any new repeater codes will be mailed with the February *Newsletter*. *[K8CM]*

Ohio Section News

Welcome to 2004. To start, here are important dates for the Ohio Section this year, Sunday, February 8 - Mansfield Hamfest; Sunday, March 21 - Toledo (Maumee) Hamfest; Saturday, April 24 - annual ARES Conference in Columbus; Friday-Sunday, May 14-16 - Dayton Hamvention; Saturday, June 26 - Field Day begins; Sunday, September 5 - Findlay Hamfest; Saturday, September 11 - Ohio Section Conference in Columbus at the Ohio EMA Headquarters. (The Section Conference was not held in 2003 since the Great Lakes Division Convention was a week earlier. It returns this year - same place; same date).

OHIO NET NEWS: Thomas Carroll, WA8ZGL, of Cuyahoga Falls, has been named Net Manager for the Buckeye Net Early (BNE) one of two operating CW traffic nets in Ohio. The BNE (at 6:45 p.m. daily) and its companion CW net, Buckeye Net Late (BNL at 10 p.m.) both meet daily for the purpose of handling CW traffic on 3.577 MHz. The traffic is handled to and from the Eighth Region Net (8RN) of the National Traffic System.

OHIO SECTION CLUB NEWS: Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, is organizing letter writing through Division clubs (Michigan and Kentucky as well as Ohio) on BPL, Spectrum Protection Act and antenna protection legislation.... Just a reminder for clubs to check your Special Service Club status and Affiliation status and keep it up to date. Any new officers? Any news about your club? Contact Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, The Ohio

ACC,

OHIO SECTION REMEMBERS: Adrian Fallert, WB8GEW (SK) who for more than three decades made badges and other identifications for most Cincinnati-Dayton ham club members. He died in December.

OHIO SECTION CONGRATS ... (A) All Ohio Amateur Radio Operators in military service now serving in Iraq. Local clubs keep track of their members on active duty. Be sure to write them; (B) Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NM, of Cleveland, whose DX Bulletins on packet networks and other modes are known nationwide; (C) George Shaffer, W8NTX, of Hillsboro, recognized recently for his ham radio recruiting efforts in the 70s and 80s in Highland and Clinton County (Hillsboro) area; and (D) Kevin Halloran, W8KPH, Kenton, for his article in local newspaper about a three county emergency drill. An excellent media hit; it was called.

OHIO SECTION JANUARY HAMFESTS AND SYMPOSIUMS... (10) SouthWest Ohio Digital Symposium begins at 9 a.m. at Miami University-Middletown. Check the web site All day symposium on digital modes: no flea market; (18) Sunday Creek ARF at Nelsonville. More info? and (25) TUSCO ARC at New Philadelphia.

[K8QOE]

FEMA Says BPL Will "Severely Impair" Essential HF Operations

A proverbial monkey wrench in the works for BPL? Expressing "grave concerns" about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) told the FCC that BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology." FEMA responded December 4 to last April's FCC BPL Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104. Now part of the Department of Homeland Security--the agency said its primary worry is BPL's potential impact on the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) on HF. FNARS is FEMA's primary command and control backup medium under the Federal Response Plan.

"FEMA has concluded that introduction of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems such as FNARS," FEMA asserted. "FNARS radio operators normally conduct communications with signals that are barely above the ambient noise levels." FNARS HF stations, FEMA said, typically are in residential areas of the sort that BPL might serve.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA's perspectives on BPL could carry substantial weight at the FCC, which may issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making as early as February. The FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry has attracted more than 5100 comments--many of them from the amateur community.

FEMA said BPL also could render useless such "essential communications services" as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Civil Air Patrol. FEMA and ARRL last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding that focuses on how Amateur Radio may coordinate with the agency in disasters and emergencies.

Calling the HF spectrum "an invaluable and irreplaceable public safety resource," FEMA said there's no current alternative to HF in terms of meeting national security and emergency preparedness requirements at the national, state and local levels. The agency advised the FCC to beef up its Part 15 rules to ensure no increase in interference levels to existing FCC or NTIA-licensed communication systems. Otherwise, FEMA predicted, "any noise increase inevitably would diminish the ability to maintain essential communications" and would "directly impair the safety of life and property."

Likewise, FEMA pointed out, amateur HF transmitters could possibly interfere with and interrupt BPL service, leading consumers not familiar with Part 15 to blame licensed radio services.

Concluded FEMA: "The purported benefits of BPL in terms of expanded services in certain communications sectors do not appear to outweigh the benefit to the overall public of HF radio capability as presently used by government, broadcasting and public safety users."

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, ***www.arrl.org/tis/info/html/plc/***. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site, ***https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/***.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Announces Universal Licensing System Makeover

At week's end, the FCC was preparing to put a new face on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) ***<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>***, which includes the Amateur Service. The Commission was set to unveil the new on-line ULS filing interface December 14.

To implement the changes, the ULS on-line filing system will be down from 12 AM EST Saturday, December 13, until 10 AM EST Sunday, December 14.

Among other features, the ULS makeover will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most, if not all, major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. Screens also will be compliant with Web screen-to-voice reader software. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. The FCC said it would no longer accept a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)--a Social Security Number for most individuals--for log-in purposes.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site:
<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available Sunday, December 14, from 10 AM until 6 PM EST. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site *<http://esupport.fcc.gov>* or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255).

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail *<ulshelp@fcc.gov>* or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888).

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL'S BPL Study Imminent; League to Solicit BPL Trial Interference Reports

An ARRL-sponsored independent engineering study to accurately quantify the interference potential of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) is set to start in the very near future. In addition, the League soon will elicit interference reports from amateurs in communities where BPL trials are known to be under way.

"We're contracting for an independent measurement of potential interaction between BPL and Amateur Radio," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The study--to be conducted under the auspices of certified professional engineers--not only will examine and document how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation but how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems.

The ARRL-sponsored engineering study should be completed within a couple of months, Sumner said. The ARRL anticipates that the FCC could issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the proceeding (ET Docket 02-104) early in 2004. The FCC's Notice of Inquiry in the matter, released last April, has attracted more than 5100 comments--many of them from the amateur community.

At this point, while some BPL system trials are operating under existing Part 15 rules for unlicensed devices, other systems have secured FCC Part 5 experimental licenses that permit them to use higher power levels. In either case, however, FCC rules require BPL operators to cease operation if their systems result in harmful interference.

In a related initiative, the ARRL will be contacting amateurs in about a half-dozen US communities where BPL field trials now are in progress. The League will ask amateurs to listen on the air for any increase in noise level that might be related to the BPL trial. Sumner says it's most important that hams in trial areas who detect noise first verify that it is indeed caused by BPL before they document and report their observations to the FCC.

"It is important that each interference complaint be a valid case of actual harmful interference," an attachment to Sumner's letter says. "It is possible to misidentify other noise sources as BPL." Sumner says amateurs must carefully avoid "crying wolf" by filing invalid reports of BPL interference. The League suggests amateurs receiving the solicitation letters enlist the support of "a technically qualified observer"--an ARRL Technical Coordinator, Technical Specialist or local club interference committee--then submit a recording of the interference to the ARRL Laboratory for review and analysis.

The ARRL's solicitation includes a form to document suspected instances of harmful interference from BPL. Sumner says the League hopes the effort will result in a "body of technical evidence that will protect the Amateur Service from this source of potential interference."

In a related development, a California technology company this month wrote the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology to refute ARRL assertions that BPL necessarily poses a severe interference potential. Corridor Systems *<http://www.corridor.biz>* says its "breakthrough" BPL system, operated under existing Part 15 rules, uses frequencies in the 2 to 20 GHz range, will not interfere with HF and low-VHF reception and can provide up to 216 MB per second throughput.

"Corridor Systems has demonstrated a BPL technology which is completely compatible with the Amateur Radio Service and, indeed, with all users of the HF-VHF spectrum," Corridor's Chief Technology Officer Glenn Elmore, N6GN, said in the "open letter" *<http://www.corridor.biz/031201-fcc-letter.pdf>* that was copied to ARRL.

Sumner pointed out in responding to Elmore that ARRL only first became aware of Corridor's work in mid-October and that the League's comments were appropriate within the context of the FCC's definition of BPL systems operating in the 2 to 80 MHz HF and low-VHF spectrum. "The Corridor Systems approach deserves to be distinguished from the spectrum-polluting HF and low VHF systems, not only because of its much lower interference potential but also because of the higher data rates it can support," Sumner said.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site *<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>*.

[ARRL Letter]

Butler County ARES

December 12, 2003 a severe storm out break hit Butler County with gust front winds over 90 M.P.H. causing structural damage, telephone, power outages, lost police and fire communications, and 4+ inches of rain and snow mixed that caused flooding throughout the county.

Huh? When did all that happen? That was our drill scenario for the December 13th BCARES drill.

23 operators from Butler County ARES and 11 operators from Hamilton County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps and other amateur radio operators from area the tri-state area braved below freezing temperatures, blustery winds, and snow flurries to participate.

The Butler County ARES team and overhead staff thanks each and everyone of them for their participation.

The first goal for this drill was to make contact with every fire department, police department and 911 center in the county, to promote amateur radio and ARES, make them aware of our capabilities and to leave an ARRL ARES informational flyer with them that includes our contact numbers.

The second goal was teaching ARES members that participated, MAP reading by having to find over 70 agencies to distribute the flyers to.

The third goal was to test the amateur radio capability from each agency with both portable and mobile radio's, so we would know ahead of time what would be needed should an emergency arise.

The fourth goal, was to train the BCARES team the importance and functionality of the Incident Command System.

Fourteen of the BCARES team members took their rotation in an ICS position during the duration of the drill.

We would also like to thank the three members of Tri-State Search And Rescue that maintained the Staging Area, parking at the

facility, and directed arriving operators to the Resource Unit.

We thank the Butler County Chapter of the American Red Cross that had 8 people attend the drill and established a shelter for the "clients" displaced by the storm.

Red Cross also responded with 4 of the chapter vehicles with shelter supplies and their disaster assessment supplies for the five amateur radio disaster assessment teams that were sent out.

Our other thanks go to Dave Waddell from the Butler County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center for taking his Saturday off to allow our operators access to operate the amateur radio at the SO.

And *Starbucks* for donating the coffee that was much appreciated for this event.

At the debriefing, the consensus of all who participated was, "If you missed it, you missed a great learning experience!"

GREAT JOB by all! Thanks again to all that participated and that made this drill a success!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: ***www.qsl.net/n8tvu***

Foundation for Amateur Radio Solicits Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR), a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, plans to administer 59 scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year to assist radio amateurs. Comprised of more than 75 area Amateur Radio clubs, FAR fully funds seven of these scholarships with income from grants and its annual hamfest. The foundation administers the remaining 52 without cost to the donors.

FAR invites Amateur Radio licensees planning to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school and now enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Awards range from $500 to $2500. Preference in some cases goes to residents of specific geographical areas or to those pursuing certain programs of study.

FAR encourages Amateur Radio clubs--especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin--to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on Web pages.

Additional information and an application form is available by sending a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2004, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

[ARRL Letter]

New General Class Question Pool Released; ARLB069

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all subelements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices subelements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page at ***http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html*** in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3.

The Question Pool Committee now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

Commenters may address specific Element 3 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail at, ***qpc@arrl.org***

[ARRL Bulletin]

New ARRL Antenna Design and Construction Course to Start in January

If there's one thing that all radio amateurs have in common it's the need for an antenna. The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education program (C-CE) <***http://www.arrl.org/cce***> will open registration Monday, December 22, for its new "Antenna Design and Construction" (EC-009) on-line course. Signup begins at 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC). Registration for "Antenna Design and Construction" will remain open until Sunday, December 28. The class will begin Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

Authored by Ward Silver, N0AX, "Antenna Design and Construction" joins "Antenna Modeling" (EC-004) as the C-CE program's second antenna-related course. It will use the ARRL publication Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams <***http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=8624***> by Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, and Dean Straw, N6BV, for its textbook. Students must have a copy before starting this class, which takes 20 to 25 hours to complete.

Students who take "Antenna Design and Construction" must hold an Amateur Radio license to be able to complete some of the course's practical activities. They will become familiar with--and experience--antenna design and construction techniques. Optional antenna construction projects and experiments involving HF and VHF/UHF antennas of various types are available for the more adventuresome.

The registration fee for EC-009 is $65 for members and $95 for nonmembers, exclusive of textbooks and materials.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <***http://www.arrl.org/cce***> Web page and click on EC-009. For additional information, contact the Certification and Continuing Education Program staff <***cce@arrl.org***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting: Monday, January 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Ham Antenna Support Structures Not Migratory Bird Hazard, ARRL says

The ARRL has asked the FCC to specifically exempt Amateur Radio antennas and support structures less than 400 feet tall from routine environmental processing relative to their impact on migratory birds. In reply comments filed December 1, the League said there is no scientific evidence that antenna structures below that height contribute significantly to migratory bird mortality. An FCC Notice of Inquiry, WT Docket 03-187, released in August seeking information on the effects of communications towers on migratory birds, drew more than 250 comments. The League told the FCC that the migratory bird issue often arises at municipal land use hearings and in the drafting of ordinances regulating antenna structures.

"At public hearings before city, town and county authorities, those who are opposed to communications antennas for aesthetic reasons typically raise issues such as migratory bird mortality as one of several arguments" against permitting antennas or limiting their placement," the ARRL comments said. "ARRL's research into the scientific literature reveals that communications towers below 400 feet are almost universally considered not to be contributors to bird mortality."

The League said typical ham radio fixed antennas and support structures are located mostly in residential areas and range from 50 to 120 feet--although some may go as high as 200 feet. The ARRL said amateur antenna installations rarely go any higher than that because of FAA approval, painting and lighting requirements, not to mention cost and siting restrictions.

"The comments in this proceeding to date support the conclusion that communications towers less than approximately 400 feet do not contribute substantially to migratory bird kills," the ARRL said, adding that no regulatory action is justified beyond what's already in place for aviation safety.

The ARRL also pointed to FWS guidelines released in 2000 that urge communications service providers to utilize towers less than 199 feet above ground level. The FWS concedes, however, that "tower height alone may not necessarily be a critical issue that results in mortality" and that bird kills documented at tall TV towers might be due to the effects of tower lighting rather than height.

Based on the record, the League concluded, "unlit Amateur Radio antennas cannot be considered candidates for regulation under any circumstances."

[ARRL Letter]

APRS Live Feed for Springfield, Dayton, Columbus

I am located in Springfield, and have recently put my digipeater on the air. It is an APRS digipeater, weather station and Internet Gateway. I am now sending up current weather conditions not only to the APRS system, but to my web site as well as a current map of APRS activity from Dayton, Springfield and from central Columbus westward. It can be viewed at:

http://www.alliedinformation.com/KB8WFH/wx/wx.html

Just thought you might want to know.

Matt Cline, KB8WFH
Clark County Amateur Radio Association, PIC
[The Miami Valley Amateur Radio Bulletin Board]

FCC Enforcement Funding Will Not Decrease in New Fiscal Year

The omnibus budget bill that the US House of Representatives approved this week directs the FCC to maintain next fiscal year's funding for enforcement activities at least at its current level. The Congressional Record reports that a House-Senate conference agreement includes nearly $274 million for the FCC, with all but $1 million to be offset by fee collections. "The conferees direct the FCC to expend for enforcement in fiscal year 2004 an amount equal to or greater than the amount expended for enforcement in fiscal year 2003," the House Conference Report on HR 2673, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 states. The US Senate will consider the budget measure in January after it returns from the holiday break.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, January 19, 2004!!**

Fear is that little darkroom where negatives are developed.

Michael Pritchard

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

January 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
The 18th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium will be held in Thesken Hall, Miami University-Middletown, on Saturday, January 10, 2004, 0900-1600 EST. Parking and admission is free. Plan to attend and learn more about amateur radio's digital communications techniques.				1 New Year's Day **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	2	3 **ARRL** Kid's Day **ARRL** RTTY Round-up
4 **ARRL** RTTY Round-up	5	6	7	8 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	9	10 **SWOH Digital Symposium** **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
11	12	13	14 Amateur License Class Begins @ 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	15 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	16	17 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
18 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	19 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	20	21 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	22 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	23	24
25	26	27	28 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	29 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	30	31

January 14: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	5	6	7 **10-10 International** Winter Phone Party
8 **10-10 International** Winter Phone Party	9	10	11 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	12 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	13	14 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
15	16 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	17	18 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	19 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	20	21 **ARRL** International DX Contest (CW)
22 **ARRL** International DX Contest (CW)	23	24	25 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	26 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	27	28
29	**February 11: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS					

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

February 2004

Minutes of the January 19, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, KC8WOF, N8NQF, N8DHW, N8ODK, N8WLM, N8RYS, N8OZN, KE8OH, KB8ZMO, KB8USX, WD8DFK, WA8DTU, W8LKU, W3GP, N8TQG, WA8ULW, WA8PRA, KC8CYP, Russ Downs, KB8WKL, KI8I, Scott Meyers, Chris Mcintosh, N8BH, N8PI, AB8QP, Ed Jekins, Ben Foster, W8MVN, Bonnie, WB8MYT, N8TFH, N8HP, N8GGE, K8CM, W8WLM, K2RWP, AF8T.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by President Art Frasik, N8PI, followed by introductions of members and guests.

Art introduced Ed Jenkins from Boy Scout troup 902 in Fairfield. He discussed the BSA Merit Badge program and the ongoing need for a counselor for the Radio merit badge. Ed also discussed the BSA Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and the upcoming National Jamboree. Clearly, both activities are heavily laden with amateur radio and Ed was asking for DIAL's involvement.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ron, N8NQF, second by Elizabeth, N8RYS, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 15 meeting and approve them as as published in the Newsletter. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, gave the details of expenses and income for December. Motion to approve by George, W3GP, second Barney, N8HP. Motion approved.

Carl followed up with a year-end expense/income summary of the *DIAL* Radio Club business for 2003. Motion to approve by George, W3GP, second by Lorie, W8LKU. Motion approved.

At the end of December, our membership stands at 125 members / 81 families with 61 members (43 families) having renewed for the calendar year 2004.

Repeater/Station Report:
Ernie, W8EH, reported no problems other than the status of the club's Kenwood TS-850; it might have a special chip that is bad.

Activity Report:
Activity report by Lorie, W8LKU. Two weeks ago Butler County ARES was activated for the flooding. *[More in Butler County ARES, page 5]*

The ARES net is every Tuesday at 7:30 on the 147.33 repeater (pl 118.8) and you do not have to be a member of ARES to check into the net.

Classes & Exams:
Education report by Beverley, N8GGE. Class started January 14 with four students in attendance. Next amateur license exam session is scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 24.

Old Business:
Membership cards, for 2004, were distributed by Art to those present who have renewed their membership for 2004. Members not present at the meeting will receive their new cards with the February Newsletter.

Carl reported the Digital Symposium went well with about 50 attending. Next symposium will be January 15, 2005. *[Symposium review on page 2]*

New Business:
Bob Reiff, WA8ULW presented the new *ARRL* license restructuring proposal and discussed its impact on amateur radio. The proposal, although it was announced only today, stirred a lively discussion with the membership. *[Details of the proposal appear on page 2 of this Newsletter]*

Bob, WA8ULW, reported that *Cinergy* is using BPL,on Observatory Road, in the Hyde Park area of Cincinnati. Non-ham signals are full scale in the mobile; it doesn't look good.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 16, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

The Club will participate in the CQ WPX contest from Art's house as we did last year. Details will be forthcoming via email.

Field day; we needed to decide about the field day location to get it reserved. Motion by Ron, N8NQF, second by George, W3GP, to return to Smith Park for Field Day 2004. Motion approved. Park usage application will be submitted by the Secretary.

No new member applications presented at this meeting.

Art asked for a report from the 5W group and Calvin, WB8MYT, said it is "OK".

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mark, WD8DFK, and duly seconded by George, W3GP. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Y-2004 Membership

Membership cards, for 2004, were distributed at the January 19 meeting. If you where were unable to attend the meeting, you should find your new card with this newsletter.

At the bottom of the card, you will find a letter indicating your level of membership ("C" for basic membership and "R" indicating repeater support) and your numeric autodial code.

If you chose to include repeater support with your membership, the reverse of the card contains the more important autopatch codes and repeater features.

Should you find any errors or omissions on your new card, please advise me as soon as possible.

[K8CM]

The 18th Annual SWOH Digital Symposium

The 18th Annual SWOH Digital Symposium is now history. This year's meeting, with 50+ attendees, was held on January 10, 2004, in Thesken Hall, Miami University, Middletown [OH], under crisp January weather.

The program included such exciting features as a working, software-defined radio demonstration, VHF Meteor Scatter using FSK441 techniques, applications of VoIP (EchoLink) and APRS, to name but a few.

The afternoon session featured *ARRL in the Digital Age*, led by Joe Phillips, K8QOE, our Ohio Section Manager and *AMSAT, News and Views*, under the able leadership of Steve Coy, K8UD, and Gerd Schrick, WB8IFM.

This year, for the first time, the *ARRL* recognized our Symposium as a "Conference" rather than a "hamfest".

The overall program was, again, under the able leadership of Hank Greeb, N8XX. Be sure to check out ***http://www.swohdigi.org/*** for information about the 19th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium to be held [tentatively] on January 15, 2005!

[K8CM]

ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access; ARLB003

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM-only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'"

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination.

Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing.

The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, *www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/*, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Weaver's Words; Post Board Meeting Edition

ABOUT THE LICENSE RESTRUCTURE PLAN

Our overall goal was to develop a license restructuring proposal that would promote Amateur Radio in the long term, not just for tomorrow. Our sights were set on 15 years in the future.

As you know, every one of the 15 Directors voted at the Board meeting last week to petition FCC to change the Amateur Radio rules. I would like to share some of the thinking that went on during the six months that preceded the vote.

HOW WE GOT HERE

In July, the Board directed the Executive Committee to draft a proposal to address the International Telecommunications Union treaty deletion of the 5 wpm Morse code proficiency requirement for Amateur Radio licenses. The EC was also instructed to review the existing very muddy US licensing structure. The EC draft was circulated to the Directors and Officers of the Board in October. Comments and suggestions on it were shared among Board members.

Thursday evening before the Board meeting President Haynie called the Board together to discuss the draft and the rationale behind it. During 2½ hours, several of us suggested modifications, most of which we learned had been considered by the EC which dropped them for valid reasons. Some changes were made. The next day the proposal was formally reported to the Board. After discussing it for about two additional hours and after a couple of amendments had been proposed and overwhelmingly defeated, the proposal was adopted by unanimous vote.

WHY WE DID A COUPLE OF THINGS

Morse Code – As did many of you, I passed the 20 wpm (and lesser speed) code tests only to have FCC later reduce the overall speed requirement to 5 wpm. This displeased and angered many hams. Change brings displeasure and anger. Years ago many of the Old Timers became very churned up over FCC forcing amateurs of the time to stop using spark gap and move to CW. CW is better than spark gap so why the anger? It was a change. Later, many amateurs after WW-II cussed about the imminent demise of Amateur Radio that was most assuredly brought on by FCC initiating the old Novice license that required ONLY 5 wpm proficiency.

Novice License – I came into this great avocation through the Novice license. At the time it was valid only for one year and was not renewable. Later, FCC changed the term to two years but it was still not renewable. This finally was changed 10 years and renewable.

We on the Board wanted to encourage FCC to return to a true entry-level license that would appeal to youngsters of today. Does Morse Code offer this appeal? No. Why not? Young people of today already use walkie talkie/video/cell phones daily to talk to and see each other nearly anyplace in the world. The Internet with its worldwide communications is another reason code repels them from Amateur Radio. Finally, does anyone actually think the FCC is going to continue to demand code proficiency in the future even as it does today?

We believe allowing HF/VHF voice and other privileges for Novices brings us at least to parity with modern cell phones and the Internet. We decided to request dropping the code requirement for Generals also because of the need to compete with modern alternate communication and the ITU's dropping of code.

Grandfathering – If there was a viable alternate to grandfathering to help resolve the license structure fiasco FCC has created, it would have passed. We couldn't find one. A major goal of ours was to get the license structure back to no more than three, distinctive classes. As it stands at this moment, the license structure is abysmal -- there are three functioning classes with a total of five classes on the books.

Think about it: 1) There is no true entry level license. 2) FCC prohibits Advanced operators from using the Extra Class CW segments even though new Extras pass 5 wpm vs. the 13 wpm passed by Advanced. 3) We have No Code Techs who have the same privileges as Tech Plus operators.

Finally, we have had people inside the FCC tell us (off the record, of course) there is no meaningful differences between the written exams taken by Tech, Tech Plus and General, and also between Advanced and Extra. In my opinion, this is insane. How can this be resolved?

Another major goal we had was to take privileges away from NO ONE! The only way we could find to accomplish this last goal was to grandfather. No one, whether they are happy with or unhappy with the resulting proposal, has lost anything through the grandfathering proposal. Is it fair? It is as fair as we could make out. Were we totally thrilled over the grandfathering? No.

The Board's petition will be submitted to FCC within the next two weeks. Provided the Commission sees merit in it, it will ultimately invite comment from citizens -- pro or con. Any of you are invited to comment on it at such time.

Please let me know if you have further questions. In the meantime, I will continue answering individual question I've already received, but have not yet had time to answer. To you, thanks for getting in touch with me. This is the only way I can learn how you feel.

Please be sure to reply to: ***k8je@arrl.org***.

73, Jim, K8JE

Cincinnati Amateur Radio Club Offers "Ham Radio" Classes

The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society will offer ham radio license classes in the Cincinnati, Ohio area, scheduled to begin on Thursday evening, February 19, 2004, at 7pm.

Classes are now being formed for all levels of amateur radio licenses, Technician through Extra, as well as Morse code at 5 words per minute. Classes will be held every Thursday evening for ten weeks at the Salem Presbyterian Church located at the corner of

Mozart and Higbee in Western Hills (behind the White Castle Restaurant at Harrison and Boudinot).

At the conclusion of the ten week course, participants will be given an FCC license examination on Saturday, May 1, 2004, at the same location.

Classes are open to persons of any age, and no prior experience is necessary. To register, or for additional information, contact Carol Hugentober WA8YL or Bruce Vanselow N8BV at Or visit the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society on the World Wide Web at; ***www.ohkyin.org***. *[N8BV]*

Organizations' Comments Augment Alarm Over BPL

Two organizations have filed comments with the FCC that augment previously expressed worries about potential interference from and to Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. Picking up on the "grave concerns" the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ***<http://www.fema.gov>*** expressed over BPL December 4, the nonprofit Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) <http://www.disasters.org> called on the FCC to require impartial BPL field testing as well as additional public comment and full and open public hearings.

"DERA concludes that serious interference to and disruption of critical emergency communications systems in several licensed services throughout North America would almost certainly result from BPL implementation as currently proposed," DERA said. Endorsing the earlier FEMA remarks, DERA said proposed BPL systems don't just pose a risk of interference, they've already been shown to "actually cause harmful interference to licensed radio services."

Meanwhile, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) has filed additional test data with the FCC to support preliminary findings suggesting that BPL systems are susceptible to interference from even modest Amateur Radio HF signals. AMRAD said its newest data demonstrated that amateur operation in the test neighborhood would cause many homes to lose their Internet service.

"At least an area out to a radius of 0.51 miles from the transmitting station could have their Internet connection interrupted," AMRAD said. "Closer-in homes would almost certainly have their Internet service interrupted."

For its RF susceptibility experiment, AMRAD used the Potomac Electric Power Company system test site. It features a mid-1960s vintage home with unshielded interior electrical wiring and overhead power lines.

AMRAD found that at a distance of just over one-half mile, data transfer ceased in the face of a 100-W signal on 3980 kHz from a mobile transmitter. Adjacent to the test property, AMRAD said data transfer ceased in all but one instance at a transmitter power of just 4 W in the BPL operating band of from 4 to 21 MHz.

The ARRL hopes to complete an independent BPL engineering study early this year. It will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems.

In related news, BPL equipment manufacturer Amperion Inc recently announced an "industry first" by successfully testing its high-speed "Connect" system on 69 kV transmission lines. Typical BPL systems have employed medium and low-voltage lines to deliver broadband and Internet access. Amperion said its tests, performed in conjunction with American Electric Power, demonstrated multi-megabit data transmission to a distance of nearly one mile without the need for a repeater. There's more information on Amperion's Web site:

<http://www.amperion.com/press.asp?pid=89>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site ***<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>***. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site:

<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

[ARRL Letter]

Weaver's Words

E-MAIL & US MAIL ON MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

During recent days I've received E-mail messages promoting absolutely no code from proponents of No Code International. Before this, I received code-forever cards from FISTS followers. Partly because of this, I'm motivated to come out with a bit of plain talk. I do not wish to offend anyone. I respect anyone's opinion (regardless of my opinion of it) and continue to invite people, ARRL members especially, to let me know their thinking. However, here is what I think about the Morse code licensing issue and how I intend to proceed at the ARRL Board meeting next week . . . and a few thoughts on other topics. Please take these words at face value.

THE OPINIONS OF MEMBERS. Members' opinions are very important to me. Your answers to my July CW questionnaire caused me to modify my initial position on code requirements. Any member of this Division was eligible and requested to give me his/her thoughts. For members who somehow did not receive the poll, I regret you were missed. For you who chose to ignore the questionnaire, I am sorry you shut yourselves out of helping shape my opinion. You snooze; you lose!

NO CODE INTERNATIONAL (NCI). NCI has done a good job of encouraging its members and followers to let me know what they think. No problem. Unfortunately, most of the NCI people who contacted me and identified themselves as such do not belong to ARRL. They lost their opportunity to help me formulate my position on code requirements by not being an ARRL member and, therefore, not replying to my questionnaire. My position was developed by mid-Fall after studying the hundreds of responses by members to my questionnaire and after studying other information I found.

NON-MEMBERS. To be very frank, unless a non-member comes to me with a clearly good idea or points out a clear problem, their opinion holds significantly less weight with me than those of members. With exception, nonmembers do not actively support the fight ARRL is making to defeat the forces (BPL) attempting to QRM our frequencies on a wholesale basis. They also generally do not support our effort to pass legislation that prohibits FCC from skimming off our frequencies at will . . . or our fight to secure the right for each amateur to install an antenna/tower (provided doing this is physically reasonable and safe). In short, nonmembers who ask my support for a position usually have not in my opinion shown they care enough about Amateur Radio by joining the fight to protect it and enhance it.

If anyone wants my unqualified representation, all they need to do is to join ARRL and become part of the only organization in the

world that is fighting to preserve and enhance Amateur Radio in the US. Shouldn't it be more important that all of us get together under one strong organization to defeat the BPLs, frequency skimmers and anti-antenna/tower rules than to have a head-butting contest over either of the no code or know code extremes?

As an example of the reason I feel this way, it would matter not that I have a 20-wpm license or a no-code license, if we lose essential battles and find ourselves but have only insufficient, and highly QRMd frequencies on which to exercise these licenses.

MY POSITION. I agree with and will pursue offering the opportunity in a meaningful way to no code licensees to use HF. I have just become a Bad Guy in the eyes of the strict know-coders.

I also agree with and will pursue requiring Morse code requirements for a specified class of license. I have now also become a Bad Guy in the eyes of the strict no-coders.

Let's face it, no matter what I and the rest of the Board do in this matter, we will be labeled stooges, a bunch of out-of-touch old men and saddled with the claim we have prostituted ourselves to the financial dictates of someone or other, somewhere. This easily-concocted view of the Directors and Officers is an easy, if not fully inaccurate, target for anyone who does not get exactly what they feel they deserve.

So much for the goings on in the world of friendly politics!

EVER WANT TO SEE WHO TO QSL FOR A 1X1 SPECIAL EVENT CALL? The 1 X 1 calls don't appear on the FCC Web page because they are only assigned for short durations by a Special Event Call Sign Administrator of which the ARRL VEC is one. The 1 X 1 calls are assigned for very short durations, like a weekend. The database is searchable at http://ncvec.spindle.net/html/show_all.cfm. For the 1 X 1 Web page, see ***http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/1x1.html.*** Preceding per John Hennessey, N1KB at ARRL HQ

ACKNOWLEDGING CONTACTS. I try to acknowledge each message I receive, but I am not so foolish as to believe I have a perfect record of doing this. To any of you who have written me and not received a reply, I apologize. So far, I have not been bashed on the head for ignoring correspondence so I must be doing reasonably well.

OTHER. Hamfest/swap season is underway. If you would like Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT or me to visit your event or meeting, please ask us as early as possible. Dick can be contacted at w8fqt@arrl.org. You can reach me at k8je@arrl.org. We hope to see many of you this year.

73 for the new year to each of you, your families and friends.

Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

Ohio Section News; February, 2004

FEBRUARY SECTION NEWS - By now you have heard the American Radio Relay League Board of Directors at the January meeting has proposed streamlining Amateur Radio Licensing. They also proposed a new Novice license with limited HF privileges. Read the proposal, complete with proposed new band plans. *BUT REMEMBER THIS IS ONLY A PROPOSAL TO THE FCC.* An NPRM will be assigned and I'm sure there will be plenty of comments to improve these proposals before any final FCC determination.

OHIO NET NEWS - Ohio Single Side Band Net has a new Net Manager. Ron West, N8OD, of Lagrange, had to resign for health reasons and William Baker, KC8OKJ, of Sebina, will finish out Ron's term. The semiannual meeting of the OSSBN will be at the 11 a.m. forum, Feb. 8 at the Mansfield Hamfest.

OHIO CLUB NEWS - Affiliated Clubs Coordinator Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, of Monclova, has been appointed Emergency Coordinator for Lucas County (Toledo) effective immediately. Due to the extra duties as EC (along with her running the Toledo Hamfest at Maumee in March), she is asking the ACC position be reappointed. Brenda said she will remain as ACC until a successor is named. If you wish to be considered, please write the Section Manager

OHIO SECTION REMINDER - Check your amateur radio license. About to be expired? Time to update with the FCC. Also check your ham call automobile plates. Are these expired also?

OHIO SECT CONGRATS (A) To Jim Foote, K8KSN as the recipient of the 2003 TUSCO Member of the Year award, (B) To Lucas Vega, N8VL as Mahoning Valley ARC Ham of the Year for 2003, (C) To Earnest Howard, Sr., N8EH (formerly WD8DEZ), retiring as Monroe Chief of Police after 42 year career in law enforcement including long time Assistant Chief of Middletown Police Department, (D) To Kevin Halloran, W8PKH, for story in the Kenton Times and his work in informing local civil officials about the benefits of ham radio.

OHIO SECTION FEBRUARY HAMFESTS... (1) Northern Ohio ARS Web Site ***http://www.apk.net/noars/winterfe.htm*** or contact: Clark Beckman, N8PZD, and (8) Inter-City ARC. Web Site ***http://www.maser.org*** or contact Jack Weeks, K8RT,

[K8QOE]

Butler County ARES

If January 2004 is any indication of how the New Year is going to go, we are looking at a very busy season!

January 4th heavy-steady rains pounded the tri-state area with a weather front that reached into the fringes of Canada and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

The tributaries were high but not out of their banks just yet, but the Great Miami River had not been this high in a long time.

4+ inches of rain fell over a 36-hour period over the weekend, and the flood situation was worsening.

Butler County Red Cross notified the ARES team Sunday afternoon at about 2 P.M. to be on standby pending reports of flooding.

A few members ventured out to check on the most common places that get flooded in the county during heavy rain.

Everything looked like it was hanging on to dry land, until darkness set in and another round of heavy shower passed through.

Between 7:15 P.M. on January 4 and 1:30 A.M. on January 5, the fire radio monitored via a scanner had put out over 37 flood related details. Many of these runs were for multiple homes that were involved in the flooding in a single neighborhood.

By the morning of January 5th, the Great Miami was well over flood stage and out of its banks in many areas, as rain continued.

At 10 A.M. Butler County Red Cross called upon the ARES team to begin assessment of the hardest hit areas.

We had a drill on this scenario December 13th, so what we learned in the drill was now being applied in the field, only this time it was the real deal.

We assigned 2 teams to the east side of the county, and since reports were "light" on the west side of the county. Only one team was assigned west of the Great Miami mainly because the only report was 5 homes on Sample Rd in Reily Township.

Two apartment complexes in Middletown had been involved in the flooding. One had at least 19 units involved and the second with over 16 units involved.

Only 2 homes were actually affected on Sample Road, but a drive through New Miami, where only one flood related fire run had been dispatched, there were over 50 homes involved with 29 families needing assistance and 3 needing shelter from the below freezing weather.

It took another full day on January 6th to complete the disaster assessment of the areas that were affected by the flooding.

Even on day 2, people living in the flooded area were still calling the fire departments back to pump the basements out for a second time.

Even though the river and streams had reached a crest and had fallen on Monday the 5th, the water table in the ground was still high from the heavy 2 ½ days of rain. Water refilled the basements through the smallest cracks, around floor drains, and through the walls. Many of the same families that were also flooded out in June of 2003 was once again cleaning up and trying to put their lives and homes back together due to Mother Nature.

What do ARES members get out of this? We just like helping people when they are in need.

Helping Red Cross to complete the task of Disaster Assessment helps the people involved get local, state and Federal aid, our job is to get the ball rolling toward their recovery.

It gives them a hand with providing supplies for cleaning up the muddy mess by providing brooms, mops, and sanitizer to disinfect their homes.

Depending on how serious their homes are damaged, they may qualify for low interest loans to rebuild or refurbish their homes.

Is what we do important? Just ask one of the people we met in June or in January if what we do is important!

ARES monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at Butler Technical School Room 229 from 7 P.M. till 9 P.M. Come join us – next time you can help too!

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

FCC'S Abernathy Acknowledges Amateur Radio BPL Concerns

In a seeming shift away from "Broadband Nirvana," FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy <***http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/***> this week specifically cited Amateur Radio concerns about the interference potential of Broadband Over Power Line (BPL). In remarks prepared for delivery at her alma mater, the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law <***http://www.law.edu/***>, Abernathy said BPL should not be widely deployed before dealing with ham radio's interference fears.

"I recognize that Amateur Radio licensees have raised concerns about harmful interference," Abernathy said, "and that is something that will have to be addressed before any mass market deployment can occur." She addressed the convocation "The Journey to Convergence: Challenges and Opportunities" January 22 on the school's Washington, DC campus. Abernathy said that if engineers can find a way to prevent harmful interference to other radio services, BPL would represent "a tremendous advance for consumers, because it could bring broadband to any home that has electricity."

In her speech, "Overview of the Road to Convergence: New Realities Collide with Old Rules," Abernathy called BPL "another promising technology" that electric utilities have already successfully field tested. As an "add-on service to the existing electrical grid," she said, BPL might be a cost-effective alternative to provide broadband service to rural and other "under served communities."

Missing from her remarks was any mention of interference worries that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) have expressed to the FCC in the BPL proceeding.

Abernathy drew fire from the Amateur Radio community last September after she expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL in a talk before the United Powerline Council's <***http://www.uplc.utc.org/***> annual conference. In that talk, she'd suggested that BPL was a step along the pathway to "Broadband Nirvana."

The ARRL led the barrage of strong objections in the wake of Abernathy's characterization. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that preliminary testing already had established BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution" and that BPL could not be implemented without causing harmful interference to radio services. Abernathy's office later conceded that her "Broadband Nirvana" speech may have failed to make sufficiently clear her concerns about potential BPL interference.

More than 5100 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI and are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <***http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Congressman-ham Asks FCC to Wait for NTIA Study Before Acting on BPL

US Representative Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has called on the FCC to put off any further action in its Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proceeding until the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) releases the results of its BPL study and the public has had a chance to comment.

"I feel that it is important to give the NTIA study thorough consideration before proceeding further with BPL technology, in view of the importance of avoiding interference to federal government HF communications," Walden said in a January 15 letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. An Oregon Republican, Walden is one of two Amateur Radio licensees in the US House.

The FCC released a BPL Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-104 <***http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100***

Next Meeting: Monday, February 16, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

A1.doc> last April.

In comments <*http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2003/bplcomments_08132003.htm* > filed last August, the NTIA expressed "broad concern" about BPL. The agency--which administers spectrum allocated to federal government users--has said the FCC "must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference."

The NTIA, which is part of the US Department of Commerce, subsequently undertook evaluations of BPL field test sites, in part to gauge the technology's interference potential. Walden noted that the NTIA's field work was scheduled to wrap up this month, and that its observations and conclusions would be released sometime during the first quarter of this year.

Walden told Powell that, given its interference potential to federal and nongovernment radio services in the HF and low-VHF range, the issue of BPL is "of great concern to me." He did not indicate in his letter that he was an Amateur Radio licensee.

"It is important that the commission give serious consideration to both the NTIA study and the subsequent round of public comment on the study results," Walden asserted. While agreeing with the goal of increased competition in broadband delivery, Walden encouraged the FCC to "give sufficient attention" to concerns raised regarding BPL's potential to interfere with other radio services. He also asked Powell to respond outlining how the FCC intends to proceed in the matter. *[ARRL Letter]*

Austrian Authorities Pull Plug on BPL Pilot Project

The Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation (VSV--sterreichischer Versuchssenderverband) <*http://www.oevsv.at/index.shtml*> reports that a Broadband over Power Line (BPL) field test in the city of Linz has been cut short as a result of excessive radio interference. VSV, Austria's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <*http://www.iaru.org*> member-society, said in December that the Government Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology closed down Linz Power Company's BPL pilot project because it was generating interference on the HF bands. Shortwave broadcaster Radio Austria's futureZone service <*http://futurezone.orf.at*> says the case that brought the issue to a head was a Red Cross report that emergency services radio traffic during a disaster response drill last May was the victim of massive BPL interference.

"The Commerce Ministry Order not only means the end of the Linz BPL pilot project," the Radio Austria report said, "but the end of the deployment of this technology in Austria, especially given the interference to radio communication in places of business." According to the broadcaster, measurements were said to have indicated that radiation from the BPL system exceeded permissible field strength levels by a factor of 10,000. VSV says radio amateurs in Austria have opposed deployment of all BPL experiments as neither legal nor compatible with "vital, worldwide shortwave radiocommunication." Among other problems with BPL, VSV has cited its potential to disrupt emergency communications and safety-of-life services as well as military operations on HF and navigation and aeronautical communication.

Last fall, VSV representatives and Linz amateurs got together with power company representatives in an effort to resolve BPL's incompatibility with HF radio operation. The meetings followed news reports of interference to emergency service communications and QRM complaints from several area hams. "Because of the racket, expensive installations, such as a 20-meter monobander on a high-rise building, become totally worthless," VSV said. The utility agreed to look into the possibility of a 100-meter protective zone around each amateur's location, notch filters for amateur frequencies, network system filters and the use of 5 GHz wireless local area networks. *[ARRL Letter]*

Web Program Available to Create Cabrillo-Format Logs

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that a Web-based "applet" program <*http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/*> now is available that can create and e-mail contest logs in the Cabrillo file format ARRL requires for contest entries.

"Thanks to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, and the support of several other amateurs, it is now possible for all contest participants to create Cabrillo-format logs on the Web," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "These will allow participants who log on paper or whose logging software will not generate a Cabrillo file to create an electronic log to submit to the League."

The first ARRL contest for which the Web applet is available is the recent 2004 RTTY Roundup <*http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/rtty.html*>. Henderson says Horn is developing templates for additional ARRL contests, and these will also become available via links from Horn's Cabrillo Web Forms page.

The Web routine first prompts users to provide the required information to create a Cabrillo file header. This includes basic information such as ARRL/RAC section, call sign used, call signs of operators for a multi-op entry, entry class, the operator's name and address and possibly other data. Where appropriate, drop-down boxes allow submitters to select the correct information.

A second screen allows users to input data for each QSO. Users may either manually keystroke the information for each contact or cut and paste it--band, date, time, call sign copied, received RST, received exchange--from another source. A space is necessary between each QSO data element, and each QSO belongs on a separate line.

Once QSO data have been entered, click on the "SUBMIT QSO INFO" button. The program checks for formatting errors, and, if everything is correct, will display the completed file. At that point, users can check their information one last time.

Click the "SUBMIT CABRILLO LOG" button to e-mail the entry automatically to the correct address for the contest. This also will send a record copy of the Cabrillo-formatted log to the user.

Applet-created logs will be processed just as all other log submissions are. If the contest robot finds problems, it will send the appropriate e-mail message to the submitter. If the log is okay, the robot will send a numbered receipt.

Users with questions about the Web applet routine should contact the ARRL Contest Branch via e-mail <*contests@arrl.org*>. The ARRL thanks Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, for his work in developing this helpful and useful Web application.

[ARRL Letter]

Ham License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, March 24, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 110 Johnston Hall,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $12.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($12) made payable to the *Dial Radio Club*. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson,

and must arrive no later than Monday, March 22. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Talk-in on 146.610 -

Amateur Radio Class
Winter 2003-2004 Ham Radio Class

The General Class section of the **DIAL RADIO CLUB's** Winter, 2003-2004, Amateur Radio class will begin on March 31, in Middletown, 6-9 pm. Meeting in room 110, Johnston Hall, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, classes will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in General Class amateur operator license.

General Class instruction will conclude May 12. Instruction in the International Morse code, working toward proficiency at 5 wpm, will be available. *[Morse code proficiency continues to be a requirement for the General Class license.]*

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, in Middletown, at the conclusion of General class instruction, on May 19.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class. License training manuals are expected to be available, for purchase, the first night of class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

Two Amateur Satellites Expected to Launch in 2004

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says he's looking forward to the 2004 launches of AMSAT-NA's ECHO satellite <***http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/echo/index.html***> and AMSAT-India's VUsat (also known as "HAMSAT"). In his last President's Letter for 2003, Haighton reported that ECHO is passing final integration and testing with flying colors.

"I am looking forward to the end of March, when we expect the ECHO launch to take place," he said. With less than three months until the anticipated launch, AMSAT-NA still needs to raise more than $60,000 for the launch campaign.

The new microsat-class satellite is undergoing integration and testing at SpaceQuest in Fairfax, Virginia. Jim White, WD0E, and Mike Kingery, KE4AZN, are heading up the integration process. Among its other capabilities, AO-ECHO will enable satellite voice communication using handheld FM transceivers.

The satellite will incorporate two UHF transmitters, each running from 1 to 8 W and capable of simultaneous operation, four VHF receivers and a multiband, multimode receiver capable of operation on the 10 meter, 2 meter, 70 cm and 23 cm bands. ECHO will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible. FM voice and various digital modes--including PSK31 on a 10-meter SSB uplink--also will be available.

Haighton reported that Vusat <***http://www.amsat-india.org/official/vusat.htm***> experienced some problems in testing but these are being resolved. A VUsat launch could come as soon as late summer. VUsat will incorporate two linear transponders, with a UHF uplink and VHF downlink and CW, USB and FM capabilities.

"An exciting year is ahead," said Haighton, who's already announced that he does not intend to seek another term at the AMSAT-NA helm when his current term expires in October. By then, he said, ECHO should be in orbit, but, paraphrasing Yogi Berra, he added, "It ain't up and working till it's up and working."

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, February 16, 2004!!**

Fear can keep us up all night, but faith makes one fine pillow.

Phillip Gulley

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 **Northern Ohio ARS** Lorain, OH	2	3 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	4 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	5 ***DIAL* Radio Club** Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	6	7 **10-10 International** Winter Phone Party
8 **10-10 International** Winter Phone Party **Inter-City ARC** Mansfield, OH	9	10 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	11 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	12 ***DIAL* Radio Club** Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	13	14 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
15	16 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	17 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	18 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	19 ***DIAL* Radio Club** Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	20	21 **ARRL** International DX Contest (CW)
22 **ARRL** International DX Contest (CW)	23	24 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	25 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	26 ***DIAL* Radio Club** Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	27	28
29	**February 11: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS					

March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	3 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	4 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** **W8BLV/R**	5	6 **ARRL International DX Contest** (Phone)
7 **ARRL International DX Contest** (Phone)	8	9 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	10 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	11 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** **W8BLV/R**	12	13 **BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am** **OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am**
14	15 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	16 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	17 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm **Location TBA**	18 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** **W8BLV/R**	19	20
21 **Hamfest/Computer Fair** Toledo Mobile Radio Association Toledo	22	23 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	24 **Amateur License Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	25 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** **W8BLV/R**	26	27
28	29	30 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	31 Amateur License Class Begins @ 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	**March 10: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS		

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

March 2004

CQWPX Contest

March 27 - 28

Minutes of the February 16, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, KC8WOF, N8OZN, N8LWM, N8ODK, N8NQF, W3GP, N8TQG, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KF8PD, AB8LA, Tommy and Jesica Thornsburg, KC8SKW, Casie Comer, AB8QP, N8PI, Ben Foster, N8BH, KC8OH, KC8CYP, W8MVN, Bonnie Helton, WA8PRA, WB8MYT, N8TFH, N8HP, N8GGE, K8CM, W8WLM, KB8WKL, N8DHW, KC8TXA, KC8THL, KC8VSX, Mary, N8CLT, KC8YZH

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by President Art Frasik, N8PI, at 7:07pm. Those present introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by George, W3GP, second by Ron, N8NQF, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 2004 meeting and approve them as as published in the Newsletter. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, presented the Treasurer's report for January 2004. Motion to approve by Ron, N8NQF, second by George, W3GP. Motion approved. We now have 97 active members.

Repeater/Station Report:
Station report by Ernie, W8EH. All systems operational. Harold, C8VSX, reported having trouble with the 444.825 repeater system. Ernie will check it out.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU, reported on the ARES activities. Reminder to check into the ARES net on the 147.315 repeater Tuesday evenings and check into the *DIAL* intercom net Thursdays at 9 pm on 146.61.

Classes & Exams:
Education report by Beverley, N8GGE. Technician classes are going well. Next scheduled exam session will be Wednesday, March 24. General class instruction begins the following week, March 31.

Old Business:
There was no "Old Business" to come before the membership.

New Business:
Art, N8PI, opened the discussion of Field Day planning and preparation. A Field Day committee meeting will be called to order following this meeting. All interested should attend and be active on the committee.

Ed, KF8PD, suggested we run QRP at Field Day. A decision will be made, this evening, by the Field Day committee.

The Club will participate in the CQ WPX phone contest from Art and Jody's (N8PI & AB8QP) house on March 26, 27 & 28. All are welcome. Please stop by, visit, and operate.

Ernie, W8EH, reported on the status of the BPL proposal and a hunt for any BPL noise in the Hyde Park area of Cincinnati.

Ernie also presented some of the details of the ARRL license restructuring proposal. Read all about it on the ***www.arrl.org*** web

Next Meeting: Monday, March 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

page. Be prepared to respond when the FCC posts it for comments.

Art, N8PI, asked for a 5W group report; first from Calvin, WB8MYT, then Ernie, W8MVN.

Brian, KC8THL, gave us a heads up that communication support will be needed for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters Softball Tournament. It will be the 2nd or 3rd weekend of August. Expected are 50-70 teams at two Middletown locations. Lori will work on it and maybe refer it to the ARES group.

Carl, K8CM, presented a motion and application for membership for Daniel Gutwein, KC8YZH. Daniel is a student in our current class and just received his Technician license. Second by Ron, N8NQF. Motion approved.

No word from Hamvention on our spaces or tickets.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Bob, N8BH, and duly seconded by George, W3GP. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Minutes of the Field Day Committee Meeting; February 16

Attendance:

N8PI, W8EH, KF8PD, AB8QP, AB8LA, WA8DTU, N8GGE, N8HP, W8EH, K8CM, W8LKU

Summary of Action:

Art, N8PI, appointed Ernie, W8EH, to serve as Field Day Committee Chairman.

We are committed to Smith Park area #1; required application has been filed with the City of Middletown, scheduling the park for June 25, 26, and 27. Operation starts at 2 pm Saturday June 26. We will start setup at 2 pm Friday the 25th with the "heavy work" to be done by sundown.

Art, N8PI, said we need several people with pickup trucks to haul the items to the site. We may need the big green tent again.

It was agreed, this year, to be leaner with less setup and physical work needed. We wore ourselves out last year.

Consensus of the committee was that since we have the GOTA station again that can run full time, we would drop one regular station and run class 2A. One HF-Phone, one HF-CW, one (free) VHF/UHF and one (free) GOTA on HF.

We will only put up two of the portable towers with triband beams. One for CW one for Phone. GOTA will use the R7 vertical and share unused antennas with the voice station.

On-site ststion managers are: Ed, KF8PD, HF-Phone; Dave, KD8W, HF-CW; Ernie, W8EH, GOTA; and Don, WA8DTU, VHF/UHF. Station managers will be responsible to ensure everything they need is available and in working order.

We will try to do most of the demo modes on the GOTA station. It will be setup so it can run digital and SSTV, at least on receive. (These modes result in bonus points.)

We decided to stick to running low power, 150 watts or less., even though Ed wanted to run QRP.

Barney, N8HP, will bring the aluminum ladder, tuned to 40 meters. The best 40 meter antenna we ever had. *(If you haven't seen this antenna, it is well worth the trip to Smith Park - Ed)*

Publicity; Sandi, AB8LA, was hoping someone else would volunteer to do publicity. In the absence of an overwhelming response, Sandi volunteered to get the relevant information to the area newspapers.

Ed, KF8PD, requested air conditioning.

Ernie, W8EH, said there will be no easy AO-40 contacts this year, it is not operating and if it was it will be in a bad squint position.

Ed, KF8PD, and Don, WA8DTU, want to work to get a picture in QST. *(Details deleted to not tip off the other groups).*

Some wanted to know if Brian, KC8THL, could get us a fire ladder truck. *[Not likely-Ed.]* Sandi, AB8LA, brought up about having some attraction to get kids and families on site. Perhaps the Red Cross, fire department and/or emergency management doing some event on site in conjunction with our Field Day.

Lorie, W8LKU, said we should do the picnic the same way as last year, cold cuts and covered dishe at 6 PM on Saturday evening.

Lorie, W8LKU, will also work on the 10 NTS messages needed for bonus points and message to the SM or state EC.

We discussed ways to cover all the operating times. Discussed having a higher class licensee to be a mentor on the GOTA station during assigned shifts. Those actually operating must be new licensees, Novice or Technicians, or inactive HF operators. However, experienced operators will be needed to mentor and be control operator for unlicensed or Novice/Tech operators.

Suggestion to ask Dick, K8CI, to be responsible for the W1AW Field Day bulletin again.

We need to make sure each station has provisions for using 2 or more sets of headphones.

Barney, N8HP, suggested we need to make sure each CW operator can use their own electronic keyers and have an easy set up.

Art, N8PI, has a voice keyer we may want to use.

We will schedule another Field Day meeting soon.

Complete 2004 Field Day rules, in PDF format, are available on the ***www.arrl.org*** web site under *contests*.

Items After the Formal Meeting:

- We need a computer network between the two main stations.
- We need to schedule a practice session for potential CW operators to get used to the equipment and check out their keyers.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Ham License Exams

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Wednesday evening, March 24, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 110 Johnston Hall,
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of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $12.

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Winter 2003-2004 Ham Radio Class

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Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

CQ WPX Contest; A Club Activity
March 27 - 28

Members of the *DIAL* Radio Club will again operate the CQ World Wide Prefix contest (WPX) from the Presidential Residence of Art [N8PI] and Jody [AB8QP] Frasik. Operation will begin Friday evening March 26 and conclude Sunday March 28. Operation will be on voice using the 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands.

Please mark your calendars and plan to drop by. This was a lot of fun last year and if you missed it, you missed a lot. This is good practice for Field Day.

Additional details will be sent via the *DIAL* reflector after our ext Club meeting Monday, March 15 at 7 pm (dinner at 6).

DIAL Intercom Net
Contest & Prize

Check-ins for the Middletown Intercom Net have been down for some time now. So, starting March 4, everytime a *DIAL* member checks into the net, his or her name will be submitted for a doorprize which will be drawn at the following *CLUB* meeting. First door prize will be a coupon for dinner for 2 at the Golden Corral. We will be doing this on a trial basis for 2-3 months to see how it works.

I realize that this *newsletter* will come out after the first net in March, but I also plan on announcing it on the net and maybe word of mouth will prevail.

Thanks and 73,
Lorie, W8LKU

Butler County ARES

This is the time of the year when we schedule public service events, classes, training and drills for 2004. To keep informed of these opportunities, visit our website at ***www.qsl.net/n8tvu***. Then select the "Calendar" to view the up coming events. We have placed a "Date" on the calendar line so you can be sure you have the latest updates.

February 28th **Butler County Red Cross** is hosting the New Disaster Assessment Class that will be a requirement for anyone involved in that function with Red Cross.

March 6 and 13 **Hamilton County ARPSC** is hosting an ARECC Level I class from 0900-1600 both days. If you would like to attend, contact Don

March 20 **Hamilton County ARSPC** is hosting a ARECC Test Session. All 3 levels will be tested-you have to provide proof that you have passed the previous levels before taking the next higher level.

ARECC LEVEL II The VEs have been provided with the First and Second Edition test to match your study materials. You must tell the VEs which book you studied from to get the correct test.

April 26th **Butler County ARES** is hosting a SKYWARN class by the National Weather Service at Butler Tech auditorium 7-9:30 P.M. Please email Bob N8TVU if you plan to attend so seating can be arranged ahead of time.

For area events you can also check the ARES District 4 website at ***www.qsl.net/n8ge***

Another change to our meetings this year *Back to Training*. In the 2003 meetings, we spent a lot of time with announcements and business of the team.

This information is now being EMAILED to ARES team members prior to the meetings so the time spent at the meetings can be devoted to training. If you do not yet belong to ARES, we invite you to join us! Note: I am glad not to have a county disaster to report this month! See you at our meeting every 2cd Wednesday of the month.

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

Next Meeting: Monday, March 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

League Files "*A Plan For The Next Decade*" With FCC

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants 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 (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" <***http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/***>). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical self-training and exposure to all aspects of the avocation."

Last fall a total of 14 Morse-related petitions were filed with the FCC. Several called on the Commission to drop the Morse requirement altogether, while others proposed to keep and even expand the requirement or put forth various license restructuring schemes of their own. The petitions, RM-10781-10787 and RM-10805-10811, attracted thousands of comments from the amateur community.

Beyond the Morse question, the ARRL says, the time is right--now that WRC-03 has finished its work--to follow through on the restructuring process the FCC began with its 1999 restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) <***http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf***>. Among other things, that landmark Order, which became effective April 15, 2000, reduced the number of Morse code test elements from three to a single 5 WPM requirement for all license classes offering HF privileges.

Simply dropping the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse requirement, the ARRL asserted, would fail to address the critical need for an entry-level ticket other than the Technician. Calling the Technician license "a dead end" for many people, the ARRL said its proposed entry-level license--being called "Novice" for now--would offer newcomers a much wider sampling of Amateur Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination--but no code test--and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data privileges at modest power output levels.

"This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other operating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the mainstream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order--to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site <***http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf***>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Okays BPL Proposal; ARLB005

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted more than 5100 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that included President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, attended the FCC open meeting in Washington, and later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference, but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM:

- Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now

require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted.

- Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands."
- Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database to include such information as the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.
- Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting." While conceding that BPL has "a long way to go," the chairman said it could be "the great broadband hope for a good part of rural America." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after its publication.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, ***www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/***.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Weaver's Words

BPL

As most of you know, FCC has announced it will issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on BPL very soon. At the time the NPRM is publicized, you will have additional opportunity to write FCC to protest. The Commission has asserted BPL will be done in a manner that will avoid interference, but they are leaving policing of this to the Power Companies. My only thought is that self-policing is great when it is actually done. Isn't this BPL thing sort of like hiring the fox to guard the hen house? The Power Companies have proven time and time again as an industry that they cannot or will not manage interference caused by broken insulators, capacitors, etc. Will this all change?

In reality, provided FCC acts aggressively to prevent interference, as they say they will, we will not be in bad shape. I'm not holding my breath for long, though.

Keep your eyes on ***arrl.org*** and on further E-mail information from me. Each source will advise you when and how comments can be made.

In the meantime, I strongly encourage any member who is experiencing interference from a faulty power line to write (USPS or E-mail) the company and complain. Be as specific as possible. Above all, keep copies of your correspondence with them. If they do not respond within a reasonable time, write again. Keep a copy. If you do not get a timely response or if the problem is not fixed, please send a copy of your file to Riley Hollingsworth. Include a letter explaining the situation. Let's get the power companies on notice that they have to keep their acts clean.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT

The new year 2004 is here. Congress is back in session. It is time to renew our campaign to gain sponsors for the Spectrum Protection Act. I've written about this several times previously, but if you need further information, let me know. I'll be happy to send whatever you need to you.

Other than for this, please write to your US Representative and to each of your US Senators. Ask them to co-sponsor HR 713 (House) and S 537 (Senate), the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act as it has been introduced into each of these houses. For sample letters, go to: http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html#write. Please personalize your letter by adding an example of a fairly recent public service/emergency communications activity that was held in your state or the Representatives' District.

To learn your Representative's name and address, go to: ***http://www.house.gov/writerep/***. To learn your Senators' names and addresses, go to: ***http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm***.

It is possible in most cases to send E-mail letters to Representatives and Senators right from the page that has their names and addresses. Please copy me on your letters and any replies you receive. I will forward these to our lobbyist in DC for his follow-up.

If you have written before, please do it again. There is an exception to this request. It would not be correct to ask a Representative or Senator who has already co-signed the bill to do this again. It would be nice to send a thank you note to them, but not one to ask them to do what they've already done. A list of Great Lakes Division Representatives and Senators *[Ohio only]* who have already co-signed is given below. The dates are when they became co-sponsors. Rep Brown, Sherrod - 11/4/2003 [OH-13], Rep Gillmor, Paul E. - 6/9/2003 [OH-5], Rep Jones, Stephanie Tubbs - 11/7/2003 [OH-11], Rep Strickland, Ted - 3/13/2003 [OH-6], Rep Tiberi, Patrick J. - 2/13/2003 [OH-12], and Rep Turner, Michael R. - 10/29/2003 [OH-3].

SPAM VIA ARRL.NET

Many of you have asked why ARRL does not put a filter on the ***arrl.net*** forwarding service and block SPAM from being sent through it. To you I've suggested it is better for each person to put a SPAM blocking program on their computer rather than to let an ISP do the filtering. The reason is that when you and I set the filter on our own computers, we are the ones who define exactly what SPAM is to us. When we do this, mail that we define as NOT being SPAM gets through. When an ISP does the filtering, SPAM is whatever a worker at the ISP considers it to be. The risk is substantial that the block will kick messages we want to receive out of the system so we don't even know they were sent.

The following quote from another reflector to which I belong clearly shows what I mean. I have removed the identity of the sender (a former work colleague of mine) and the name of the ISP. He is totally frustrated over the ISP setting the filter standards which cause him to lose wanted E-mail. "I'm getting testier about this mail filtering thing. [His ISP] constructed a Filtered Mail folder (without my asking). The things I know are missing from [name of the reflector] don't go there. If they must filter, put it there so I can selectively handle it." All I find in the Filtered Mail folder are what I can only call the "Do What, With What and To Whom" stuff (at what size and at what cost). Others have reported frustration with various "help" desks. Next ??"

The ***arrl.net*** forwarding service is not the cause or source of

SPAM. There is no question that by the very nature of the patterns used to assign callsigns, amateurs are ripe targets for SPAMMERS. **THANKS!** I thank each of you who have written your support as well as suggestions for the new restructuring proposal and for the work I've been doing. You suggestions and other input -- yes, your disagreements -- are key to whatever I may do to benefit Amateur Radio and you. Keep up writing.

MANY NON-MEMBERS AND SOME MEMBERS ARE SURPRISED

Why are many non-members and even members surprised when they learn they cannot carry the ARRL banner if they are not members? Many non-members are surprised to learn that I do not represent them. I certainly try to represent the best interests of Amateur Radio and ARRL members, and if this happens to include non-members, fine. I feel no need to bend over backwards to acknowledge the thoughts and wishes of non-members. Similarly, why would a non-member even consider they could become an ARRL banner carrier by receiving appointment as a DX card checker or any other appointment to a program sponsored by the League? This should not even be a consideration. One cannot have allegiance to a program of an organization to which they choose not to belong. It is this simple.

Soon after you elected me Director I began looking through the many member programs of the League as I had promised during my campaign. I'm still going through these to see if there are programs that ought to be deleted or modified. I quickly learned that the criteria for becoming an ARRL WAS QSL checker were rather loose. For one thing, there was no requirement that the checker need be an ARRL member. This clearly was a slip-up. You can bet I jumped on this. WAS QSL checkers now need to be ARRL members. The coming ARRL Mentor program, the DXCC QSL checker program and others are further examples of appointments that are or will be available only to members.

The League exists because of the support of its members. Its members, not non-members, are the ones who should benefit from the recognition available through appointments.

SEE YOU THIS SUMMER?

Vice Director Mondro, W8FQT and I will be attending a number of meetings and hamfest/swaps this summer. Look us up when you are at one of those we attend. If you would like us to attend one of your meetings or hamfests/swaps, please let us know.

73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

Interesting Web Site: Check it Out

http://205.243.100.155/frames/longarc.htm

[via e-mail]

NPR Feature Spotlights Addition of @ Symbol to Morse Code

Some hams may have thought they'd left their transceivers turned on Tuesday, February 17. That's when the popular National Public Radio <***http://www.npr.org***> afternoon news magazine *All Things Considered* ran a piece about the pending addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon. That's because **NPR** introduced and closed the nearly four-minute segment with actual CW, catching the ear of many hams.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, conceived of the new character, necessary for transmitting e-mail addresses in CW, among other possible purposes. Assuming approval by International Telecommunication Union <***http://www.itu.int/home/index.html***> member-states, the new character--the first added to the code in many, many years--will be "AC" run together (.--.-.).

The new character, Rinaldo says, is both unique in the Morse world as well as a mnemonic (think of an 'a' wrapped in a 'C').

ATC co-host Robert Siegel interviewed ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, for some background on the change, giving Lindquist an opportunity to mention his passion for mobile CW operation. The short feature, "Morse Code Enters Cyber Age," is available on the National Public Radio Web site, <***http://www.npr.org/rundowns/segment.php?wfId=1680529***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, March 15, 2004!!**

Himself is the source of the best and most a man can be or achieve. The more this is so - the more a man finds his sources of pleasure in himself - the happier he will be. For all other sources of happiness are, in their nature, most uncertain.

Arthur Schopenhauer

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	3 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	4 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** W8BLV/R	5	6 **ARRL** International DX Contest (Phone)
7 **ARRL** International DX Contest (Phone)	8	9 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	10 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	11 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** W8BLV/R	12	13 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
14	15 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	16 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	17 Amateur License Class 6:30 pm **Location TBA**	18 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** W8BLV/R	19	20
21 **Hamfest/Computer Fair** Toledo Mobile Radio Association Toledo	22	23 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	24 **Amateur License Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	25 ***DIAL* Radio Club** **Net @ 9pm** W8BLV/R	26	27 **CQ WPX Phone Contest** 0000UTC March 27 to 2400UTC March 28 Art & Jody's QTH
28 **CQ WPX Phone Contest** 0000UTC March 27 to 2400UTC March 28 Art & Jody's QTH	29	30 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	31 Amateur License Class Begins @ 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	**March 10: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS		

April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
April 14: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS				1 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	2	3
4 **DST Begins**	5	6 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	7 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	8 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	9	10 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
11	12	13 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	14 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	15 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	16	17
18	19 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	20 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	21 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	22 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	23	24
25	26	27 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	28 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	29 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	30	

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

April 2004

Minutes of the March 15, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, KC8WOF, KB8WKL, N8DHW, KD8W, N8HP, N8GGE, W8MVN, Bonnie, WB8MYT, N8TFH, WA8PRA, N8DIG, KC8TXA, K8TNF, N8EH, N8HRA, N8RYS, N8OZN, N8NQF, KE8OH, N8PI, K8JE, KC8SUD, W8GNV, KA8WNF, K2RWP, WD8DFK, KC8DUX, AB8QP, WA8DTU, WD8NKJ.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by President Art Frasik, N8PI. Those present introduced themselves.

Art introduced our guest, Jim Weaver, K8JE. Jim is the elected Great Lakes Division ARRL Director representing our division on the ARRL Board of Directors. Jim gave a presentation on the new ARRL licensing proposal and an in depth explanation of how the ARRL Board worked to develop a proposal that would garner a unanimous vote of support.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ernie, N8EH, second by Bob, KC8DUX, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February 2004 meeting and approve them as published in the Newsletter. Motion approved.

The Secretary had nothing further to report.

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report for February was presented by Ron, N8NQF, in the absence of the vacationing Treasurer. Motion to approve by Ron, N8NQF, second by Jon, K8TNF. Motion approved. We now have 104 members.

Repeater/Station Report:
Station report by Ernie, W8EH. 444.825 seems to be working. The 223.36 input now requires a PL of 77.0 Hz. This was done to prevent interference from getting into the system. It seems to be orking just fine. A HT, from inside the Golden Corral, worked into the repeater.

Classes & Exams:
Education report by Beverley, N8GGE. The class on the air demo will be Wednesday evening and a contest meeting will be at the same time. Exam March 24 followed by a General class beginning the 31st.

Old Business:
A summary of last month's Field Day committee report was given. The full minutes of the meeting were published in the March newsletter.

New Business:
Art, N8PI, appointed a *Hamvention* set up committee consisting of Dave, KD8W; Ernie, N8EH; Ron, N8NQF; and Ernie, W8EH.

Ernie, W8EH, reported that we received a request for volunteers to help with gates at the flea market.

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ron, N8NQF, and duly seconded by Dave, KD8W. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Hamvention 2004 - May 14, 15, 16

Although we've not received official notice from *Hamvention* officials, we expect to have the same outside vendor location (spaces 3201, 3202, 3203) as in the past few years.

Lunch will again be available on-site. Menu will be the same as last year as will the donation; $10/daily or $20 for the weekend.

Lunch reservations and payments are to be made to Ron, N8NQF, on or before Friday noon, May 7.

Since we're not permitted to sell food at *Hamvention*, food,

Next Meeting: Monday, April 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

snacks, and drinks will be available only to *DIAL* members who have made prior reservations.

[K8CM]

FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated RM-10867, ARRL's petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges. The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus licensees automatically would gain General privileges, and Advanced license holders automatically would be upgraded to Extra without further testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same.

A news report "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access," ***<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>***, has further details. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are addressed on the ARRL Web site, ***<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>***.

In a wide-ranging petition designated as RM-10868, an "unincorporated grassroots organization" calling itself the Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF) has asked the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow limited HF phone, image, data and CW privileges. HF phone/image privileges would be restricted to portions of the 160, 15 and 10-meter bands.

The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants.

The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting. In addition, it would permit only Generals and Amateur Extras--or Technicians licensed more than two years--to request vanity call signs.

The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz.

In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code "the most reliable mode of communication" in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) wants the FCC to establish a new "Communicator" entry-level license. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates the NCVEC's call--first made last fall in RM-10787--to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement.

The NCVEC petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class, all current Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, the NCVEC said in its filing, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses."

The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). Communicator licensees could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm.

All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands.

Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) ***<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>***. When entering the RM number in the ECFS "Proceeding" field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.

[ARRL Letter]

QSL BUREAU
An ARRL Service Available to Members

The Incoming QSL Bureau is a convenience for ARRL members. Because the guidelines of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) request all member societies to provide this service to all amateurs in their countries, the League extends the service to US nonmembers. Of course, not all national amateur organizations comply with this request.

The idea of the Bureau is to save money for amateurs. Money is saved at the loss of time. It is not especially unusual for a reply to a QSL sent via the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau to a rather isolated country to take as three or more years to be received through the Incoming Bureau.

To receive cards through the Incoming Bureau an amateur must have envelopes and adequate postage at the Bureau. Cards are sorted by call sign, not by name. There must be envelopes/postage for each call a receiving amateur has used within recent years. Most often there is a different Letter Sorter for each call group. Calls are grouped for Bureau purposes by the first letter that follows the FCC Region number. Cards for W8FQT are sorted and sent to Dick by the F Letter Sorter. Cards for K8JE are sorted and sent to me by the J Letter Sorter.

IF THE RECEIVING AMATEUR does not have envelopes/postage on file at the Bureau and a sorter receives cards for him/her, the sorter attempts to notify the recipient of the cards. IT IS NOT THE DUTY of the sorter to turn Heaven and earth to notify th

recipient. Moreover, IT IS NOT THE DUTY of the sorter to keep cards for amateurs who do not have envelopes/postage on file for more than a relatively short period of time. THE RULES OF THE BUREAU specifically allow the sorter to DISPOSE OF QSLs received for an amateur who has no envelopes/postage on file and who does not claim the cards after ATTEMPTS to notify him/her they have cards at the Bureau.

The moral of the story: If you want your cards, it is your responsibility to arrange to receive them. For additional information, contact the 8th Region Bureau Managers or go to:

http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html#

[excerpt from K8JE]

DIAL Intercom Net Contest & Prize

Check-ins for the Middletown Intercom Net have been down for some time now. So, starting March 4, everytime a *DIAL* member checks into the net, his or her name will be submitted for a doorprize which will be drawn at the following *CLUB* meeting. First door prize will be a coupon for dinner for 2 at the Golden Corral. We will be doing this on a trial basis for 2-3 months to see how it works.

Thanks and 73,
Lorie, W8LKU

League Recommends Closer FCC-NTIA Spectrum Management Cooperation

The ARRL has suggested that the FCC and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) spectrum management professionals work more closely and cooperatively. It also called for more open allocation proceedings where federal/non-federal spectrum sharing is involved. The League offered the recommendations in comments filed on an NTIA Notice of Inquiry, "United States Spectrum Management Policy for the 21st Century" <***http://spectrumreform.ntia.doc.gov/notice.htm***>. While the FCC oversees private and commercial spectrum, the NTIA--part of the US Department of Commerce--administers spectrum allocated to federal government users. It also advises the White House on telecommunications issues. ARRL said the current bifurcated spectrum management system has benefits and drawbacks.

"A significant advantage of maintaining the present scheme . . . is that the separate functions provide a system . . . of checks and balances," ARRL said in addressing whether spectrum management should be centralized. On the other hand, the League added, this separation can "delay needed action and promotes somewhat parochial and divergent priorities."

The FCC "has acted as a self-described 'cheerleader' for new, typically unlicensed, technologies without a firm grasp of technical compatibilities and incompatibilities," the League said. On the other hand, ARRL continued, the NTIA has tended to see its role as protector of the noncommercial spectrum it administers.

The FCC has been "inconsistent at best" in spectrum protection, ARRL said, while NTIA spectrum managers regularly provide "professional and impartial evaluations of new technologies" and their interference potential. Amateur Radio shares some of its allocations with federal users, especially in the UHF and microwave spectrum.

Given "competing goals and interests," ARRL suggested the FCC and NTIA return to the approach used in years past when spectrum management officials of both agencies "worked closely and cooperatively," and there was regular staff-level communication.

The ARRL cited the proceeding that led to the Amateur Radio 5 MHz (60 meter) allocation to emphasize its belief that spectrum management and sharing should operate according to "negotiated rule making procedures" in which all stakeholders participate. Last-minute NTIA intervention led to the current five-channel allocation at 5 MHz instead of the band the ARRL had sought and the FCC was poised to grant.

"The process for considering new federal and non-federal sharing plans should be more open than it currently is," the ARRL asserted. "There was no procedure for ARRL, FCC and NTIA (or the individual agencies concerned about this allocation) to meet and address potential concerns." Lacking any public procedure, the League said, the NTIA and FCC instead agreed to a compromise that was "inadequate for the purpose."

The ARRL said a negotiated rulemaking procedure could address such issues more quickly and efficiently than current procedures permit.

Comments in response to the NTIA NOI, including ARRL's, are available on the NTIA's spectrum reform Web site <***http://spectrumreform.ntia.doc.gov/responses/index.htm***>.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Keeps Up Pressure on Alleged Unlicensed 10-Meter Operations

The FCC is continuing efforts to stem alleged unlicensed operation--primarily by long-haul truckers--on the 10-meter amateur band. Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, this month wrote FedEx Corporation CEO Frederick W. Smith enclosing a complaint asserting that some FedEx drivers have used "Amateur Radio transmitters to communicate on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band without a license," Hollingsworth said. The complaint focused on alleged operations in Tennessee.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth told Smith. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on Amateur Radio frequencies must possess both a station and operator license, for which an examination is required." He pointed out that some truckers have been known to use uncertificated dual-purpose CB radios that also can transmit on 10 meters. CB gear must be FCC certificated, formerly known as type acceptance, but ham radio gear does not need to be. So-called dual-use ham/CB transceivers may not be sold or marketed under FCC rules.

Two additional trucking firms this month were the target of FCC warning notices involving complaints of unlicensed operation on 10 meters. Hollingsworth wrote Carl Leonard Ross of CLR Transport in Saluda, North Carolina, citing allegations that a CLR Transport vehicle traveling on I-85 in North Carolina "was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band on July 14, 2003." Cassidy's Express of Bristol, Pennsylvania, heard from the FCC regarding reports that one of its vehicles was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions while under way in Pennsylvania last October 9.

Hollingsworth asked Smith to advise FedEx drivers that such operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of federal law and could subject violators to stiff fines and

even jail time as well as seizure of equipment. Pointing out the same penalties for violators, Hollingsworth asked the other two trucking firms to contact him to discuss the allegations.

Earlier this year, the FCC sent warning notices to two shipping companies in the wake of reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may have been illegally transmitting on 10 meters. At least one of the companies, UPS, offered its full cooperation and promised to investigate.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Clarifies Docket Number for Future BPL Comments

The FCC says anyone filing comments on the its Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37 should reference only the latter docket number, not both docket numbers. The ARRL was among those who had asked the FCC to clarify the matter. The deadline to file comments is Monday, May 3. Reply comments are due Tuesday, June 1.

"To simplify this filing process and minimize the burden on both interested parties and the Commission's resources, we are requesting that parties responding to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making submit comments, replies and any other pleadings or information only in the newly established ET Docket No 04-37," the FCC said this week in a public notice. Written comments may be filed via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <***http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/***>.

The Commission says that commenters should include their full name, US Postal Service mailing address and ET Docket No 04-37 when completing the transmittal screen. The FCC ECFS Express system
<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/> also now is accepting brief comments on the BPL proceeding, which is the top item on the list.

For additional information on filing comments, see the FCC public notice
<***http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-04-760A1.doc***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Mark Reising, WM8R, is New Affiliated Clubs' Coordinator for Ohio

Mark Reising, WM8R, of Mainville (near Cincinnati) has been appointed Affiliated Clubs Coordinator for the Ohio Section effective March 15. The appointment was announced by Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE. He succeeds Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, of Monclova (near Toledo) who has been appointed Emergency Coordinator of Lucas County. Mrs. Krukowski has also been recently appointed location manager for the 2005 Great Lakes Division Convention. "We welcome Mark to the Ohio Section Cabinet," said SM Phillips. "He will be contacting clubs soon." Phillips thanked Mrs. Krukowski for her work the past three years as ACC but "being EC for one of our most important county ARES programs and organizing the 2005 Great Lakes Division Convention, she is hardly going on vacation. "Mrs. Krukowski added, "Over the past three years. I have learned a lot about the Ohio clubs and have seen what great things the clubs have done for the amateur radio community. Mark will do a great job in this position.; Again, thank you for the honor as being the ACC for the past three years.

Mr. Reising has been involved in ham radio since 1969. In the Cincinnati area since 1988, Mark has been most active with Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN) currently serving as president and is also currently serving as first vice-president of Greater Cincinnat. ARA. He has a long list of ARES credits as well. One of Mark's passions has been youth scouting. The last two years he took a leadership role installing a ham station at Camp Freidlander Boy Scout camp. In addition to the public service activities, he enjoys HF mobile operation.

[K8QOE]

New Manager; Ohio Slow Net

Henry Koenig, WD8Q, of Mansfield, has been named Net Manager (NM) of the Ohio Slow Net (OSN) effective April 15. He succeeds Ken Buser, WB8KQJ, of Hinckley, who retired after 10 years of managing this net. The announcement was made by Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE.

The OSN, Ohio's longest continuing traffic net, currently passes traffic in CW at 3.708 MHz each day beginning at 6:10 p.m. (1810 local time; 2310 Zulu).

"Ken's leadership was outstanding in continuing this net in times difficult for a CW traffic net," said SM Phillips, "the Ohio Section thanks him for his excellent service.

New NM Koenig, a ham radio operator for 24 years, has served his local club, IRAC of Mansfield, in several capacities including President. His first OSN experience was January 2003 but quickly became a regular member and currently holds the Net Control Station slot on Tuesdays. He is active on the Buckeye nets and 8th Regional Net (8RN) and on phone, Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN) Henry's appointment to be NM was recommended by Ken

"There are more popular ham radio activities than a CW traffic net," said SM Phillips, "but this does not diminish the dedication and value to public service the OSN under Ken Buser and now Henry Koenig serves amateur radio. These amateurs contribute greatly to the strength of the Ohio Section.

[K8QOE]

Butler County ARES

Stats for February:

- Training hours: 151
- Net Hours: 430
- Public Service Events: 6 hours
- Misc. Hrs: 3 Hrs
  - Total Monthly Hours: 584
  - Total Monthly Events: 97

April 14th Butler County ARES Meeting - 7-9 P.M. Butler Tech Room 229

Butler County EMA

Director William Turner will be attending our meeting to explain our role in providing Disaster Assessment to the EMA.

The data gathered for Red Cross & EMA will be done at the same time by BCARES and the information will be sent to both organizations. More on this at the April Meeting.

ATTENTION: Anyone with slow scan TV capability-EMA

would like us to get photo's of the disaster sites in Butler County to them as quickly as possible so they can be sent to the State EMA office in Columbus. Since a "picture is worth a thousand words", this will help to make state & federal aid begin flowing quicker into the ounty to assist those that are involved.

Anyone wanting to take the CERT training, please let us know as soon as possible! EMA would like to schedule a class BEFORE we need the extra help!

Anyone that has completed the CERT training, that would like to be a CERT instructor, a "train the trainer" class is going to be presented at Butler Tech possibly next month. If you are interested let us know.

April 17th is the Butler County Family Safety Roundup that will be held at Butler Tech. We need CERT team members with shirt and ball caps available to help watch the EMA equipment on display. We need ARES non-cert members on site to man the comms room, trailer and display table. Planning and assignments for this event will also be part of the meeting, as well as some of the other upcoming events.

April 24th - Ohio ARES Conference in Columbus Ohio - EMA office 2855 Dublin Grandville Rd. (other info is in the Ohio Section News at
http://www.maser.org/Ohio%20Section/OSJ/osj_spring%2004.pdf)

April 26th - National Weather Service and BCARES - SKYWARN class at the Butler Tech Auditorium. Please email Bob if you plan to attend.

Reminder: ARES nets Tuesday nights @ 7:30 PM

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

Weaver's Words

REGULATION BY TRANSMITTED BANDWIDTH

Here is something for you to think about. How would it be if FCC regulated transmissions based upon transmitted bandwidth instead of by operating mode? If, for example, the 80 meter band was divided into segments such as:

- 3.0-3.3 MHz = Signals of 0 -- 200 Hz bandwidth
- 3.3-3.5 MHz = Signals of 200 - 500 Hz bandwidth
- 3.5-3.8 MHz = Signals of 500 Hz - 3 kHz bandwidth
- 3.8-4.0 MHz = Signals of 3 kHz to 5 kHz bandwidth

If a transmitted signal would fit into one of these sub-bands, it could be used there.

Don't get hung up over the segment distribution I have indicated. These are pulled from the top of my head as examples of the concept, only.

Consider your operating preferences -- what you actually operate and what you plan to operate -- and let me know how you feel about the concept. The reason for thinking in this direction is that it rapidly is becoming less appropriate to think in terms of mode than it is of bandwidth. For example, what is the bandwidth of a digital signal?

SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT

Congratulations to the members living in the Michigan 14th Congressional District. They have succeeded in getting Rep. John onyers to co-sponsor the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. Great job!

The rest of the Michigan crew as well as Ohio and Kentucky amateurs, keep on writing. Remember the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, write, write and write again!"

To check on who has signed to co-sponsor go to: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d108:HR00713:@@@P for a list of Representatives, and to:
http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d108:S0537:@@@P for members of the Senate. Representative Conyers has not yet been added to this list, but has committed to co-sign and should be added to the list the next time it is revised.

To find your Representative and your Senators, go to: ***http://congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials/***. You will need your ZIP+4 to find your Representative. You'll need only your state to find your Senators; however, if you use the ZIP+4 you should automatically get the Representative and Senators at the same time. In most cases, you can click on E-mail below their pictures to write to them.

Finally, you can get boilerplate letters to send to your Representative and to your Senators at: ***http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html#sample.***

If you have not yet written, please do this. In case you have doubts, this is important to the continued health of Amateur Radio. Your letters will help. If you don't believe you can make a difference, look over the lists of Congressmen/women who have already signed on.

GRASS ROOTS POLITICAL ACTION FORUM

There will be a forum about noontime on Friday of the Hamvention this year on grassroots political action. Thanks to Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT for suggesting this and to Assistant Director, Ohio State Government Liaison and Hamvention Program Director Reuben Meeks Jr, W8GUC, for finding a spot for this forum. The program will feature ARRL General Counsel and our man in DC Chris Imlay, W3KD, New England Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF and ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP as speakers. Dick will be the MC and I will offer just a few of my Words as kick-off.

WANT A USEFUL TOOL TO USE WITH WANNA-BE HAMS?

The DVD of the movie, FREQUENCY, has several bits of information added to the disk in addition to the movie. These are not on the tape version. Under a heading titled Amateur Radio you will find discussions of various aspects of hamming presented in a manner that might be useful to tweak the interest of would-be hams even further.

WANT A PROGRAM ON RESTRUCTURING GIVEN AT YOUR MEETING?

If you would like someone to come to a club meeting to discuss the license restructuring petition the Board submitted to FCC, let me know. The presentation includes a slide show (Power Point) and discussion of the reasoning behind the petition.

WHO WOULD YOU CONTACT?

There seems to be considerable confusion over who to contact with questions regarding ARRL. Here is a very brief outline that may help:

1. To discuss ARRL policy -- action by the Board of Directors

such as the restructuring petition and the developing regulate-by-transmitted bandwidth proposal -- contact the Director. At this moment, this is K8JE. It is also appropriate to contact the Vice Director who at this moment is W8FQT. Policy is made by the Board and is implemented (but not established) by the HQ staff.

2. To discuss the operations of nets, ARES, club activities, becoming an ARRL affiliated club, etc. that occur within your state, contact your Section Manager -- Kentucky = NB4K, Michigan = WA8EFK, Ohio = K8QOE.
3. To learn mechanistic details of programs operated by our HQ staff (e.g., DXCC, contests, the ARRL VEC, QST circulation, ARRL publications, outgoing QSL Bureau, registering a hamfest, etc.) contact the appropriate person at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT. You can find the proper person in a table titled "We're at your Service" in the first dozen or so pages of each QST.

WAS ENDORSEMENTS

I hope the AMers among our organization noticed that the Board approved endorsing WAS certificates for the mode of operation used to earn a single-mode WAS. This includes AM. "You asked for it," and you got it.

AWARDS STILL AVAILABLE

Because of extremely low current interest in awards including the Rag Chewers Club and the Friendship Award, these awards are being discontinued. They will continue to be issued for as long as current supplies of the certificates last.

MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

The Michigan QSO Party will be from 1600Z 17 Apr to 0400Z 18 Apr. on 80, 40, 20, 12, 10 M CW and phone. Check ***http://www.miqp.org*** for information. Should be lots of fun.

GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION -- 2005

It isn't time to run out to buy tickets, yet, but the 2005 edition of the Great Lakes Division Convention will be in Toledo, OH in March 2005. The convention is being sponsored by the Toledo Radio Mobile Association with Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP is the Facilities Chair. Past Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA has agreed to be the Convention Chair once again. The TMRA hamfest will be on Sunday immediately following the Convention. Make a mental note to be at the 2005 version. More details as they come out.

73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

A Glimmer of Hope for AO-40; ARLS005

A weak "noise" on the AO-40 2.4-GHz beacon frequency has raised hopes that AO-40 may still be alive. AO-40 has been silent since January 27 (UTC), in the wake of a precipitous voltage drop.

The satellite's controllers believe that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem.

Colin Hurst, VK5HI, of the AO-40 command team reports that on March 9 between 0310 and 0320 UTC (orbit 1541) he "noted a noise peak of 4 to 5 dB" in the vicinity of the expected beacon frequency after he'd issued a transmitter reset command sequence to the satellite. "The width of this peak was about 5 kHz," he said. After listening for about 15 seconds, he issued a command to shut down the transmitter, and the noise peak disappeared.

Hurst said he also transmitted several commands involving the auxiliary batteries but did not attempt to turn the beacon on again. "This tends to suggest that the IHU [Internal Housekeeping Unit computer] and L Band [1.2 GHz] receiver are operational," he said.

The AO-40 command team theorizes that a cell in the main battery pack has shorted, clamping the bus voltage below the point where it can operate the satellite. The spacecraft's auxiliary batteries are believed to be in parallel with the main batteries, and commands sent so to swap to the auxiliary batteries havebeen unsuccessful. AO-40 Earth stations are continuing to send commands to the satellite in order to switch the batteries.

Updates on AO-40 are available on the AMSAT-DL Web site, ***http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm*** .

[ARRL Bulletin]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, April 19, 2004!!**

Few men, during their lifetime, come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strenght that are never used.

Richard E. Byrd

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
April 14: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS				1 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	2	3
4 **DST Begins**	5	6 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	7 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	8 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	9	10 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
11	12	13 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	14 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	15 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	16	17 **Jackson County ARC** Coalton
18 **Cuyahoga Falls ARC** Cuyahoga Falls	19 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	20 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	21 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	22 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	23	24 **ARES Conference** Columbus
25 **Athens County ARC** Athens **20/9 ARC** Canfield	26	27 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	28 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	29 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	30	

May 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Reservations for Hamvention® activities are due by noon, Friday, May 7. Hamvention spaces, for 2004 Hamvention, are 3201, 3202, and 3203. ***DIAL***'s on-site repeater will be operating on 147.315+ using PL tone of 100 Hz.						1
2	3	4 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	5 Amateur License Class 6 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	6 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	7	8 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
9 ***Mother's Day***	10	11 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	12 Amateur License Class 6 pm **Location TBA**	13 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	14 ***Dayton Hamvention***	15 ***Dayton Hamvention***
16 ***Dayton Hamvention***	17 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	18 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	19 **Amateur License Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	20 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	21	22
23	24	28 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	26	27 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	28	29
30 **Franklin County Communications** Columbus	31	**May 19: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS				

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

May 2004

Minutes of the April 19, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
N8NQF, KB8WKL, N8RYS, AF8T, N8LWM, N8ODK, N8OZN, W8EH, KC8WOF, KC8TXA, KE8OH, W3GP, N8TQG, KC8DUX, KB8VSX, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KC8CYP, WA8PRA, N8DIG, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN, Bonnie, W8GNV, N8PI, KC8SKW, Mary Foster, N8HP, N8GGE, KC8THL, N8DHW.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by President Art Frasik, N8PI. Those present introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ernie, N8EH, second by Bob, KC8DUX, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 2004 meeting and approve them as published in the Newsletter. Motion approved.
The Secretary had nothing further to report.

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report was presented by Ron, N8NQF, for the absent K8CM. The report for March was detailed. We have 105 members.

Repeater/Station Report:
Station report by Ernie, W8EH. Everything is working.

Activity Report:
Activity report by Lorie, W8LKU. April 26 Skywarn training and May 12, 7 to 9 pm, ARES meeting. The Butler County ARES net will be the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Classes & Exams:
Education report by Beverley, N8GGE. One student in the class. The last class is May 12. Test session is May 19.

Old Business:
Hamvention tickets arrived. Spaces will be the same, 3201 to 3203. Food will be the same, reservations, to Ron, N8NQF, by May 5.

Art, N8PI, discussed the WPX contest operation at his house. Turnout was small but they had fun.

New Business:
The club is going to make a bulk order for Field Day T shirts. Sandi, AB8LA, is handling the order.

Ron, N8NQF, made a motion to support the ARRL morse code and restructuring petition as a club. Second by Bob, KC8DUX. After a short discussion it was approved with two no votes. *[A filing was submitted to the FCC on behalf of the club.-Ed]*

Lorie, W8LKU, held a drawing for the net check in prize. It was won by Dan, N8DIG. ***Congratulations Dan !!***

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by George, W3GP, and duly seconded by Elizabeth, N8RYS. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Hamvention 2004 - May 14, 15, 16

Finally !! We've received official notice from *Hamvention* and we have the same outside vendor location (spaces 3201, 3202, 3203) as in the past few years.

Lunch will again be available on-site. Menu will be the same as last year as will the donation; $10/daily or $20 for the weekend.

Lunch reservations and payments are to be made to Ron, N8NQF, on or before Wednesday, May 5.

Since we're not permitted to sell food at *Hamvention*, food, snacks, and drinks will be available only to *DIAL* members who have made prior reservations. *[K8CM]*

Next Meeting: Monday, May 17, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

DIAL Membership Supports ARRL Restructuring Proposal

On April 22, I filed our simple statement of support, for the ARRL petition for license restructuring, with the FCC last night. This is a result of the motion approved at Mondays meeting. If you would like to see the final product, use this link:
http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6516088937

If that link gets word wrapped and messed up by the list remailer, you can use this link:
http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi

Then on line 5 enter the words "Dial Radio Club" without the quotes and then click to retrieve the document listing. This will search for our comments. It will bring up a link to click to get the document (in PDF format.)

Thanks to all that gave input and those wanted to sign onto the club comments.

[W8EH]

Utility Draws "Line in the Sand" on BPL Interference Abatement

In an e-mail this week to the FCC, an electric utility testing broadband over power line (BPL) systems in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area has drawn a virtual line in the sand on how far it plans to go to mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. Responding this week to the FCC about BPL interference complaints from hams, Progress Energy Corp (PEC) told the FCC that his company has eliminated any harmful interference from its BPL trial site and now complies with FCC rules.

"It is PEC's position and interpretation of the FCC's rules with regard to 'harmful interference' that any interference that may still exist is not 'harmful' as that term is defined by the FCC's rules," Len Anthony, PEC's attorney for regulatory affairs, told James Burtle, chief of the FCC's Experimental License Branch. "This level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions or cause repeated interruptions." Some, but not all, of PEC's BPL field trials are covered by an FCC Part 5 experimental license.

The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations."

Anthony claimed that since PEC can modify its Amperion BPL system to totally eliminate interference to fixed stations, "the only impact of any kind upon ham operations is upon mobile operators." PEC concluded that since BPL interference to mobiles would be "very short lived," the company is not causing harmful interference and is in "full compliance" with FCC Part 15 rules.

ARRL North Carolina Public Information Officer Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, suggests PEC has a bit more work to do. He is among local amateurs closely monitoring BPL deployment in the test zones and cooperating with PEC and Amperion to work out any interference issues. Pearce says interference remains on the top end of 20 meters in an overhead-line field trial neighborhood where PEC recently had tweaked its system.

"Nothing had changed," he told ARRL after visiting the neighborhood in the wake of Anthony's e-mail. "They were still covering up the top end of the 20-meter band." Interference to 17 and 12 meters had been notched out, but beyond that, BPL interference persisted from 14.290 to nearly 17 MHz, he said, and "fringe" carriers still encroached some 100 kHz into the bottom of 15 meters Interference had not been mitigated at all in neighborhoods wit underground power service, he said.

Progress Energy has been operating its "Phase II" trial in three neighborhoods south of Raleigh since early January. The area, in Wake County, is largely rural or lightly settled.

No hams live in the underground-wired neighborhood, so none complained, Pearce said. The handful of BPL interference complaints eventually lodged with the FCC came from amateurs living closer to the overhead-wired neighborhood, and some were from mobile operators.

Pearce said PEC's stance regarding mobile stations "sets a new bar" in interpreting harmful interference. "Hams have never been asked to accept that level of interference before," he said, noting that mobiles driving by a power line can hear the signal for "a mile or so."

The ARRL's BPL strategy calls for the League to seek a radiated emission limit sufficient to protect the estimated 70,000 Amateur Radio mobile stations in the US. ARRL field observations using typical amateur equipment have documented BPL interference to mobile stations located hundreds of meters from BPL interference sources.

Pearce says the North Carolina hams will respond to Progress Energy and the FCC to disagree with its interpretation of "harmful interference" and its conclusion regarding interference to mobiles.

While he maintains that controlling BPL in a small trial area like his should not be that difficult, "having BPL buzzing across all the power lines in a large city is another story entirely, and that's what we're worried about."

ARRL CEO David Sumner framed the situation another way. "If BPL emissions block weak signals that otherwise would be usable, that is harmful interference and they must remedy it," he said. "Progress Energy has as much as admitted that they can't. The only thing left for them to do is to shut their system down and get back to their basic business of supplying electrical energy."

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <***http://www.arrl.org/bpl/***>.

[ARRL Letter]

FEMA Appears to Backpedal in BPL "Clarification" Letter

After expressing "grave concerns" to the FCC last fall about the interference potential of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) now appears to be backing away from that strong stance. Now a part of the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA filed comments December 4 in response to the FCC's April 2003 Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-104. Many have cited those remarks in their own comments opposing BPL deployment. In a January 8 letter that's now part of the BPL Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket 04-37, Michael D. Brown, the US Department of Homeland Security's under secretary for emergency preparedness and response, told FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell that FEMA wanted to "clarify the record" to ensure that its filing was not "misunderstood or misconstrued."

"We have become aware that certain distinct approaches to BP

may have the potential to cause interference to FEMA's high frequency radio communications system," Brown said in his January letter. "However, we continue to study the BPL proceeding and have not concluded that there is a material interference problem or that all of the distinct technological approaches to BPL pose a risk of interference."

The FEMA official said his agency expects that there may be ways to provide BPL's benefits "without compromising the emergency communications capabilities available to FEMA."

The January letter stands in stark contrast to FEMA's predictions last December that "the introduction of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems." Saying such interference could "directly impair the safety of life and property," the agency also had recommended the FCC beef up its Part 15 rules to ensure no increase in interference levels to existing FCC or NTIA-licensed communication systems.

"The purported benefits of BPL in terms of expanded services in certain communications sectors do not appear to outweigh the benefit to the overall public of HF radio capability as presently used by government, broadcasting and public safety users," FEMA asserted last December in comments filed on the agency's behalf by Chief Information Officer Barry C. West.

BPL also could render such "essential communications services" as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) useless, FEMA said. FEMA and ARRL are signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding that focuses on how Amateur Radio personnel may coordinate with the agency to support emergency communications functions. FEMA's December comments also referenced ARRL's "Interference to PLC systems from Amateur Radio Operation."

Brown's January letter conveys a much milder, conciliatory tone. "We know that the FCC shares our appreciation for the importance of reliable communications in the context of disaster recovery and are confident that the Office of Engineering and Technology's technical assessment, as well as the Commission's regulations implementing BPL, will be sensitive to this issue," he concluded. "FEMA stands ready to assist in any way the Commission might find helpful."

The deadline to file comments in response to the FCC BPL NPRM is Monday, May 3. Reply comments are due Tuesday, June 1. Interested individuals and organizations may file comments via the Internet using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <***http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/***>. The FCC asks that anyone filing comments do so "only in the newly established ET Docket No 04-37."

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Okays RF Identification Tags at 433.5 to 434.5 MHz

The FCC has adopted a somewhat limited version of its earlier proposal to permit deployment of RF Identification (RFID) tags in a segment of the 70-cm band at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices and at higher field strengths. Among other applications, RFID tags are used to track shipments and packing containers. A Third Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 1-278 <***http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-98A1.doc***> released this week follows a 2000 petition by SAVI Technology to revise FCC Part 15 rules to accommodate such devices in the vicinity of 433 MHz. The ARRL has consistently opposed the proposal, but FCC just as unfailingly has tried to accommodate it. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Ed Thomas said RFIDs provide important public benefits.

"This item is designed to increase homeland security at ports, rail yards and warehouses," Thomas told the FCC open meeting. "It will foster the development of more powerful and advanced RFID systems that can identify the contents of shipping containers and determine whether tampering has occurred during shipment." Thomas said the devices also would increase efficiency in shipping operations and inventory control.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said SAVI has been raising the issue of homeland security in association with this proceeding for several months now. "This is the first time the FCC has acknowledged the argument," Imlay said, "but it helps the Commission justify the complete abandonment of its periodic radiator rules, and helps justify its abandonment of its custodial role of a natural resource."

In requesting Commission adoption, OET's Hugh van Tuyl provided the broad strokes of the Part 15 rule changes, which, he said, would apply specifically to commercial shipping containers "in commercial and industrial areas." In certain cases, he asserted, current Part 15 requirements aimed at preventing interference to licensed services "may unnecessarily constrain the operational range of RFID systems as well as the speed and quantity of data that can be transmitted."

The Third R&O not only would increase the maximum radiated field strength permitted for such devices but their maximum permissible transmission period as well--from one second to one minute. "While the maximum [emission] level would be greater than currently allowed," van Tuyl said, "it would still be only one-half of the level permitted for devices such as garage door openers, which also operate in this band." The longer authorized transmission period would allow an RFID to transmit the contents of an entire shipping container, he pointed out.

"We therefore believe there will be no significant increase in the potential for interference to authorized services," van Tuyl concluded. The FCC made peace with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on the RFID tag issue. In 2002, the NTIA--citing the likelihood of interference to critical government radars-expressed "grave concerns" about the proposal to permit deployment of the RFIDs.

The Third R&O reflects certain accommodations that SAVI had offered in response to the 2002 NTIA study. It limits the operating band for such RFID tags to 433.5 to 434.5 MHz, instead of the 425 to 435 MHz SAVI originally wanted. It further would prohibit operation of RFID tag systems within 40 km (about 25 miles) of five government radar sites. Manufacturers of 433 MHz RFID systems would have to register the locations of their system base stations to assist in resolving interference complaints.

Since SAVI first approached the FCC in 2000, ARRL has maintained that the RFID tags the company proposed represented a significant source of potential interference to sensitive receivers. Operating near-continuous duty Part 15 in the vicinity of 433 MHz "is fundamentally incompatible with incumbent amateur operation," the ARRL told the FCC.

More than 130 amateurs filed comments in opposition to SAVI Technology's RFID tags proposal, and most supported the ARRL's position that the proposed rules were flawed and should not be adopted.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Proposes $11,000 Fine for California Amateur

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, proposing to fine the Whittier, California, man $11,000 for allegedly "willfully and repeatedly" violating the Communications Act of 1934 and Amateur Service (Part 97) rules. The FCC asserted that on at least eight occasions, Granda, 58, "willfully and maliciously caused interference to other stations and conducted activity in an effort to obtain exclusive use" of a 1.25 meter repeater pair.

"Specifically, we find Mr Granda apparently liable for failure to respond to official Commission correspondence and causing intentional interference to amateur radio communications," the FCC said in the NAL, released March 31. In December 2002, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued a Warning Notice to Granda alleging that he deliberately interfered with two repeaters, KD6ZLZ and WA6NJJ. Granda failed to respond to that and to subsequent notices, including one from the FCC's Los Angeles Field Office, the NAL said.

Agents from the FCC's LA office subsequently used direction-finding techniques to track interfering signals to Granda's residence, the NAL said. FCC agents inspected his station on April 15, 2003, and found radio equipment capable of transmitting on all of the frequencies involved. The FCC says Granda "orally admitted" that he had received the warning notices from the Commission. The NAL says Granda told the agents he was "trying to prevent anyone from using 'his' frequency by re-transmitting 147.49 MHz signals on 222.24/223.84 MHz to 'keep the channel occupied.'" The following day, an FCC agent observed that audio from 147.49 MHz was being retransmitted onto 222.24/223.84 MHz from Granda's residence, the NAL said.

Based on the evidence, the FCC said, it determined that Granda had caused malicious interference and transmitted signals "in an attempt to exclusively use a frequency." The FCC gave Granda 30 days to pay the proposed forfeiture or file for a reduction or cancellation.

Last August, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside the grant of renewal of Granda's Amateur Extra class license, which expired last November. His renewal application has reverted to "pending" status. Although his call sign no longer appears in the FCC database, he does have interim operating privileges at least until the enforcement action is resolved.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Fines Restaurant for Long-range Telephone Use

A New Jersey restaurant is facing a $10,000 fine from the FCC for operating transmitting equipment on 2 meters without a license. The case involves Best Wok in Westville, which apparently had been using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle. The FCC says the telephone in question--said to have been obtained outside the US and not FCC certificated--operated within the 2-meter satellite subband at 145.8376 MHz. Acting on a tip, the FCC conducted an investigation that resulted in the February 26 issuance of a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to Best Wok. While the case dates back to 2001, the FCC asserted in its NAL that the restaurant had violated the Communications Act as recently as early last year.

"On February 28, 2003, Best Wok operated radio transmitting equipment on the Two-Meter Amateur Radio Service frequency 145.8376 MHz," the FCC said. "Neither Best Wok nor any of its employees held a license to operate a station in the Amateur Radio Service Band." In 2001, following numerous complaints from the amateur community, the ARRL asked the FCC to investigate and "take appropriate action" against several companies it alleged were marketing similar telephone devices via the Internet.

After issuing a couple of warning notices, an FCC agent from the Commission's Philadelphia office visited Westville in February 2003 "to determine if Best Wok was operating radio transmitting equipment" on 2 meters. Using direction-finding techniques, the agent pinned down the source of the transmissions to Best Wok.

According to the FCC, the agent visited the establishment and inspected the radio transmitting equipment in the presence of restaurant manager Sae C. Hauwo. "The agent found that Best Wok was operating a long-distance cordless telephone system," the FCC said. The Commission says Hauwo told the agent he installed the long-range cordless telephone system so that his employees could answer customers' telephone calls while making deliveries.

Hauwo said that after the restaurant got the second written warning, it stopped using the long-range telephone and purchased a set of Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) radios that operated on 154.600 MHz. But the MURS units failed to provide sufficient coverage, the FCC says Hauwo told the agent, so Best Wok resumed using the long-distance cordless telephone system.

In its NAL, the FCC said that based on the evidence it had, it determined that Best Wok "willfully violated" Section 301 of the Communications Act. Applying its forfeiture policies and the statutory factors, the FCC said the $10,000 fine was warranted. Best Wok was given 30 days to pay the fine or to seek a reduction or cancellation.

In unrelated enforcement actions, the FCC has downgraded one licensee and canceled four license grants in California pursuant to an audit of a W5YI-VEC examination session on September 1, 2001, in Yucaipa and an ARRL-VEC examination session on March 30, 2002, in Los Angeles. All participating volunteer examiners have been removed from VE service by the VECs.

[ARRL Letter]

Weaver's Words

SPAM VIA ARRL.NET -- Your Input is Requested

I believe that most of you realize that the SPAM that comes through our ARRL E-mail forwarding service (arrl.net) does not originate with arrl.net and that it also is not promoted by or sanctioned by ARRL. SPAM at this time in the development of the Internet is simply a fact of life. I have no need to get into a discussion over SPAM, itself, but I would like to get an up-to-date view of how you, the members in the Great Lakes Division, feel about one aspect of SPAM -- getting rid of it.

A preliminary study of SPAM as it relates to the ARRL E-mail forwarding service has shown it will take over $100,000 each year to add a SPAM filter to the service. Please understand that there i

absolutely no charge to members to use the ARRL E-mail forwarding service and that it would be impossible for us to absorb the thousands of dollars charge to add the SPAM filter to it. Keep in mind, also, that neither this filter nor any other filter currently available will be ally satisfactory for each user. This filter as is true of filters available through ISPs and to individual operators will continue to allow some SPAM through and at the same time will occasionally identify good messages as SPAM and quarantine them. There is no fully satisfactory solution to SPAM. A SPAM filter will detect and quarantine much of the SPAM that is floating around the web.

My questions are very simple.

1. Do you currently use ***<yourcall>@arrl.net*** as an E-mail address through the ARRL forwarding service? (Yes or No, please.)

2. Would you use the ARRL forwarding service if there was a fee of as much as $5/year charged to pay for having a SPAM filter added? (Yes or No, please.)

KENTUCKY QSO PARTY

The Kentucky QSO Party will be on the air from 1600Z April 24 until 0400Z April 25. Modes accepted are CW, SSB and digital on suggested frequencies. RTTY/PSK count as digital. Entries will be SSB only, CW only, digital only, mixed or ROVER. Full details are at ***www.qsl.net/ka8okh/kyqso.htm***. The contest is sponsored by the Bullitt County ARS.

Speaking of QSO parties, kudos to the folks in Michigan for a fine party last weekend. I was unable to put much time into it, but greatly enjoyed making 25 QSOs in spite of conflicts between it and family needs (including a First Communion). Unfortunately, I have an even greater conflict for the Kentucky party. I need to be in Newington this weekend for a committee meeting that includes ersonnel and budget oversight.

BPL

Still no word from our lobby gurus about lobbying regarding BPL. As we prepare to contact our legislators, please understand that ARRL is not against BPL. We are, however, against interference in the radio wave spectrum that it is likely to cause. This interference would not be limited to Amateur Radio frequencies, only. When we write our Congressional representatives, we will ask them to help ensure that the FCC lives up to its obligation of enforcing anti-interference standards. Keep your writing hand and typing fingers warmed up.

One additional point: BPL is and has been legal under existing FCC rules/regulations. Our concern specifically is that the Commission will fail to enforce its current rules against interference. Our main concern is that it will not define these rules as they relate to BPL in a manner that will force power companies to run clean operations even if it is possible to have an interference free BPL. However, I have to say (much like to car insurance add) I've just received some very good news. It is a draft document at this time and I cannot pass it along; however, it could prove to be a pivotal document in helping control BPL properly. Protection against BPL remains the top-most cause among the Board and upper staff at HQ.

RESTRUCTURING PETITION

Please understand that the recent "omnibus" rulemaking proposal issued by the FCC is not directly related to the ARRL proposal for estructuring the Amateur Service (NPRM 10867). The Commission's most recent proposal stems from a dozen or so petitions filed as long as about five years ago and as recent as about a year ago. Relative to ARRL, the newest FCC proposal includes adopting the League's Novice refarming recommendations. These recommendations are also embodied in the recent ARRL Restructuring Petition, NPRM 100867.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

Because of the increased interest of emergency and disaster preparedness in this country, greater emphasis has been placed on the role hams can and should play in communication preparedness. This has created great opportunities for amateurs to become associated even more closely with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Sheriffs' Departments, State Police, Emergency Management Associations and, most recently, the various forms of Homeland Security. As often happens, this increased visibility has also resulted in a degree of confusion among members of organizations that typically include or are totally made up of hams. I offer a couple of comments to help get rid of just a little of the confusion.

ARES: The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is the only nationwide, locally-staffed emergency communication service sponsored by an Amateur Radio organization -- the ARRL. The top of the chain of command resides at ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. From here, the chain goes to each ARRL Section. The Section Manager (SM) heads ARES (and everything else) in the Section. The Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) reports to the SM. Immediately under the SEC in the structure are the District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) who are assigned to coordinate the actions of ARES in selected smaller territories. Each of these smaller territories is headed by an Emergency Coordinator who reports to the DEC. ECs can in turn appoint Assistant ECs to assist them in organizing and directing the activities of ARES members in their locality. The rules for membership in ARES are established by ARRL.

RACES: This organization is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is not specifically an Amateur Radio organization and members of it do not need to be radio amateurs. The rules for membership in RACES are generally established nationally with some added local fine tuning at the State level. In Michigan, the Michigan State Police are responsible for administering RACES. They have close ties with the Michigan Section ARES. Conversely, in Ohio, RACES is administered by Ohio EMA. Close working association with Amateur Radio in Ohio mostly is through the County EMA organizations.

As Homeland Security systems develop within the separate states, we can expect to find that every Amateur Radio group that has some tie with some public safety/service group will be associated with Homeland Security or one of its branches. This means that at least on paper, amateurs who work for the Red Cross will find themselves being partnered with those who work with the Salvation Army, with law enforcement agencies, with RACES and with ARES . . . and any additional organizations. At this time, many amateurs hold concurrent membership in ARES and RACES with the two services taking on the appearance of a single organization.

NTS: NTS is undergoing a transition from the service it was in years past into a service that is being shaped into one that can beyond question be counted upon to pass urgent traffic over a wide area promptly. The idea of change has caused some NTS members great concern. It should not. The changes are bringing or have already

nearly brought NTS into the modern era as a partner with ARES. Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT chairs a committee for the Board of Directors that is ensuring the continued viability and enhanced value of NTS into the future. Close participation in appropriate emergency situations will make NTS more valuable and more highly valued than at any time in its history.

These are just a few of my thoughts and observations on ARES and NTS. As Amateur Radio continues to evolve, more sophisticated and more durable means of communication will be developed. These forms, largely developed by fell amateurs, will provide increasingly reliable communication under adverse conditions. You who are involved in this effort can take pride in your excellent work.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Anyone wishing to become involved in ARES should contact the local EC. If they do not know the EC, log on to http://greatlakes.arrl.org/ and go to your State information page. You may contact the DEC or the SM to find the EC in your area. Remember, our ability to provide emergency communications support is a key to the survival of Amateur Radio.

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

New Amateur Radio LF World Record Claimed

Amateur stations in New Zealand and Asiatic Russia are laying claim to a new low-frequency world distance QSO record. Bob Vernall, ZL2CA, told ARRL this week that ZM2E, near Wellington, New Zealand, and UA0LE, near Vladivostok, Russia, completed a two-way contact during the night of March 20 on 137.70 kHz.

"The path length is estimated to be 10,311 km (6,392 miles), which is claimed as a new world record between amateur stations on LF bands," Vernall said. "For several hours signals received at ZM2E were so strong that they could be decoded 'by ear,' despite high peaks of QRN." By noting tone-on and tone-off times and checking them against a highly-accurate digital clock, the ZM2E operators at one point were able to decode the very slow-speed (QRSS) CW without resorting to Argo DSP software signal detection.

The Wellington Amateur Radio Club station at Quartz Hill uses the special ZM2E call sign for work in the 136-kHz band. A DXpedition station, UA0LE obtained permission to support its LF antennas from a 90-meter (295.3 feet) broadcast mast.

Vernall said UA0LE set up for a slow-speed CW beacon transmission on 137.7895 kHz using 60-second dits--known as QRSS60. "They used the shortened form of 'UATLE' to save time in sending," he explained. Because they need to be succinct, Vernall said, LF DX signal reports use the same "O," "M" and "T" signal reports <***http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/78518.pdf***> developed for moonbounce and other weak-signal communication.

On the big day, ZM2E started calling UA0LE at 0930 UTC--sunset in Vladivostok. The first good UA0LE signals showed up on the computer screen at 1030 UTC, Vernall said.
The defining moment came when UA0LE confirmed reception of the "O" report from ZM2E. "At 1650 UTC, we received 'ZM RO E,' and by acknowledging our report to them it satisfied the minimum requirements for claiming a two-way contact," Vernall said. The two stations continued to "tie the ribbons" on the QSO for another hour or so.

Vernall and Andrew Corney, ZL2BBJ, were the operators at ZM2E. The operators in Vladivostok were Vlad Burakov, UA0LE; Vic Bondarev, UA9OC; Andy Rodichev, RA0LGH, and Ed Lesnichy, RU6LA.

[ARRL Letter]

DIAL Intercom Net Contest & Prize

Check-ins for the Middletown Intercom Net have been down for some time now. So, starting March 4, everytime a *DIAL* member checks into the net, his or her name will be submitted for a doorprize which will be drawn at the following *CLUB* meeting. First door prize will be a coupon for dinner for 2 at the Golden Corral. We will be doing this on a trial basis for 2-3 months to see how it works.

Thanks and 73,
Lorie, W8LKU

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, May 17, 2004!!**

Don't go around thinking the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing, it was here first.

Mark Twain

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

May — *2004*

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thurs*	*Fri*	*Sat*
Reservations for Hamvention® activities are due by Wednesday, May 5. Hamvention spaces, for 2004 Hamvention, are 3201, 3202, and 3203. ***DIAL***'s on-site repeater will be operating on 147.315+ using PL tone of 100 Hz.						1
2	3	4 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	5 Amateur License Class 6 pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	6 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	7	8 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
9 ***Mother's Day***	10	11 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	12 Amateur License Class 6 pm **Location TBA**	13 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	14 ***Dayton Hamvention***	15 ***Dayton Hamvention***
16 ***Dayton Hamvention***	17 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	18 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	19 **Amateur License Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	20 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	21	22
23	24	28 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	26	27 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	28	29
30 **Franklin County Communications** Columbus	31	**May 19: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS				

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH

June — *2004*

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thurs*	*Fri*	*Sat*
		1 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	2	3 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	4	5
6	7	8 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	9	10 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	11	12 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **ARRL** June VHF QSO Party
13 **ARRL** June VHF QSO Party **Ham-O-Rama** Edgewood, KY 147.255+	14 **ARRL** June VHF QSO Party	15 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	16	17 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	18	19 **Milford Hamfest** Live Oaks Campus Buckwheat Road 147.345+
20	21 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	22 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	23	24 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	25	26 ***Field Day*** at Smith Park Family Picnic 6pm
27 ***Field Day*** at Smith Park	28	29 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	30			

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

June 2004

Field Day June 26 - 27
Smith Park, Middletown, OH

Minutes of the May 17, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, KC8WOF, N8EH, N8HRA, N8OZN, N8RYS, KD8W, N8NQF, KB8WKL, K8CM, W8WLM, N8HP, N8GGE, W8MVN, Bonnie, WB8MYT, WB8DPZ, Lois, N8TFH, WD8DFK, WA8PRA, N8PI, Ben, Mary, KC8SKW, AB8QP, W3GP, N8TQG, KC8DUX, N8BH, KB8VSX, N8DIG, KE8OH, W8LKU, N8DHW, WA8DTU, Kathy, K2RWP.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by President Art Frasik, N8PI. Those present introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ernie, N8EH, second by Dave, KD8W, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the April 2004 meeting and approve them as published in the Newsletter. Motion approved.
The Secretary had nothing further to report.

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report for April was presented by Carl, K8CM. We have 105 active members. Motion to approve and file for audit by Ron, N8NQF, second by Ernie, N8EH. Motion approved.

Repeater/Station Report:
Station report by Ernie, W8EH; everything working.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU, discussed the Field Day picnic scheduled for 6 pm on Saturday, June 26. Please let her know if you are attending and the number of persons you are bringing. Also bring a covered dish.
No *ARES* activities to report.

Classes & Exams:
Beverley, N8GGE, reported the next exam will be Wednesday, May19, at 6:30 pm. No summer classes are planned. Fall Technician classes will begin on Wednesday, August 25 at Miami.

Old Business:
Calvin, WB8MYT, says the 5W group has nothing going on.
Beverley, N8GGE, said the Field Day T-shirt order is going in and she had the sign up list.
Hamvention; Ron thanks every one for a lovely weekend and their help. We all had fun (go wet). A round of applause was given for spouse Judy and her work on the lunches.
Dave, KD8W, says there will be trailer painting fix up going on. In other news, we threw out Carl's last chair.
Field day committee will meet for a few minutes after the meeting.

New Business:
Kelly, KC8ZJM, is doing a class demonstration Friday after school.
Carl, K8CM, presented membership applications from Lane, KC8ECK, (second N8EH) and Kelly, KC8ZJM, (second KD8W).

Next Meeting: Monday, June 21, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Both motions approved.

Lorie, W8LKU, conducted the net checkin drawing and Kelly, KC8ZJM, won the 2 free dinners courtesy of Golden Corral.

Daniel, N8DIG, reported that equipment from the estate of Edward Castle, N8JJZ, (SK) will be offered for sale. A tower needs to be removed from the site as well. Contact Daniel, direct, if you have an interest.

Field Day Meeting:

We will need several tents. Barney, N8HP; Art, N8BH; Ernie, W8EH; Ernie, N8EH; and Bob, KC8DUX, will have tents.

Ernie, W8EH, asked if any one could bring *an elected official* from a local government for Field Day bonus points.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and duly seconded by Ron, N8NQF. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

New Members

We welcome Lane Williams, KC8ECK, and Kelly Wills, KC8ZJM, elected to membership last month.

Kelly is recently licensed and is a graduate of *DIAL*'s licensing classes. He holds a Technician license and recently earned credit for the General class written element.

Lane "is back". A member a few years ago, Lane has rejoined our Club.

We look forward to active participation by both Kelly and Lane.

New Morse "@" Character Became Official May 3

The International Morse code officially gained a new character on May 3. That's when the now-familiar "@" symbol joined the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together (.--.-.). Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so.

Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specified the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures and included the new Morse code character.

The pending change has attracted some attention in the media, including mentions on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and in The New York Times.

[ARRL Letter]

Butler County ARES

We are now into our busy months with Public Service Events and continuing training.

The Butler County ARES Mobile Communications and Command Post and team members have been out and about letting people knows we exist!

Participation at events such as the Cincinnati Reds Opening Day Parade, Butler County Family Safety Day, working the Hamilton Memorial Day Parade and the Dayton Hamvention are just some of the places the Communications and Command Post has been on display, promoting Butler County ARES and Amateur Radio.

Originally we had not planned to attend the Dayton Hamvention, until Shelby County ARES called and offered a personal invitation for the Butler County unit to be there.

We also thank all of the members that volunteered to stay with the trailer during the wet event. There was a great interest shown in the unit from other ARES teams and EMA agencies from around the country.

Butler County EMA is training 5 of our team members to become CERT trainers May 21-22. The group of 5 will be working with EMA throughout the county to get over 160 additional people trained this summer. We also assisted EMA with assembly of those 160 training manuals in April.

BCARES made a great showing at the annual ARES conference in Columbus again this year with 8 members in attendance. One of the main topics of the conference this year was hospital emergency communications, handling a high volume of patients and internal backup communications systems.

Another topic was HF to UHF or VHF linking of the Internet into a disaster area where service had been interrupted. Ships use the technology daily to provide email service to passengers, and the ARRL is looking to the Amateur radio community to bring it to a level of NTS beyond the digital systems in place now.

We hold our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at Butler Technical School on Route 4, ½ mile north of By-Pass 4, from 7 till 9 P.M.

Please feel free to join us!

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

White House Gives ARRL Delegation Assurances on BPL Interference

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, headed an ARRL delegation during a May 20 White House visit to discuss concerns about broadband over power line (BPL). Haynie, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met with Richard Russell, the White House associate director for technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The ARRL officials asked the Bush administration to heed its own experts at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and back away from its support of BPL in favor of less troublesome technologies. The NTIA's Phase 1 BPL study acknowledged BPL as an interference source. Haynie said the meeting was both revealing and encouraging.

"He assured us that based on the NTIA report, the interference issues would be addressed," Haynie said. "That was one of our main purposes for being there." Haynie said, however, that he remains "absolutely" convinced that a political agenda is driving the BPL proceeding. Russell told the ARRL contingent that the administration is "very excited" about BPL and is committed to finding ways t

make it work.

Imlay said the League's problems were not with broadband access but with the "rush-to-judgment" approach the FCC seems to be taking in the BPL proceeding. As one example, he cited the timing between the release of the extensive NTIA study and the comment deadline on the BPL proceeding just a few days later. The Commission denied requests from the ARRL and others to extend the comment deadline. While somewhat sympathetic, Russell suggested that his office was in less of a position to influence the FCC than it was the NTIA.

After Rinaldo presented some of the ARRL's BPL interference test findings, Russell asked the League to provide a breakdown of the BPL systems and providers manifesting both lesser and greater degrees of interference.

Rinaldo also told Russell that representatives of the BPL industry have been double-talking their way around interference claims. Imlay pointed out that the FCC has yet to address dozens of BPL-related interference complaints from amateurs.

The administration does not want a flawed technology to result from the BPL proceeding, Russell said at the session's conclusion, and he offered assurances to the League visitors that the NTIA would work to address the interference.

"We did get listened to," Haynie said afterward. "Did I leave there feeling euphoric? No, I didn't, but at least I have a better feeling now of the overall big picture, of where BPL's coming from, and I hope that I can take to the bank the fact that they're going to address and continue to address aggressively the interference issues."

Derek Riker, KB3JLF, of Chwat & Company, the ARRL's legislative relations consultant, arranged the meeting and accompanied the delegation on the White House visit.

The ARRL already has asked the FCC to put its BPL proceeding on hold to allow more thorough research of its interference potential. The League contended in its comments on the February 23 Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47 that the FCC's "overly aggressive timetable" to proceed with BPL deployment will effectively preclude the development of cooperative interference avoidance and resolution mechanisms.

[ARRL Letter]

NTIA Study Documents Radio Interference From BPL

The first phase of a long-awaited broadband over power line (BPL) study the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released this week suggests it's possible to accommodate BPL technology while managing the interference risk. In a cover letter to FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, Acting NTIA Administrator Michael D. Gallagher pledged that the NTIA would "work with the Commission to establish a firm technical foundation for responsible deployment of BPL to protect critical federal communications systems." But, Gallagher added, "technical rules governing their deployment must address potential harmful interference to critical systems." Released April 27, NTIA Report 04-413 <***http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2004/bpl/index.html***> analyzes 10 million BPL system measurements.

"Most studies have been oriented to determine whether interference will occur at the variously proposed limits," NTIA says in describing its study's approach. "In contrast, NTIA has oriented its study to find a solution that accommodates BPL systems while appropriately managing the risk of interference to radio systems." The NTIA acknowledges that BPL signals "unintentionally radiate" from power lines. But, the agency said, "there is substantial disagreement as to the strength of the emissions and their potential for causing interference to licensed radio systems." The NTIA also said current FCC Part 15 measurement techniques may "significantly underestimate" peak BPL field strength.

The hefty, two-volume NTIA Phase 1 study looks at BPL systems using the HF and low-VHF spectrum from 1.7 to 80 MHz and "defines risks of interference from BPL systems to local radio reception" while assuming the systems comply with existing Part 15 rules. That spectrum, NTIA said, is home to some 59,000 federal frequency assignments. The study proposes protecting 41 frequencies of the "most sensitive and likely most severely affected federal systems."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the NTIA study clearly demonstrates that BPL systems pollute the radio spectrum. "How can any responsible public official encourage the deployment of such systems," he asked, "and how can any investor seriously consider pouring money into such an obviously flawed technology?"

Among interference mitigation techniques, the NTIA study recommends reducing BPL device output power--which it called "the single most effective method" of reducing interference potential--and "shifting or notching" BPL frequencies. Others included differential-mode signal injection, absorbing filters, adopting a "one active device per frequency and area" rule and using a single point of control for each BPL service area.

Interference calculations by the NTIA engineers indicated that a BPL transmitter operating within Part 15 limits would significantly increase the noise floor for land-mobile receivers on frequencies below 30 MHz. The agency said it could be inferred from its calculations that "a vehicle-mounted HF receiver" operating in a residential neighborhood next to a BPL-energized line "may experience harmful interference" depending on the frequency, distance along the line from the BPL transmitter, the BPL transmitter's duty cycle and the number of BPL devices on the power line.

The NTIA study calculated that interference "is likely" to mobile stations in areas extending to 30 meters and to fixed stations in areas extending to 55 meters from a single BPL device and the power lines to which it's connected. With "low to moderate desired signal levels," the NTIA study continued, interference is likely at these receivers within areas extending to 75 meters for mobiles and 460 meters for fixed stations.

The NTIA says its Phase 2 study will "evaluate the effectiveness" of its Phase 1 recommendations and address potential interference via ionospheric propagation of BPL "from mature, large-scale" deployed BPL networks.

[ARRL Letter]

BPL Industry Official Disputes NTIA Report in Congressional Hearing

A BPL industry witness this week told a House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing that the extensive National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) broadband over power line interference study draws "generalized conclusions," some of which are "inaccurate." Jay

Birnbaum, vice president and general counsel of BPL provider Current Communications Group LLC <*http://www.currentgroup.com/*> was among those answering lawmakers' questions during the May 19 hearing, "*Competition in the Communications Marketplace: How Convergence Is Blurring the Lines Between Voice, Video, and Data Services.*" ARRL CEO David Sumner called it "interesting" that a BPL spokesperson would try to downplay the significance of the NTIA's findings.

"Clearly, the report has the BPL industry worried--as well it should," Sumner said. "Anyone who gets past the introduction and actually reads the body of the NTIA study can only conclude that NTIA's findings are devastating to the case for BPL."

Among other observations, the NTIA acknowledged that BPL signals "unintentionally radiate" from power lines, but said there's "substantial disagreement as to the strength of the emissions and their potential for causing interference to licensed radio systems."

The subcommittee members questioning Birnbaum included Oregon Republican Greg Walden, W7EQI, one of two amateur licensees in the US House. Walden asked Birnbaum to address the BPL interference issues that the NTIA report and the amateur community have raised.

Birnbaum responded that he thinks interference concerns about BPL are unfounded and that the FCC agrees. BPL emissions from power lines, he asserted, are at very low levels and dissipate very quickly with distance. Current Technologies is field testing a BPL system in Potomac, Maryland and has a 50-50 partnership with Cinergy to deploy a full-blown BPL system in the Cincinnati area. The Maryland system employs the HomePlug Alliance standard, which notches all HF amateur bands except 60 meters.

The ARRL documented a visit to the Potomac test area on its Web site <*http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#Video*>. The Potomac site is identified as "Trial Area #1" under "Video showing results of ARRL testing in MD, VA, PA and NY." BPL interference heard outside amateur bands at the Potomac site sounds like severe, irregular pulse-type noise.

Birnbaum also told Walden that BPL is "literally undetectable" tens of meters away, although he indicated that there's disagreement on the issue. Walden said he just wants the interference addressed technically--"especially driving under power lines."

The NTIA, which conducted measurements at three different BPL field trial sites, said that while radiated power "decreased with increasing distance," the decay was not always predictable. At one measurement location with a number of BPL devices, the NTIA said, "appreciable BPL signal levels (ie, at least 5 dB higher than ambient noise) were observed beyond 500 meters from the nearest BPL-energized power lines."

The NTIA study further calculated that interference "is likely" to mobile stations in areas extending to 30 meters and to fixed stations in areas extending to 55 meters from a single BPL device and the power lines to which it's connected. Interference to systems with "low to moderate desired signal levels," such as those common in ham radio, is likely within areas extending to 75 meters for mobiles and 460 meters for fixed stations, the NTIA study said.

Responding to a question from New Hampshire Republican Charles Bass, Birnbaum said the BPL industry would be pleased if Congress could provide tax or financial incentives, especially for improving the power grid.

Birnbaum suggested that while utilities have been slow to act on BPL, they will begin to deploy BPL systems over the next year or two. The biggest issue, he said, is the incentive for utilities to invest in broadband technology. *[ARRL Letter]*

Amateur Enforcement Cases Declining

The number of Amateur Radio enforcement cases has continued to drop since a five-year peak of 350 in 2001. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth told the Dayton Hamvention 2004 FCC Forum May 15 that 240 ham radio enforcement cases crossed his desk last year. As his tenure in amateur enforcement enters its sixth year, he's estimating only 175 cases in 2004.

"Two years ago at Dayton, I said that I hoped the day would come soon when enforcement would not be an issue in the Amateur Service," Hollingsworth said. While he doesn't believe amateur enforcement is in "maintenance mode" yet, it's well on its way, he said. But he urged his audience not to become complacent just because there's active FCC Amateur Service enforcement. Although the percentage of "hard-core" cases is very small and rapidly declining, the remaining cases include "some real nasty ones," he said.

Hollingsworth said his main worry remains inappropriate or illegal on-the-air behavior and the sometimes-negative image it can present to decision makers at a time of broadband over power line (BPL) and other threats to amateur spectrum. He proposed that amateurs concentrate on improving how they conduct themselves on the air while letting him deal with the remaining bad apples that require his attention.

"No enforcement program in the world can save certain people from themselves or from being an embarrassment to the entire service," he said--reiterating a refrain that's now almost become his mantra. "If anything is the downfall of Amateur Radio, it will probably be the microphone. You have to focus on your image--what you sound like--all the time."

Hollingsworth also told the forum he's convinced that further Amateur Service restructuring is a necessity. He also suggested that amateurs be less concerned about any perceived "dumbing down" of the licensing requirements, because ham radio will continue to thrive in any event. "It's not really what you do to get into Amateur Radio that counts. It's what you do once you get on the air," he said. *[ARRL Letter]*

Minor FCC Amateur Rule Changes Effective June 1; ARLB015

The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio rules become effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register.

"This document makes minor amendments to various rule sections to clarify or eliminate duplicative language or conform them with other rule sections," the FCC said.

Among other changes, the most significant involved revising the wording of Section 97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that:

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, mus+

be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB.

Still exempt from the provisions of Section 97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator to reflect the advent of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic licensee database. Under the revised Section 97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee database to be the control operator of an amateur station." The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station."

Anther change eliminates Technician or Technician with Element 1 credit licensees from the classes of operators permitted to prepare Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) and Element 2 (Technician written) examinations.

The Commission ordered the rule changes within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges. The FCC continues to seek comments on these proposals. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Ham-Congressmen Urge FCC Chairman's Support for ARRL Restructuring Plan

The only Amateur Radio licensees in the US Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), have written FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place.

"We believe that this plan will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country," Walden and Ross said in an April 23 letter. "We urge you to support the ARRL's restructuring plan and to implement it rapidly."

The FCC now is considering a total of nearly 1300 comments filed on the League's restructuring plan and on two other similar petitions--one from a group called the Radio Amateur Foundation, RM-10868, and the other from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10870. A fourth petition from Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, RM-10869, dealt solely with the Amateur Radio Morse code requirement. It attracted more than 200 comments before the April 23 comment deadline.

The ARRL plan proposes a new entry-level Amateur Radio license--being called "Novice" for now--that would include HF privileges without requiring a Morse code exam, consolidate the current six license classes into three and retain a 5 WPM Morse test only for Amateur Extra class applicants. It also would integrate current Technician licensees into General and current Advanced licensees into Amateur Extra without additional testing.

"The ARRL's license restructuring plan, once implemented, will complete the Commission's [restructuring] plan, initiated in 1998, and will provide a blueprint for licensing well into the next decade," Walden and Ross said. The League's plan "is needed right now to promote greater growth of the healthy, exciting and rewarding intellectual pursuit of Amateur Radio."

Walden--a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet--and Ross invited Powell to share his thoughts on the matter.

[ARRL Letter]

Ham Radio-carrying Rocket Makes It to Margin of Space

Following its May 17 launch from Nevada's Black Rock Desert, a solid-fuel amateur rocket carrying a ham radio avionics package easily exceeded its primary goal of attaining an altitude of 100 km--62 miles--considered the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space, its sponsors say. An Amateur Radio direction finding team later recovered the rocket's avionics package intact. Avionics Team Leader Eric Knight, KB1EHE, told ARRL that the 21-foot, 10-inch diameter Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) <***http://www.civilianspace.com/***> GoFast vehicle reached an altitude of 77 miles according to its onboard instruments, making it the first civilian rocket to do so.

"We well shattered any definition of space, and everybody's jubilant here," Knight told ARRL from Nevada. "Within two seconds into the flight we were already supersonic." An ARRL member, Knight said 75 to 100 people--many of them radio amateurs--witnessed the launch, and some asked how they could become licensed. The launch itself, Knight reported, "went like clockwork."

During the vehicle's descent to Earth, a ballistic parachute deployed to keep it from tumbling, slow its velocity and make it hit the ground nose first. "The avionics package looks pristine," Knight said. "It could fly again." That's not likely however, since the CSXT team is hoping the avionics will end up in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

A volunteer aerospace tracking and recovery team of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio operators calling itself Stratofox <***http://www.stratofox.org***> zeroed in on signals from the fallen rocket, which came down in rugged, mountainous terrain some 25 miles from the launch site. Tiny bird-tracking transmitters operating in the 224-MHz range were embedded into the parachute shroud lines solely for tracking purposes.

The avionics team's homebuilt patch-type antennas served the 33-cm telemetry downlink and 2.4 GHz Amateur TV transmitters as well as the onboard GPS units. The color ATV system was able to provide some photos during the first several seconds of the flight, but Knight said the rocket's spin--about nine cycles per second--caused the video to blur after that.

The avionics team includes eight Amateur Radio licensees, most of whom also were involved in an unsuccessful 2002 CSXT launch attempt. The entire 18-member CSXT team is headed by CSXT founder and Program Director Ky Michaelson, a retired Hollywood

stunt man.

The United Kingdom Rocketry Association this week conveyed congratulations to the US team. "It's certainly a major achievement," said John Bonsor, a UKRA founder.

[ARRL Letter]

Logbook of The World Inaugruates DXCC Credits into System May 5

The ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) <*http://www.arrl.org/lotw*> secure contact database debuts its DXCC credits system Wednesday, May 5. As of week's end, the credits system was undergoing some final testing. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the long-awaited LoTW component will permit users to apply contact "matches" in Logbook's 41.4 million QSO and growing database to their DXCC records. To date, Mills reports, more than 2.5 million QSO matches already exist in the system.

"It's a pretty straightforward process," Mills said of crediting LoTW QSO matches to DXCC. "What participants need to do first is go to the LoTW site and read the instructions." Information available will include a list of frequently asked questions--FAQs.

Before doing anything else, LoTW newcomers will have to obtain a Logbook of the World digital certificate and download the software. Since LoTW launched last September, it has validated nearly 10,000 digital certificates from approximately 7000 individual users. Obtaining a digital certificate, which authenticates each user under a particular call sign, is free.

The Logbook of the World database is a repository of individual contact records submitted by users in the US and abroad. When both QSO participants submit matching contact records to LoTW, the result is a "virtual QSL" that--while it bears little resemblance to a paper QSL card--is good for DXCC credit. LoTW accommodates Windows, MacOS and Linux RPM users, and several logging software developers have incorporated LoTW components into their programs.

DXCC is the first and only award for which LoTW users will be able to apply their credits. Mills says plans already are in the works to make the system available to apply LoTW credits to other ARRL and possibly some non-ARRL awards.

Getting the DXCC credits system up and running has involved a considerable amount of programming--much of it by ARRL Web/Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z--followed by extensive testing.

LoTW users already holding digital certificates just need to click on the "Awards" menu tab to access the new system that lets them apply QSL credits to their DXCC records.

While the software and obtaining a digital certificate are free, it will cost users to apply LoTW QSL credits to DXCC. The application fee for a basic DXCC certificate remains the same, however, and users will only be charged on the Logbook side of the system. Individual credits can cost as much as 25 cents apiece, but users can save money by buying credits in bulk. Purchasing more than 500 credits will drop the per-QSL cost to just 15 cents, Mills pointed out. "The fees are much more economical than the postage and other costs associated with collecting traditional paper QSL cards," he added.

The application fee for a basic DXCC Award is $10 and includes up to 120 card credits. Applicants pay 15 cents per each additional card applied. A similar fee structure applies for those going the LoTW route, Mills says, and you won't have to pay any additional fees on the DXCC side. The site provides for secure payment via credit card.

One first: LoTW will be able to query the DXCC system and display an individual's DXCC record. In the past, members have had to request their DXCC records via e-mail. "This was actually an unintended consequence of offering the DXCC credits system," Mills said.

For more information, contact the Logbook of The World staff <*lotw-help@arrl.org*>.

[ARRL Letter]

DIAL Intercom Net Contest & Prize

Check-ins for the Middletown Intercom Net have been down for some time now. So, starting March 4, everytime a *DIAL* member checks into the net, his or her name will be submitted for a doorprize which will be drawn at the following *CLUB* meeting. First door prize will be a coupon for dinner for 2 at the Golden Corral. We will be doing this on a trial basis for 2-3 months to see how it works.

Thanks and 73,
Lorie, W8LKU

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday June 21, 2004!!**

The height of foolishness is to discard an idea without proper investigation.

Benjamin Franklin

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	2	3 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	4	5
6	7	8 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	9	10 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	11	12 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **ARRL** June VHF QSO Party
13 **ARRL** June VHF QSO Party **Ham-O-Rama** Edgewood, KY 147.255+	14 **ARRL** June VHF QSO Party	15 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	16	17 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	18	19 **Milford Hamfest** Live Oaks Campus Buckwheat Road 147.345+
20	21 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	22 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	23	24 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	25	26 ***Field Day*** at Smith Park Family Picnic 6pm
27 ***Field Day*** at Smith Park	28	29 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	30	***Field Day Family Picnic*** 6 pm, Saturday, June 26 at the Field Day site in Smith Park, Middletown. Please let Lorie know that you are attending and the number of persons you are bringing. Also bring a covered dish to share. Reach Lorie, W8LKU, on the air (Thursday night Net), by phone (937-743-9540), or e-mail (dishgirl@worldnet.att.net).		

July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	2	3
4	5	6 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	7	8 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	9	10 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **IARU** HF World Championships
11 **IARU** HF World Championships	12	13 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	14	15 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	16	17
18	19 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	20 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	21	22 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	23	24
25	26	27 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	28	29 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	30	31

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

July 2004

Minutes of the June 21, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, N8OZN, N8RYS, N8HRA, N8EH, KB8WKL, KC8TXA, N8GGE, N8HP, K8CM, W8WLM, WB8MYT, KI8I, KD8W, W8GNV, W8MVN, WA8PRA, N8PI, AB8QP, K8TNF, N8BH, W8LKU, WA8DTU, Kathy, KC8ZJM, N8DIG, KE8OH, WN8I, KC8DUX, NZ8K, N8DHW.

Call to Order:
Meeting called to order by Art, N8PI. Since there was no new people, introductions were skipped.

Secretary's Report:
Motion to approve the minutes as published and dispense with the reading by Ernie, N8EH, second by Bob, KC8DUX. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report by Carl, K8CM. Carl gave a detailed report on expenses and income for the month of May. Motion to approve the report by Vernon, NZ8K, second by Jon, K8TNF. Motion approved.

Carl also gave the results of the *Hamvention* expenses and income. We ended up in the black, with an excess of $38.19. Motion to approve the report by Ernie, N8EH, second by Elizabeth, N8RYS Motion approved.

Classes & Exams:
Education report was presented by Beverly, N8GGE. Exam will be August 18. Technician class will start August 25. Instructors needed. Spread the word.

Activity Report:
Activities report was presented by Lori, W8LKU. Butler County ARES will be participating in the countywide disaster drill and will need help from area amateurs. Reservation deadline for Field Day picnic is today.

Jon, K8TNF reported that the demonstration for Kelly's class at Middletown High School went well.

Field Day setup will start at 2 pm Friday until dark, and continue at 8:30 am Saturday.

Repeater/Station Report:
Ernie, W8EH, reported that the club's Kenwood TS-850 receive problem was fixed, we spent $37 for the IC and shipping. After it was left running for a few days to test it, it developed a different transmit synthesizer problem. Discussion was should we fix it or sell it as is. Parts could be another $100 plus. Motion to appoint Carl, K8CM, and Ernie, W8EH, to fix or dispose of the radio, second by Ernie, N8EH. Motion approved.

Old Business:
There was no old business to be considered.

New Business:
Jon, K8TNF, brought up that several members were discussing starting up a round table net on the repeaters late in the evening. They wanted to see what others thought. Motion by Ernie, W8EH, to give them the official OK to try it, second by Carl, K8CM. Motion approved.

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and duly seconded by Ron, N8NQF. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

2004 Field Day Report

Well, Field Day-2004 is behind us. We are already discussing

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

what not to do wrong next year, and what we did right. If anyone mentions that we should again network our logging computers , we'll quickly set them straight.

Field Day for the group was a tremendous success. We had the biggest crowd in attendance on Saturday for the picnic and visit. Many of the Butler County VHF members worked with us this year. Most of us had the opportunity to meet new people. And the weather was absolutely perfect. Lorie, W8LKU, organized probably had the best picnic ever, with the vast selection of food. Red, W8ULC, did fantastic grillwork for the weekend meals.

The setup on Friday went so well, that we were finished long before dark, leaving only minor things to address on Saturday morning before the start. The arrangement of stations this year allowed each operating position to see all the others, and visitors could easily stop by each station. The reduction in number of towers to the two we set up, helped save our strength and time. The switch to tarp canopies instead of the army tent saved our backs. The radio command trailer that Bob, N8TVU, brought was the center of attention. Wow, did anybody count how many antennas were on top of that trailer? We need one of those.

The only downside to the event was that we will never know our exact score. At 7 am Sunday, Vernon, NZ8K, was operating phone station 2 and Barmey, N8HP, was operating phone station 1. They were making contacts when some glitch happened and they looked at the network log to discover that our number of contacts dropped from 375 to 3. The log database had become corrupted. We don't know if the network caused the trouble or if the program had a bug, but the end result is loss of all contacts before 7 am Sunday. So, starting from scratch, we slowly worked our way up to 60+ contacts before Field Day concluded. Most stations we tried to work after 7 am said we had already worked them.

The CW station was an example of how to plan and schedule. This year a hand full of operators were able to keep the station running all 24 hours. They finished with a total of 690 contacts in the log. It's a good thing that they were not networked with the phone stations. ***Good job guys!***

The VHF station was in a good position this year. We mounted the VHF/UHF beams on N8TVU's pneumatic tower. Mount beams, add air, that's all it took. This got them a great deal higher in the air than in the past. This station made 43 contacts when 6 meters opened Saturday evening.

In the area of demonstration stations, Bob, N8TVU, setup APRS (using his Kenwood D7000) and demonstrated a slow scan TV system. He could take your picture with the hand held and send it back to the communications trailer. Don, WA8DTU, demonstrated fast scan amateur TV. There were no satellite contacts this year due to the unavailability of the satellites.

We had a visit from Chuck Lusic of the Red Cross. He was shown our capabilities. We had many visitors to the site and there were some that are now interested in getting their license.

We also had good success with the publicity. The newspapers ran articles in advance and a *Middletown Journal* photographer paid us a visit on Saturday night. A picture of Ernie, N8EH, and Bob, KC8DUX, appeared in the Sunday edition of the *Journal*. The picture showed them operating the phone station. Sandi, AB8LA, setup the publicity tables near the parking lot and showed the Walter Cronkite video on a TV.

Thanks to Mark, WD8DFK; Ed, KF8PD; Bob, N8TVU; Don, WA8DTU; Ernie, W8EH; and Dave, KD8W, for the loan of their HF/VHF station equipment for use at this Field Day exercise. And we wouldn't have had the nice shade if it Bob, N8BH; Ernie, N8EH; Bob, KC8DUX; Bob, N8TVU; and Barney, N8HP, had not provided tarps and shelters. Thanks to Ron, N8NQF, for getting the generator in such tip-top shape. It ran so smooth this year that we didn't have a worry.

Everyone that had a part in this year's Field Day exercise deserves a pat on the back and a big thanks. There were too many contributors to list here.

Everyone went home exhausted but happy with this year's experience. Get rested and we'll see you next year.

W8EH

From the Dial Radio Club Email List: *Field Day*

Wow, what can I say! Lots of food, a birthday boy, an anniversary couple, and a fun time had by all. About 59 were in attendance this year for the picnic.

I would like to thank those who helped with set up and take down, our chief cook, Red Dakin, W8ULC, for grilling hamburgers and hot dogs both for Saturday's dinner and Sundays lunch as well as fixing breakfast Sunday morning, and for those who donated the many covered dishes that were positively delicious.

73, Lorie, W8LKU

2004 Ohio Section Conference

The 2004 Ohio Section Conference, which skipped a year in 2003, will be held Saturday, September 18, at the Ohio EMA headquarters in NW Columbus. Which means the big social event of the year, the OSC Pizza Lunch, returns as well.

The Section Conference, a meeting of Ohio Section field appointments but all are welcomed, is held each September to review ARRL activity in Ohio. The ***Severson Memorial Award*** and Ohio Section Newsletter award winners are also announced. Plus pizza for lunch.

In 2003, the Conference was canceled because of the Great Lakes Division Convention being the same week.

The Conference begins at 10 a.m. The Ohio EMA address is 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road (Ohio 161) in Northwest Columbus.

[K8QOE]

Weaver's Words: Out of the Ashes Edition

GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

Beginning last year, the Great Lakes Division leadership began to hold full-blown Division Conventions once again. These are planned biannually. The first of these was held the Saturday immediately before the Findlay Hamfest in 2003. It was a rousing success. The second will be in March 2005 and will be the day before the 50h-Anniversary Toledo Hamfest.

The speaker at the Convention Banquet (Friday evening) will be none other than Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, of Gettysburg, PA. Riley, of course, heads the Enforcement Bureau of the FCC. He has done great things to assist Amateur Radio. Action approved by him has removed numerous willful and disruptive offenders from our ham bands. I'm sure his speech will be one not to be missed.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

As to other aspects of the 2005 Convention, former Director and Convention Chairman Gary Johnston, KI4LA recently issued the following release:

On the heels of the resounding success of the 2003 Great Lakes Division Convention in Findlay, Ohio (this past September), the 2005 GLD Convention has been announced. The Toledo, Ohio club (Toledo Mobile Radio Association) will host the convention, which will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005, in conjunction with the Sunday, March 20, 2005, Toledo Hamfest! Both events are held indoors, with the hamfest drawing typically 3,000 hams. Details will be forthcoming, but MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Also, keep in mind that we will be accepting nominations for the Division level awards: The George S. Wilson III W4OYI Great Lakes Division Award, Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year, Great Lakes Division Technical Achievement Award, and the Great Lakes Division Newsletter Award. Vice Director Dick Mondro W8FQT from Dearborn Heights., Michigan will chair the GLD Awards Committee and will send out the awards criteria, procedures and deadlines later this summer.

Brenda Krukowski KB8IUP from Toledo has been appointed as the Convention Manager, and Joe Phillips K8QOE from Cincinnati has agreed again to serve as Seminar Chair (send your ideas for the presentations you would like to see to Joe!). Jeanie Dalton KB8QLC from Lexington will continue running the Convention Office. Division Director Jim Weaver K8JE, Kentucky SM John Meyers and Michigan SM Dale Williams WA8EFK are also on the GLD Convention Committee.

We are looking forward to another GREAT convention, and we want YOU to be a part of it!

My deep thanks to Gary and the SMs of the time for deciding to resume these conventions. Thanks to Gary, the current SMs, Brenda and Jeanie for handling the bulk of the convention work.

OFTEN FORGOTTEN HAMFEST/SWAP FEATURE

Field Checking of QSL cards for the several Worked All States and DXCC awards can be done at local hamfests, swaps and conventions. All it takes for this to be done is for attendees to bring cards and applications to the event and for event-sponsors to arrange for an authorized volunteer checker to be present to do the checking. Lists of volunteer checkers can be found at the DXCC and WAS pages on the ***arrl.org*** web site.

I encourage hamfest/swap chairs to arrange to have appropriate checkers present and to include this information in event publicity. A time-span for checking can be designated to permit the checker(s) to enjoy the hamfest/swap and still check cards brought by individual amateurs.

MISC.

As you might guess, I've been out of touch a little, thanks to the demise of my computer. I will be playing catch up as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, a number of messages I had in queue to read later on and very likely a number that were sent while I was having the problem have been lost . . . forever. If you sent anything that should have been acknowledged or received a reply, please send it again.

Looking ahead, the second meeting of the Board of Directors will be the middle of July. If you have anything you would like for me to check on at HQ or to bring to the Board or any of its committees, please send the information to me soon.

FINAL

I mentioned a couple of issues ago that I was on pins and needles waiting to receive the remaining two or three QSL cards needed to complete my 80M DXCC and, with this, the 5BDXCC. Interestingly, I took what I thought were the needed cards with me to HQ when I attended the April Administrative & Finance Committee meeting, and I came home with the 80M DXCC, but not with 5BDXCC!

One of the cards I had previously turned in proved to be for a delisted country. This and similarly cards count toward DXCCs, but not toward 5BDXCC which requires all of the countries to be on the current list. I was one country short of 5-band.

Well, I have it now, though, with a couple of 80M cards from current countries to spare.

This incident proves one thing. The folks at HQ can be relied upon to maintain the integrity of ARRL operating awards. They didn't even flinch when they told me, a Director, I hadn't qualified. This made me even more proud of the HQ crew!

73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

Butler County ARES

The results are in!

In October 2003 the ARES team worked in cooperation with Hamilton County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps for a simulated Amber Alert drill during the *National Simulated Emergency Test* (SET).

Since Butler County ARES is in it's second year, and many of the members have logged thousands of hours of extra training, we thought it would be a great time to introduce ourselves to the police, fire, and EMS around the county.

Our operators during this drill contacted seventy plus agencies. Informational ARES flyers were distributed with contact numbers for ARES.

The drill was not about getting "points"; it was about introducing the team. Fortunately, it worked well in awareness and the SET point system.

In the July *QST* Page 100 through 102 are the 2003 SET results.

Nationally, Michigan took first place with 4624 total points. Ohio placed second with 3559 points.

In Ohio, Butler County ARES was #1 in the state with 921 total points. Ohio's second place went to Summit Co. with 484 points.

Butler County ARES ranked #6 in the point standings in the COUNTRY for a single county!

The ARES team member's can all be extremely proud of not only being #1 in the state, but of being a "model team" for others to follow.

The Section Manager, the Section Emergency Manager, the

District Emergency Coordinator, and the Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver have told me what a fantastic job BCARES is doing.

The EC could not have gotten 900 points on his own, it took a team effort by all!

Again, Congratulations to all for a great year of Emergency Communications Training!

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

ARRL in Substantial Agreement With FCC on Wide-ranging Proposals

The ARRL told the FCC this week that it substantially agrees with the Commission's proposed wide-ranging changes to Part 97 Amateur Service rules. The League filed comments June 15 in the so-called "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15. The proceeding addresses several largely unrelated Amateur Radio petitions for rule making, including some filed by ARRL. Although the NPRM&O does not take up comprehensive Amateur Radio restructuring, the League said it sets the stage for the FCC to act on a far-reaching restructuring plan. While complimenting the Commission for a well-considered document, the League pointed out that some petitions will have been on the table for between three and four years before the FCC concludes the proceeding.

"It is hoped that other petitions filed subsequent to those addressed in the instant Notice and which are pending before the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau can be more expeditiously addressed," the ARRL commented.

In a significant item related to license restructuring, the NPRM&O recommended adoption of the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan, spelled out in RM-10413. The League's later license restructuring petition, RM-10867, incorporates refarming--a realignment of HF subbands. Noting that the approaching low point of the sunspot cycle typically means a migration to the "substantially overcrowded 80 and 40-meter bands," the ARRL urged the FCC to act swiftly on the ARRL-proposed band realignments.

"The proposed changes will assist greatly in redistribution of some of this overcrowding," the ARRL told the FCC. The League said its refarming proposals "will benefit all licensees," and it expressed gratification that the FCC agreed with the petition.

Under the now FCC-endorsed ARRL plan, current Novice and Technician Plus (ie, Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees could operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200-W output. The plan also would mean changes in the 80, 40 and 15-meter phone bands for General and higher class operators.

The ARRL strongly favors the proposed FCC adoption of a rule to limit the number of applications a licensee may file on a given day for the same vanity call sign. Some amateurs have filed multiple applications for the same call sign on the same day to greatly enhance their chances of getting their first call sign choice.

"This manipulative practice clearly should be discouraged," the ARRL said. "While it is unclear to ARRL why this practice has not been prohibited by Order, it should be prohibited now." The League further suggested the FCC expand the scope of its proposed rule change to preclude the filing of more than one application on a single day for the same call sign choice(s). The FCC's proposed rule addressed only the first choice. The ARRL further recommended that the FCC dismiss the vanity applications of any violators.

The League advised the FCC against adopting a Quarter Century Wireless Association petition to let amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam after they die. The ARRL said such as change would effectively give licensees property rights over their FCC-assigned call signs. "Vanity call signs are not assignable, and the Commission's rules do not permit trafficking in call signs," the League commented.

The ARRL praised the FCC for proposing to essentially eliminate its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. "The proposed amendments are welcome and will enhance amateur use of the 10 meter and 12 meter amateur bands," the League commented. "It will also allow amateurs to enjoy the benefits of construction projects without unnecessary restrictions."

Although in opposition to an earlier, broader proposal, the League now says it supports an amendment to permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz--with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz--in addition to frequency segments already authorized. Kenwood Communications had asked for the change in 2001 as part of an effort to make legal the use of its Sky Command system, which permits users to operate certain Kenwood equipment remotely via a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver. The ARRL said the proposal would "enhance the development of sophisticated amateur communication systems."

The League said the FCC should retain its rule requiring a public announcement of test locations and times as a means to prevent abuses. The ARRL also called on the Commission to require volunteer examiners and Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, such as ARRL-VEC, to submit or forward exam session paperwork within 10 days. The FCC proposed eliminating both requirements.

The ARRL proposed in RM-10413 and the FCC supported a rule change to permit spread spectrum (SS) emissions in the 222-225 MHz band. Current rules prohibit SS emissions below 420 MHz. However, the League disagreed with an FCC proposal to also permit SS on 2 and 6 meters.

The League further asked the FCC to make two changes relating to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions to bring the language of Part 97 into line with the international Radio Regulations.

A copy of the League's comments in WT 04-140 is available on the ARRL Web site.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Says Pending 40-Meter Changes Will Enhance Spectrum Efficiency

The FCC says pending changes in the 40-meter amateur band as a result of World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) will improve spectrum efficiency. The Commission's remark came in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket 04-139, which seeks public comments on proposed rule changes to complete domestic implementation of various WRC-03 allocation decisions. The NPRM primarily affects Parts 2, 25 and 73 of the FCC's rules.

"We anticipate that administrations in Regions 1 and 3 will in the near future authorize phone emissions in the segment 7150-7200 kHz," the FCC predicted in the NPRM, "and we note the ARRL has

requested that the [US] frequency segment for phone emissions be expanded to 7125-7300 kHz." The FCC said authorizing phone in the 7150-7200 kHz segment of the band would permit same-frequency US-to-DX contacts, resulting in increased spectrum efficiency. Amateurs in the Region 1 countries of Norway, Croatia and San Marino already have been granted access to 7100 to 7200 kHz on a secondary, non-interference basis.

Under the present regime, most amateur stations in Regions 1 and 3 use 7075-7100 kHz for phone. Since the US phone band is 7150 to 7300 kHz, this means most US-to-DX operation requires "split" operation. The band 7000-7300 kHz is allocated to the Amateur Service on a primary, exclusive basis in Region 2, but that is not the case in much of the rest of the world.

Effective next January 1, WRC-03 allocated the band 7100-7200 kHz to the Amateur Service in Regions 1 and 3 on a co-primary basis with broadcasting. After March 29, 2009, 7100-7200 kHz will be allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis throughout the world, except in some Region 1 and Region 3 countries.

"As such, Amateur Service use of this 100 kilohertz will be on a de facto secondary basis in Regions 1 and 3 until the broadcasting service vacates the band 7100-7200 kHz at the conclusion of Schedule B in 2009," the FCC noted. "This means that amateur stations in Regions 1 and 3 will shortly be permitted to transmit in the band 7100-7200 kHz, if they can find a frequency that is not being used by an international broadcast station."

The FCC said it doesn't think it needs to update its Part 97 Amateur Service rules until administrations in Regions 1 and 3 implement changes to allow amateurs to transmit in the 7100-7200 kHz segment.

"As a practical matter, we do not believe that the Amateur Service can make use of the band 7100-7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 in advance of HF broadcasting stations vacating the band because of the great power disparity between amateur stations and international broadcast stations," the FCC concluded.

The NPRM also addresses the deployment of Earth Exploration Satellite Service-Active (EESS-Active) spacecraft in the 70-cm band. The FCC said it "tentatively" finds that any secondary EESS-Active allocation at 432-438 MHz should be limited to federal government use. The Commission said operation in that allocation "should not cause harmful interference to, nor claim protection from, any other services allocated in the band in the United States, including the Amateur-Satellite service."

Comments in the proceeding are due July 16, with reply by August 2. Interested parties may view the entire NPRM, file comments and view comments filed in ET Docket 04-139 via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <*http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/*>.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Turning Blind Eye in BPL Proceeding, ARRL Charges

The ARRL says the FCC apparently has already made up its mind about broadband over power line (BPL) and "wants no bad news" about the technology. In reply comments filed June 22 on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47, the League called on the Commission to take "a fresh look" at BPL before enabling its deployment. Again asking the FCC to put the proceeding on hold for a year, the League recommended that the Commission in the meantime require BPL providers to conduct FCC-monitored interference testing with all stakeholders. The ARRL charged that while an overwhelming majority of comments oppose BPL due to interference concerns, the FCC continues to rely on what the League called "vacuous assurances that BPL would not cause harmful interference." Test data and a growing record of unresolved complaints indicate otherwise, the ARRL said.

"ARRL is of the view that this proceeding has been prejudged and will, in the end, be decided not on the technical issues that should control the outcome of this proceeding, but on the politics of the matter," the League commented. "Given the evidence on the Commission's table, it cannot now authorize BPL at the radiated emission levels proposed, and without substantial restrictions."

Among those restrictions, the League recommended keeping BPL altogether away from all Amateur Radio allocations, should the FCC decide to authorize BPL under its proposed rules. As an alternative, the FCC should guarantee that an interfering BPL system can be shut down immediately in the face of a valid complaint, "not after a BPL provider has taken months to discover that the interference cannot be resolved."

To date, the ARRL contended, the FCC has seemingly ignored the League's BPL technical studies as well as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase 1 BPL study that clearly demonstrate BPL's interference potential. Five additional technical evaluations accompanied the ARRL's reply comments.

"The Commission is obligated by the Administrative Procedure Act to look for fire where it is shown a good deal of smoke," the League said. "Here there is far more than smoke in the record." Any decision in the BPL proceeding "must be supported by substantial evidence," the ARRL asserted.

The League said the results of both its studies and the NTIA's "are entirely consistent." Referring to the NTIA Phase 1 analysis, the ARRL said it's "quite reasonable to assume that the interference potential of BPL systems to fixed HF Amateur Radio stations is on the order of 460 meters (approximately 1509 feet) from the nearest BPL device." No proposals address BPL interference mitigation for mobile stations, the ARRL noted.

While commenting extensively on--and in some instances agreeing with--the NTIA's late-filed comments, however, the League said they depict an agency that must "balance dual and, in this case, conflicting roles" as the White House telecommunications policy advocate. The League questioned the NTIA's contention that BPL is a "win-win" situation and its deployment would lead to lower power line noise.

"Not so," the ARRL countered. "Licensed radio services operating in the sensitive HF environment should not have foist upon them a substantial interference risk from unlicensed devices or systems whatsoever." The League said replacing one interference source with another in the same bands is "not in any way beneficial."

The ARRL also faulted the FCC for neglecting to acknowledge or respond to a mounting number of interference complaints, most from amateur licensees living in BPL field trials areas. "The Commission has, as of this writing, adjudicated not a single one and has ignored repeated requests from licensed radio amateurs for even a confirmation of receipt of their complaints!" the ARRL emphasized. The League also expressed little confidence in utilities that have failed to resolve power line noise complaints to do any better with BPL complaints.

Earlier this month, the ARRL filed a well-documented and

supported complaint on behalf of Jim Spencer, W0SR, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The League suggested such BPL complaints deserved careful analysis, but not the Commission's cold shoulder.

"What ARRL is unwilling to tolerate is the continuation of the Commission's sweeping of these complaints 'under the rug,' which is exactly what has happened in this proceeding," the League commented. The Commission must put its zeal over BPL aside and "take a fair look at them before any action is taken in this proceeding."

"The Commission has not proposed any rules which would predictably and reliably protect HF and low-band VHF radio systems from interference," ARRL concluded. "The interference resolution mechanisms that are adopted should be real, rather than merely illusory."

[ARRL Letter]

Iowa Ham is BPL Interference "Poster Child"

The ARRL has weighed in on behalf of Iowa amateur and ARRL member Jim Spencer, W0SR, of Cedar Rapids, who has suffered severe broadband over power line (BPL) interference for more than two months. A formal complaint to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon calls on the Commission not only to order Alliant Energy's BPL field trial system to shut down but to fine the utility $10,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 15 rules. Alleging "ongoing harmful and willful interference to one or more licensed radio stations," the ARRL asked Solomon to intervene "on an emergency basis." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who signed the letter of complaint, said Alliant Energy has been aware since March 30--the date it installed Amperion BPL equipment in Spencer's neighborhood--that the BPL system was causing harmful interference.

"It's simply unacceptable for Alliant Energy to continue to cause interference while they're trying to solve the problem," Sumner said. While the utility has been cooperative, mitigation efforts have been only marginally successful. The BPL system continues in operation, Sumner notes, despite repeated requests to eliminate the interference or shut the system down.

The complaint cites the Commission's own Part 15 rules prohibiting harmful interference from the operation of an unlicensed intentional, unintentional or incidental radiator to a licensed radio service. "If harmful interference is caused, the radiator may not operate," the complaint says. "There is simply no room for interpretation that would lead to such harmful interference being permissible for any period of time--certainly not 10 weeks."

The letter of complaint summarizes and culminates a series of exchanges and actions in an unsuccessful effort to resolve Spencer's BPL interference. Sumner said the League got specifically involved in Spencer's case after United Power Line Council <http://www.uplc.org> President William R. Moroney invited the League in mid-March to keep his organization in the loop on any cases of BPL interference that were not being satisfactorily addressed. When Spencer's case arose, Sumner said, the League considered it "a good place to start."

Among other approaches, Alliant Energy has tried notching out the HF amateur bands. After notching attempts in late May, Spencer--a retired engineer and former Collins Radio employee--still reported "significant levels" of BPL interference on some bands and power line noise on 160 meter and 80 meters.

An Amperion contractor indicated that the notching--or "power masking" remains a "beta procedure" as well as "somewhat labor intensive." The contractor, Tom Luecke, indicated to Spencer in early April that he had cranked down the BPL system's gain "a notch below where I would like to have them" on three units closest to Spencer's home.

Although claiming Amperion's equipment to be FCC Part 15 compliant, "We are not a radio silent technology, nor do we claim to be," Luecke conceded. "Put another way, you can hear our signal, but we strive not to interfere with ham operators on the ham bands." He said his company has a good track record with the amateur community and "would like to think that the majority of apprehension about Amperion's technology lies in misinformation."

Sumner said UPLC representatives have made good-faith efforts to persuade Alliant Energy to comply with the FCC rules. Spencer "has cooperated fully and patiently" with Alliant Energy's and Amperion's fruitless efforts to eliminate the interference, the complaint notes. The BPL partner companies' best efforts to date notwithstanding, Sumner said, the time had come to say enough is enough.

"The situation in Jim's case is egregious, and it's been going on for 10 weeks," he said. "If this is the best we can expect when a BPL system causes interference, then the only answer is to prevent them from being deployed."

The letter of complaint calls on the FCC to notify Alliant Energy "immediately to cease operation of their BPL devices in accordance with °15.5(c), and to follow up that notification with a Notice of Apparent Liability."

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPI Web site.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, July 19, 2004!!**

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but really great people make you feel that you too can become great.

Mark Twain

July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
July 14 Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS				1 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	9	10 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **IARU** HF World Championships
11 **IARU** HF World Championships **Wood County ARC** Bowling Green, OH	12	13 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	14 **Butler County *ARES* Meeting**	15 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	16	17 **Northern Ohio ARS** Wellington, OH
18 **Van Wert ARC** Van Wert, OH	19 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	20	21	22 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	23	24 **OH-KY-IN ARS** Cincinnati, OH
25 **Portage ARC** Randolph, OH	26	27	28	29 ***DIAL*** **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	30	31

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	6	7 **ARRL** UHF Contest **Voice of Aladdin** **HAM "OH" RAMA** Columbus, OH
8 **ARRL** UHF Contest	9	10 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	11 **Butler County *ARES* Meeting**	12 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	13	14 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
15 **Warren ARA** Warren, OH	16 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	17	18 **Ham Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	19 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	20	21 **ARRL** 10 GHz and Up Contest
22 **ARRL** 10 GHz and Up Contest	23	24	25 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	26 **DIAL Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	27	28 **Portsmouth Radio Club** Friendship, OH
29	30	31	**August 11: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS **August 25: Technician Ham Class** begins in Johnston Hall, MU-Middletown, 6 - 9 pm			

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

August 2004

Minutes of the July 19, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, KC8WOF, N8RYS, N8OZN, KB8WKL, N8GGE, N8HP, W8WLM, K8CM, N8TFH, WB8DPZ, Lois, W8MVN, Bonnie, W8LKU, WA8DTU, WB8MYT, KC8CYP, KI8I, KE8OH, Tillie, KC8DUX, KC8SUD, N8PI, Ben, Nicole, K8TNF, KC8TXA, N8DIG, N8DHW.

Call to Order:
Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Art, N8PI. Since there were no new people, introductions were skipped.

Secretary's Report:
Motion to approve the minutes as published in the *Newsletter* by Jon, K8TNF, second by Bob, KC8DUX. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report by Carl, K8CM, detailing income and expenses for June. Our roster of members now stands at 109.

Repeater/Station Report:
Station report by Ernie, W8EH. Everything working and nothing to report.

Activity Report:
Lorie reported that we had in excess of 57 attendees at the Field Day picnic.

Butler County ARES will participating in a countywide drill on September 8. This will occur during the day and your help is needed.

Jon, K8TNF, reported that the round table net has been active and looking for more check ins. Mark your calendar for Saturday night at 9:30pm.

Ernie, W8EH, reported that the Field Day log has been submitted to the ARRL. Also "soap box" comments and pictures have been uploaded to the ARRL web site. See ***http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/index.html?con_id=68&call=K8PI***

Classes & Exams:
Education report by Beverley, N8GGE. The next exam is Wednesday, August 18. Classes begin the following week for Technician Class. Instructors are being scheduled.

Old Business:
There was no old business to be considered.

New Business:
Art, N8PI, announced that we have a speaker for the November meeting.

Dan, N8DIG, asked if there is any progress on the ARRL petition for amateur license restructuring. Answer, to date, is no.

Lorie, W8LKU, held the drawing for Thursday night net check-in. David, N8DHW, won.

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth, N8RYS, and duly seconded by Lorie, W8LKU. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Ham License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, August 18, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 13 Johnston Hall,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $12.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($12) made payable to the *Dial Radio Club*. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson,

and must arrive no later than Monday, August 16. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Talk-in on 146.610 -

Amateur Radio Class
Fall 2004-2005 Ham Radio Class

The Technician Class section of the **DIAL RADIO CLUB's** Fall, 2004-2005, Amateur Radio class will begin on August 25, in Middletown, 6-9 pm. Meeting in Johnston Hall, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, classes will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in Technician Class amateur operator license.

Theory instruction will conclude October 13. *Morse code proficiency is not a requirement for the Technician Class license.*

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, in Middletown, at the conclusion of General class instruction, on October 20.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class. License training manuals are expected to be available, for purchase, the first night of class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

Ohio ARRL Section Manager Announces BPL Team Organization

Amateur Radio operators in the Cincinnati area are organizing a Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) team to monitor a planned BPL deployment. In announcing the move, ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, says the group will study the effects of a BPL rollout in two neighborhoods by utility Cinergy Corp. The new group, consisting of a half dozen engineering professionals and some 20 others, will operate as a subcommittee of the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee (LIC). Kirk Swallow, W8QID, will head the BPL/LIC effort.

"Kirk has been operations manager for several electronics cellular and satellite firms," said Phillips, "and his experience with directing professional engineers makes him well qualified to handle this assignment." Phillips says the Greater Cincinnati LIC has a lon and successful record of handling repeater interference problems. "This BPL problem, however, represents new and special challenges in interfering with the spectrum," he added.

In March, articles in The Wall Street Journal and the Cincinnati Enquirer announced the BPL rollout by Cinergy and its BPL partner Current Technologies. Cinergy and Current said they hoped to offer the service to between 60,000 and 1.5 million Cincinnati-area customers by year's end and eventually to some 24 million potential customers elsewhere who are served by smaller utilities. Cinergy has been charging $40 a month for BPL service, but Philips says many current subscribers are utility employees who get the service at no cost.

The new BPL/LIC team will work with Phillips and ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, to serve as a clearing house for BPL suggestions, comments and information from the Amateur Radio community. "We in Cincinnati are getting lots of calls and notes from all sections of the US, as this city has the biggest BPL offering from the largest utility," Phillips noted. The team also will cooperate with the ARRL Laboratory to monitor and investigate BPL in the affected area using "the highest professional standards," Phillips said.

Phillips said being able to produce "credible" technical data and information is key to any effort to convince Cinergy of BPL's harmful interference potential and that the technology won't boost the company's bottom line. Several technical companies in the area already have offered the BPL/LIC team the use of state-of-the-art spectrum measurement equipment, he said.

[ARRL Lette

2004 Ohio Section Conference

The 2004 Ohio Section Conference, which skipped a year in 2003, will be held Saturday, September 18, at the Ohio EMA headquarters in NW Columbus. Which means the big social event of the year, the OSC Pizza Lunch, returns as well.

The Section Conference, a meeting of Ohio Section field appointments but all are welcomed, is held each September to review ARRL activity in Ohio. The ***Severson Memorial Award*** and Ohio Section Newsletter award winners are also announced. Plus pizza for lunch.

In 2003, the Conference was canceled because of the Great Lakes Division Convention being the same week.

The Conference begins at 10 a.m. The Ohio EMA address is 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road (Ohio 161) in Northwest Columbus.

[K8QOE]

2004 Ohio QSO Party Announcement

The 2004 running of the *Ohio QSO Party* will be Saturday, August 28. It goes from noon to midnight, EDT. Activity will be on the HF bands, 10 through 80 meters, CW and SSB.

Stations inside Ohio can work anyone, anywhere. Stations outside of Ohio (anywhere in the world, and yes, we do get entrants from Europe) can only work stations in Ohio -- so we Buckeyes ar

the hunted, not the hunters for a change!

There are numerous awards (certificates and plaques) available -- including a club competition. This year we have added a new plaque for the top Ohio Single Operator SSB score.

For 2004, we also have a new category, Rover. This will let operators move from county to county during the contest, without the need for a true mobile installation.

The OQP Organizing Committee is hoping that Ohio hams are making plans to activate all 88 counties, whether from home or out in the Ohio countryside. (Last year we had 87 of the 88 counties on the air - only Madison county was missing, as the mobile operator scheduled to be there fell behind schedule.)

There will be plenty of activity for all 12 hours. Operate for a short time or the whole contest period -- whatever suits your time budget. Full details are on the official OQP web site, ***http://www.oqp.us***.

Past scores, a "Quick Start Guide" to the OQP, logging software information, paper forms and operating aids, and a regularly updated page showing planned activity, county by county, are all there for you. For the latest OQP information, there is also an e-mail reflector. You can sign up for it on the OQP Web Site.

We hope you'll join in the fun of the 2004 Ohio QSO Party, Saturday August 28!

Thanks and 73 de Gary, AF8A

[MIAMI VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO BULLETIN BOARD]

ARRL Board Okays Volunteer Grassroots Lobbying Effort; ARLB021

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.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Round Table Net: 146.610

A, new, round-table net has begun on Saturday evenings, at 9:30pm, on the 146.610 (W8BLV/R) repeater.

Welcoming any and all topics, this net encourages open discussion of various subjects of interest to the attendees.

Please feel welcome to check into the net or contact Jon, K8TNF, for more information.

[K8CM]

Butler County ARES

Do you know what the Butler County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Team does?

What they are capable of? What they can do? What they have done? What they have been involved in?

- Over the past two years, the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial staff in Hamilton has asked the ARES team to organize their staging area for the Memorial Day Parade.

How do you go about placing 230-250 units in 4 divisions from a group of 10 twelve year old dancers to a have dozen 2 ½ ton troop transport trucks, a half dozen hummers, fire apparatus, police vehicles, floats, and a variety of township, city, and county equipment? Start lining up at 9 A.M. and have everything in place and ready to roll at 10?

TEAM WORK!

It is that Team Work that has made the Butler County ARES team one of the most outstanding teams in the country.

- Butler County ARES members have worked with the Butler County EMA to get 5 Kenwood D-700's installed at key locations in the county. The Sheriff's 911 center, the EMA EOC, the EMA response trailer, Red Cross offices in Hamilton and Middletown.
- 20 ARES members are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Members, 5 of those are instructors for the CERT training program.
- Actively participate in the planning meetings for the 2004 EMA countywide drill.
- Worked on the EMA response trailer to make it mission ready.
- Have 28 RACES members
- EMA training includes First Responder, Radiological Monitoring, Hazardous Materials Identification, Domestic Preparedness, Disaster Recovery, FEMA Damage Assessment, Computer Aided Management for Emergency Operations (CAMEO), The Emergency Operations Center, Incident Command System-100.
- Assisted Butler County Red Cross with establishing an improved

communications system for their local chapter.

- Red Cross training includes First Aid, CPR, Auto Defibrillator operation, Introduction to Disaster, Disaster Assessment, Shelter Operations & Simulation, Mass Care, Emergency Response Vehicle Driving, Emergency Assistance to Families, Aviation Disaster and Disaster Action Team Responder.
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services Training: 28 are ARECC Level I, 21 are Level II and 16 are Level III.
- 2 members assisted during the Blue Ash, Sycamore Twp. Tornado, 2 members assisted at the World Trade Center 9/11/2001, 2 assisted with damage assessment at the floods in Cincinnati, and 12 assisted with damage assessment at the floods in Butler County.
- Assisted with the search of the missing Oxford Ohio retired college professor on at least 3 occasions.
- No less than 8 public service events a year
- Attendance at the Ohio ARES and Section Conferences etc.

The training is not so we can put on the chemical suits and go running into the muck to save the day. It is for OPERATOR SAFETY. Knowing what is going on, staying informed, knowing what the situation is and how the agencies and departments will have to deal with it.

Knowledge, experience and continuing education for situations we could become involved in, improves the capability and reliability of the ARES team.

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

"ARESCOM" Plan to enhance Emergency Communication Compatibility

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a resolution encouraging further development and expansion of an inaugural network to enhance the emergency communications capability of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The action came during the Board's meeting July 16-17. The Board had charged an ad hoc committee, dubbed "ARESCOM," with developing an augmented ARES telecommunications system that would include rapid and accurate handling of long-range emergency communications. ARESCOM recommended deployment of a digital e-mail system based on Winlink 2000 software. The Board encouraged the deployment of e-mail via Amateur Radio--"as exemplified by Winlink 2000"--to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications.

"The digital network will provide a value-added service for ARES and will continue to be viewed very positively by our served agencies," the committee said in its report to the Board. "This allows ARES to be viewed as modern and necessary instead of antiquated and invasive."

The committee, chaired by Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, said situations arise when ARES must "pass message traffic across the nation quickly and accurately." It also said the need for such a nationwide ARES capability is likely to increase in light of the ARRL's Citizen Corps partnership with the Department of Homeland Security.

Winlink 2000--a worldwide Amateur Radio digital radio e-mail system--already is widely used by the blue water boating and recreational vehicle communities. Members of the ARRL Programs and Services Committee witnessed a Winlink 2000 demonstration at ARRL Headquarters the day before the board meeting.

The ARRL Board extended the committee's charter until its January 2005 meeting so ARESCOM can complete an implementation plan that ensures that ARES has "the prominent role" in managing the national network and that ARES officials and appropriate ARRL Headquarters staffers have an chance to critique the network's operation to ensure it meets the requirements of ARES and its served agencies.

A two-part series appearing in the August and September 2004 issues of QST, "Winlink for ARES," by ARRL South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, outlines an enhanced ARES network that would include e-mail capability over HF links.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Responds to *Wall Street Journal* Article on BPL

[I'm not sure when this came out; however, I received it the end of July – Ed.]

The ARRL this week responded to a March 2 Wall Street Journal article, "The Web's New Outlet," that presented a one-sided, rosy picture of Broadband over Power Line while avoiding any mention of its interference potential. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, faxed a letter to the editor of the New York-based business and financial publication to point out some of BPL's shortcomings, which were largely missing from the WSJ report.

"Any listing of the pros and cons of using power lines to deliver broadband services must mention its major disadvantage: it pollutes the radio spectrum, interfering with nearby radio receivers," Sumner said. "The only known exception is a microwave system being developed by Corridor Systems of Santa Rosa, California."

Sumner pointed out that BPL involves sending wideband RF "over unshielded wires that were not designed for the purpose." Owing to the laws of physics, Sumner continued, these power lines function much like antennas, and BPL signals passing through wires in the vicinity can interfere with radio reception.

"The frequencies in question are used by public safety agencies, the military, aeronautical and maritime services, broadcasters, radio astronomers, radio amateurs, and others," Sumner noted. He said BPL system designers have had only limited success in resolving the interference issue by notching certain frequencies.

"Yet BPL implementation cannot go forward without solving it, because for very good and obvious reasons it is a violation of FCC regulations for a BPL system to cause radio interference," he went on. "If BPL causes interference--and it does--the BPL system must be shut down." Sumner included references to the ARRL's BPL Web page *<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc#video>*, which documents HF interference the League monitored at four BPL field test sites last fall.

The WSJ article, in the paper's "Marketplace" section, focuses on the announcement this week of what's said to be the largest rollout to date of BPL by Cincinnati-based utility Cinergy Corp and its BPL partner Current Communications. Cinergy and Current Communications hope to be offering the service to between 60,000 and 1.5 million Cincinnati-area customers by year's end and eventually to some 24 million potential customers elsewhere who a

served by smaller utilities.

While the article concedes that BPL "is unproven in wide use," it also cites FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Ed Thomas, who called the technology "ready for prime time." Thomas topped short of saying that the same was true for the BPL industry, however. It also quotes Cinergy Executive Vice President Bill Grealis, who called BPL "the last-mile solution" and said the service--at between $30 and $40 a month--would be "cheaper and faster than DSL or cable."

A March 5 article about the Cinergy/Current Communications BPL rollout appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer <*http://www.enquirer.com/editions/2004/03/05/biz_cinergy05.html*> cites Amateur Radio's concerns, although it also includes comments by FCC and industry sources saying that interference is not a major worry. Featuring a photo of ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the report quotes the League's comments to the FCC in response to last April's BPL FCC Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 04-104). Phillips expresses his concerns that interference from RF on unshielded power lines could interfere "with all types of radio transmissions," including emergency agencies.

Sumner, in his letter to the Wall Street Journal, suggested that there are better choices than BPL, even from the standpoint of business and economics. "Potential investors in broadband delivery alternatives to DSL and cable would be far better off considering the various methods of delivering fiber-to-the-home in densely populated areas," he concluded. "For rural areas, adaptations of wireless LAN technology are generally recognized as offering far more promise than BPL."

[ARRL Letter via e-mail]

"We Need to Work Together," Astronaut Tells Students in Japan

It was a truly international Earth-space Amateur Radio contact July 13 when International Space Station astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, spoke with students at Meizen High School in Japan. Fincke, who's fluent in Japanese, answered most questions in both Japanese and English. During the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact between NA1SS in space and 8N6A in Japan, one questioner wanted to know what Fincke saw for the future of space development.

"The future of space development is very important to everyone on the planet," Fincke replied. "We need to work together, and we can go to the moon, we can go to Mars, we can go to the stars."

Speaking of stars, Fincke told another student that he hasn't been able to view any of the constellations from space because the ISS ports face earthward. "The constellations are above us, and so far, I've only looked down on the Earth, and the Earth is very bright," Fincke said.

The astronaut also noted that the ISS inhabitants could see pollution on Earth from space. "Yes, we can see a little bit of environmental pollution," Fincke said in response to a student's question. "We must keep our planet clean."

Regarding his newborn daughter Tarali, Fincke said he's only seen her via a computer linkup.

Ten elementary pupils and seven junior high and high schoolers participated in the event, which attracted attention from local and national news media. An audience of 50 elementary, 20 junior high nd 250 high school students plus some 80 parents also was on hand. The nearly nine-minute contact was marred by occasional signal dropout from NA1SS. In all, Fincke answered 16 of the students' questions before he got out of range. Osamu Nakamura, NH7TA, who attends Meizen High School, served as control operator for the direct 2-meter contact. Nakamura received his General class FCC license last November specifically for this event.

"All preparations for this contact were made by the Meizen High School students themselves," said ARISS Japan mentor Satoshi Yasuda, 7M3TJZ/AD6GZ. "This was a first for Japan and a very successful event for all!"

The next ARISS school group contact also will be with students in Japan. On Thursday, July 29, fifth and sixth graders attending Habikigaoka Elementary School in Habikino will have the opportunity to question Fincke.

ARISS is an international educational outreach program with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

[ARRL Letter]

AO-51 Satellite Commissioning Process Continues

Work continues to commission AMSAT-NA's recently launched "Echo" satellite--now known as AO-51--for general amateur use. Primary tasks this week have involved uploading new computer code, testing the S-band downlink and the UHF "B" transmitter.

"The Command Team is carefully checking off the tests and measurements that are part of the commissioning process," Jim White, WD0E, told AMSAT News Service. "They ask everyone to be patient." Since AO-51 is not yet open for general use, the Command Team cautions that any transmissions aimed at the satellite by other than ground control stations could delay commissioning.

Opening the satellite for general amateur use could take up to a month or possibly longer, although AMSAT says it will be available "shortly." AMSAT will issue a bulletin when that happens.

AMSAT said this week that AO-51's second UHF transmitter, TXB, has been moved to 435.300 MHz and was on as of July 16. TXA is on 435.150 MHz, but it was off as of July 16. AMSAT says that as testing continues, "there will be occasions that either or both transmitters may be on." White said that after looking over initial whole orbit data, the Command Team adjusted the solar panels to a more optimal setting. "It resulted in nearly double the peak power input from the panels on the following orbit," he said. The panels now produce nearly 20 W peak and 15 W average when exposed to the sun.

The AO-51 Command Team continues to invite telemetry downloads to the new Echo telemetry archive Web page <*http://www.coloradosatellite.com/echo*>. The TlmEcho program may be downloaded from the Decoding Echo Telemetry Web site <*http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/tlm_decode.php*>.

The AO-Echo satellite project remains slightly more than $9000 short of the $110,000 that was needed to launch the spacecraft. AMSAT guaranteed the full fare by borrowing from its dedicated funds, which now must be repaid. AMSAT--a 501(c)(3) organization--welcomes additional donations to bridge the funding gap. Visit the AMSAT AO-Echo Web page <*http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/*> for additional details.--AMSAT News Service

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Hams Muster in Wake of Florida Capitol Blackout

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams and local amateurs in the Tallahassee, Florida, area volunteered to assist after electrical power went out in about half of the capitol city July 13. The region was affected for about three hours before power was restored. More than a dozen amateurs participated in the blackout response.

"We have a very active ARES group here in the Capital District, and all the local hams as usual responded immediately," said Gadsden County Emergency Coordinator Bill Mapoles, KG4LFT. At the request of local authorities, hams helped during the blackout by reporting traffic difficulties, non-operating traffic signals and other power failure-related problems, he said. The 2 PM blackout during hot, humid weather, killed air conditioning, snarled traffic and led Florida A&M University to close for the rest of the afternoon.

Former Capital District EC Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, started up an informal Tallahassee blackout net, subsequently picked up by Paul Eakins, KJ4G. Amateurs staffed the local emergency operations center and also assisted the American Red Cross, which opened a shelter and three aid stations.

"I'm proud to be a part of our local ARES group," Mapoles said, "and I can say that we, in the Capital District, are prepared for anything."

[ARRL Letter]

AMSAT Asks Patience as Echo AO-51 Checkout Continues

AMSAT-NA says "much more work and testing is yet to be done" before it can open the Echo AO-51 Amateur Radio satellite for general use by the amateur community. Commissioning continues for AO-51, with ground controllers checking out the satellite's software on the ground and reloading and testing software on the satellite, an AMSAT bulletin reported. When Echo is in the sun, telemetry data also are being collected to work on attitude determination. AMSAT says the command team also must ensure that the satellite's hardware is working properly before making it available for use. At some point in the AO-51 proveout, the satellite will become available for experimental operation. "At the present time it is anticipated that Echo will be opened initially in 9k6 digital mode, via the BBS system," AMSAT said. "After running a few days in that mode, the FM repeater may be enabled." AMSAT says all modes will start at low power and gather data while looking at the overall health of the satellite--specifically the power consumption in each configuration. Power will gradually be increased as ground controllers monitor the data. "The command team asks at the present time, that you continue to not transmit to Echo," AMSAT said. "Please continue to show restraint, and you will be making your first contacts through Echo soon." AMSAT-NA will issue a bulletin when AO-51 becomes available for use.--AMSAT News Service via Mike Kingery, KE4AZN

[ARRL Letter]

Wireless Institute of Australia Pushes Ahead on 5 MHz Proposal

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) plans to soon ask the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) to consider establishing a set of Amateur Radio channels in the 60-meter (5 MHz) band. "We have put together a list of six proposed 5 MHz single-frequency allocations," said WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU. He said th WIA came up with the proposed allocations--which WIA has not ye released--using the ACA's on-line frequency database and a database of Pacific 5 MHz channels. "The 5 MHz band is used heavily throughout the Pacific," Dunstan points out, "and this would restrict any amateur activity to a series of spot frequencies, with operation most probably confined to upper sideband, as is the case in the US and the UK." He said having frequencies available in the vicinity of 5 MHz would particularly enhance the capabilities of the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network (WICEN)--Australia's equivalent of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The WIA, which has been undergoing a restructuring, now has a national Web site <***http://www.wia.org.au***>.

[ARRL Letter]

First Western Canada LF QSO Reported

British Columbia amateurs Steve McDonald, VE7SL, Mayne Island, and Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, Vancouver reportedly completed the first western Canadian contact on the 2200 meter band on July 10. McDonald said the contact between the two stations on 137.754 kHz spanned a distance of approximately 50 km (about 31 miles). "VE7TIL utilized slow-speed CW--QRSS3--mode, while VE7SL used normal CW," McDonald said. VE7TIL was running a homebrew transmitter that ran about 1 W output, while VE7SL was using a homebrew crystal-controlled exciter into a single FET amplifier at 100W output. "Both of us used similar antenna systems for transmitting--a loaded three-wire flattop T," McDonald said, an small loop antennas for receiving. McDonald said he hoped thei efforts would stimulate more interest in LF in western Canada. For more information about 136 kHz activity and equipment, visit The VE7SL Radio Notebook <***http://www.imagenisp.ca/jsm***> and The Radio Beacon 'TIL' Web sites. <***http://www.scottboxx.com/radio/***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). Hope to see you on Monday, August 16, 2004!!

Ignorance is an evil weed, which dictators may cultivate among their dupes, but which no democracy can afford among its citizens.

William Henry Beveridge

requested that the [US] frequency segment for phone emissions be expanded to 7125-7300 kHz." The FCC said authorizing phone in the 7150-7200 kHz segment of the band would permit same-frequency US-to-DX contacts, resulting in increased spectrum efficiency. Amateurs in the Region 1 countries of Norway, Croatia and San Marino already have been granted access to 7100 to 7200 kHz on a secondary, non-interference basis.

Under the present regime, most amateur stations in Regions 1 and 3 use 7075-7100 kHz for phone. Since the US phone band is 7150 to 7300 kHz, this means most US-to-DX operation requires "split" operation. The band 7000-7300 kHz is allocated to the Amateur Service on a primary, exclusive basis in Region 2, but that is not the case in much of the rest of the world.

Effective next January 1, WRC-03 allocated the band 7100-7200 kHz to the Amateur Service in Regions 1 and 3 on a co-primary basis with broadcasting. After March 29, 2009, 7100-7200 kHz will be allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis throughout the world, except in some Region 1 and Region 3 countries.

"As such, Amateur Service use of this 100 kilohertz will be on a de facto secondary basis in Regions 1 and 3 until the broadcasting service vacates the band 7100-7200 kHz at the conclusion of Schedule B in 2009," the FCC noted. "This means that amateur stations in Regions 1 and 3 will shortly be permitted to transmit in the band 7100-7200 kHz, if they can find a frequency that is not being used by an international broadcast station."

The FCC said it doesn't think it needs to update its Part 97 Amateur Service rules until administrations in Regions 1 and 3 implement changes to allow amateurs to transmit in the 7100-7200 kHz segment.

"As a practical matter, we do not believe that the Amateur Service can make use of the band 7100-7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 in advance of HF broadcasting stations vacating the band because of the great power disparity between amateur stations and international broadcast stations," the FCC concluded.

The NPRM also addresses the deployment of Earth Exploration Satellite Service-Active (EESS-Active) spacecraft in the 70-cm band. The FCC said it "tentatively" finds that any secondary EESS-Active allocation at 432-438 MHz should be limited to federal government use. The Commission said operation in that allocation "should not cause harmful interference to, nor claim protection from, any other services allocated in the band in the United States, including the Amateur-Satellite service."

Comments in the proceeding are due July 16, with reply by August 2. Interested parties may view the entire NPRM, file comments and view comments filed in ET Docket 04-139 via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <***http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/***>.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Turning Blind Eye in BPL Proceeding, ARRL Charges

The ARRL says the FCC apparently has already made up its mind about broadband over power line (BPL) and "wants no bad news" about the technology. In reply comments filed June 22 on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47, the League called on the Commission to take "a fresh look" at BPL before enabling its deployment. Again asking the FCC to put the proceeding on hold for a year, the League recommended that the Commission in the meantime require BPL providers to conduct FCC-monitored interference testing with all stakeholders. The ARRL charged that while an overwhelming majority of comments oppose BPL due to interference concerns, the FCC continues to rely on what the League called "vacuous assurances that BPL would not cause harmful interference." Test data and a growing record of unresolved complaints indicate otherwise, the ARRL said.

"ARRL is of the view that this proceeding has been prejudged and will, in the end, be decided not on the technical issues that should control the outcome of this proceeding, but on the politics of the matter," the League commented. "Given the evidence on the Commission's table, it cannot now authorize BPL at the radiated emission levels proposed, and without substantial restrictions."

Among those restrictions, the League recommended keeping BPL altogether away from all Amateur Radio allocations, should the FCC decide to authorize BPL under its proposed rules. As an alternative, the FCC should guarantee that an interfering BPL system can be shut down immediately in the face of a valid complaint, "not after a BPL provider has taken months to discover that the interference cannot be resolved."

To date, the ARRL contended, the FCC has seemingly ignored the League's BPL technical studies as well as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase 1 BPL study that clearly demonstrate BPL's interference potential. Five additional technical evaluations accompanied the ARRL's reply comments.

"The Commission is obligated by the Administrative Procedure Act to look for fire where it is shown a good deal of smoke," the League said. "Here there is far more than smoke in the record." Any decision in the BPL proceeding "must be supported by substantial evidence," the ARRL asserted.

The League said the results of both its studies and the NTIA's "are entirely consistent." Referring to the NTIA Phase 1 analysis, the ARRL said it's "quite reasonable to assume that the interference potential of BPL systems to fixed HF Amateur Radio stations is on the order of 460 meters (approximately 1509 feet) from the nearest BPL device." No proposals address BPL interference mitigation for mobile stations, the ARRL noted.

While commenting extensively on--and in some instances agreeing with--the NTIA's late-filed comments, however, the League said they depict an agency that must "balance dual and, in this case, conflicting roles" as the White House telecommunications policy advocate. The League questioned the NTIA's contention that BPL is a "win-win" situation and its deployment would lead to lower power line noise.

"Not so," the ARRL countered. "Licensed radio services operating in the sensitive HF environment should not have foist upon them a substantial interference risk from unlicensed devices or systems whatsoever." The League said replacing one interference source with another in the same bands is "not in any way beneficial."

The ARRL also faulted the FCC for neglecting to acknowledge or respond to a mounting number of interference complaints, most from amateur licensees living in BPL field trials areas. "The Commission has, as of this writing, adjudicated not a single one and has ignored repeated requests from licensed radio amateurs for even a confirmation of receipt of their complaints!" the ARRL emphasized. The League also expressed little confidence in utilities that have failed to resolve power line noise complaints to do any better with BPL complaints.

Earlier this month, the ARRL filed a well-documented and

supported complaint on behalf of Jim Spencer, W0SR, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The League suggested such BPL complaints deserved careful analysis, but not the Commission's cold shoulder.

"What ARRL is unwilling to tolerate is the continuation of the Commission's sweeping of these complaints 'under the rug,' which is exactly what has happened in this proceeding," the League commented. The Commission must put its zeal over BPL aside and "take a fair look at them before any action is taken in this proceeding."

"The Commission has not proposed any rules which would predictably and reliably protect HF and low-band VHF radio systems from interference," ARRL concluded. "The interference resolution mechanisms that are adopted should be real, rather than merely illusory."

[ARRL Letter]

Iowa Ham is BPL Interference "Poster Child"

The ARRL has weighed in on behalf of Iowa amateur and ARRL member Jim Spencer, W0SR, of Cedar Rapids, who has suffered severe broadband over power line (BPL) interference for more than two months. A formal complaint to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon calls on the Commission not only to order Alliant Energy's BPL field trial system to shut down but to fine the utility $10,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 15 rules. Alleging "ongoing harmful and willful interference to one or more licensed radio stations," the ARRL asked Solomon to intervene "on an emergency basis." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who signed the letter of complaint, said Alliant Energy has been aware since March 30--the date it installed Amperion BPL equipment in Spencer's neighborhood--that the BPL system was causing harmful interference.

"It's simply unacceptable for Alliant Energy to continue to cause interference while they're trying to solve the problem," Sumner said. While the utility has been cooperative, mitigation efforts have been only marginally successful. The BPL system continues in operation, Sumner notes, despite repeated requests to eliminate the interference or shut the system down.

The complaint cites the Commission's own Part 15 rules prohibiting harmful interference from the operation of an unlicensed intentional, unintentional or incidental radiator to a licensed radio service. "If harmful interference is caused, the radiator may not operate," the complaint says. "There is simply no room for interpretation that would lead to such harmful interference being permissible for any period of time--certainly not 10 weeks."

The letter of complaint summarizes and culminates a series of exchanges and actions in an unsuccessful effort to resolve Spencer's BPL interference. Sumner said the League got specifically involved in Spencer's case after United Power Line Council <http://www.uplc.org> President William R. Moroney invited the League in mid-March to keep his organization in the loop on any cases of BPL interference that were not being satisfactorily addressed. When Spencer's case arose, Sumner said, the League considered it "a good place to start."

Among other approaches, Alliant Energy has tried notching out the HF amateur bands. After notching attempts in late May, Spencer--a retired engineer and former Collins Radio employee--still reported "significant levels" of BPL interference on some bands and power line noise on 160 meter and 80 meters.

An Amperion contractor indicated that the notching--or "power masking" remains a "beta procedure" as well as "somewhat labor intensive." The contractor, Tom Luecke, indicated to Spencer in early April that he had cranked down the BPL system's gain "a notch below where I would like to have them" on three units closest to Spencer's home.

Although claiming Amperion's equipment to be FCC Part 15 compliant, "We are not a radio silent technology, nor do we claim to be," Luecke conceded. "Put another way, you can hear our signal, but we strive not to interfere with ham operators on the ham bands." He said his company has a good track record with the amateur community and "would like to think that the majority of apprehension about Amperion's technology lies in misinformation."

Sumner said UPLC representatives have made good-faith efforts to persuade Alliant Energy to comply with the FCC rules. Spencer "has cooperated fully and patiently" with Alliant Energy's and Amperion's fruitless efforts to eliminate the interference, the complaint notes. The BPL partner companies' best efforts to date notwithstanding, Sumner said, the time had come to say enough is enough.

"The situation in Jim's case is egregious, and it's been going on for 10 weeks," he said. "If this is the best we can expect when a BPL system causes interference, then the only answer is to prevent them from being deployed."

The letter of complaint calls on the FCC to notify Alliant Energy "immediately to cease operation of their BPL devices in accordance with °15.5(c), and to follow up that notification with a Notice of Apparent Liability."

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPI Web site.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). **Hope to see you on Monday, July 19, 2004!!**

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but really great people make you feel that you too can become great.

Mark Twain

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 *DIAL* **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	6	7 **ARRL UHF Contest** **Voice of Aladdin** **HAM "OH" RAMA** **Columbus, OH**
8 **ARRL UHF Contest**	9	10 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	11 **Butler County *ARES* Meeting**	12 *DIAL* **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	13	14 **BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am** **OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am**
15 **Warren ARA** Warren, OH	16 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	17	18 **Ham Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	19 *DIAL* **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	20	21 **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest**
22 **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest**	23	24	25 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	26 *DIAL* **Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	27	28 **Portsmouth Radio Club** Friendship, OH ***Ohio QSO Party*** 1200-2400 EDT
29	30	31	**August 11: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS **August 25: Technician Ham Class** begins in Johnston Hall, MU-Middletown, 6 - 9 pm			

September 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
September 8 - Butler County EMA Countywide FEMA Drill - 0700-1400 focusing on WMD			1 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	2 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	3	4
5	6	7 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	8 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	9 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	10	11 **BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am** **OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am** **ARRL September VHF QSO Party**
12 **Findlay Radio Club** Findlay, OH **ARRL September VHF QSO Party**	13	14	15 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	16 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	17	18 **OHIO Section Conference** Columbus **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest**
19 **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** **GCARA Hamfest** Scarlet Oaks Cincinnati	20 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	21	22 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	23 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	24	25
26 **Hamfest Association of Cleveland** Cleveland, OH	27	28	29 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	30 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	**September 8 Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS	

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

September 2004

Silent Key: N8WCE

We note, with sadness, the passing of **William E. (Willie) Mullins, N8WCE**, on Sunday, August 1. Willie had been active with *Dial* for a number of years and had an equal interest and passion for photography.

Willie will be sorely missed by his family, many friends and neighbors. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family and friends though this trying time.

Minutes of the August 16, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
N8HP, N8GGE, KD8W, WD8DFK, WB8MYT, W8MVN, Bonnie, N8TFH, N8DHW, N8BH, KC8ZJM, K8TNF, KB8WKL, N8DIG, KB8VSX, KB8ZMO, Sarah, KE8OH, N8RYS, N8OZN, N8LWM, N8ODK, KC8WOF, W8EH, N8NQF, KC8TXA, N8LKU, WA8DTU, N8EH, N8HRA, N8PI, AB8QP, Ben.

Call to Order:
Meeting called to order by Art, N8PI. Since there were no new people, introductions were skipped.

Secretary's Report:
Motion to approve the minutes as published by Ernie, N8EH, second by Ron, N8NQF. Motion approved. Nothing further for the Secretary to report.

Treasurer's Report:
In Carl's absence, Ron, N8NQF, presented the expenses and income for July. We have 109 members.

Motion to approve by Ron, N8NQF, second by Jon, K8TNF. Motion approved.

Repeater/Station Report:
No news.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU, reported that ARES will be participating in the county wide drill September 8. They still need some operators.

Classes & Exams:
Beverley, N8GGE, said next exam is this Wednesday. Classes start August 25 with Technician. Start time is 6 pm on Wednesdays in room 110 Johnson Hall, Miami U in Middletown.

Old Business:
Dave, KD8W, brought up the demo by Bill Hayes on SWR. We are trying to coordinate a better location and time because of the required space.

Jon, K8TNF, gave a commercial about joining in on the 9:30 pm Saturday round table net.

New Business:
There was no new business to be considered..

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Kelley, KC8ZJM, and duly seconded by Lorie, W8LKU. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Round Table Net: 146.610

A, new, round-table net has begun on Saturday evenings, at 9:30pm, on the 146.610 (W8BLV/R) repeater.

Welcoming any and all topics, this net encourages open discussion of various subjects of interest to the attendees.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 20, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Please feel welcome to check into the net or contact Jon, K8TNF, for more information.

[K8CM]

Broadband Provider Drops BPL in New York Trial Community

The broadband provider that's been testing BPL in the Village of Penn Yan, New York, reportedly plans to "move away" from that technology. The Western New York community of some 5000 residents has been considering various proposals with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer broadband service, with the village reportedly getting 10 percent of any generated revenue. A BPL trial has been underway in Penn Yan for several months. According to an article in the July 28 edition of the Finger Lakes Times Online, DVI now is proposing to employ wireless mesh "WiFi" technology instead of BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Penn Yan Mayor Douglas G. Marchionda Jr and DVI for going with wireless broadband instead of BPL.

"Not only will your citizens receive better service, but a serious radio spectrum pollution problem has been averted as well," Sumner said in a fax to Marchionda and to DVI CEO Marc Burling. "We hope that other communities will be able to profit from your experience." Sumner raised the issue of interference complaints from the Penn Yan BPL trial with Marchionda last April.

The *Finger Lakes Times* report quotes Burling as saying that his company didn't feel BPL was "commercially deployable." He also cited issues with the BPL trial including security concerns and interference--which will not be an issue with the wireless system.

Burling told ARRL that the Penn Yan BPL system remains on line but would be shut down once DVI starts deploying its wireless system. As for BPL, "We are going to sit back and wait for an official ruling from the FCC and go from there," he added.

Penn Yan already has rejected two DVI proposals to bring high-speed Internet service to the community, the newspaper said. Village officials reportedly met again with DVI representatives this week. DVI is partnering with Nortel to offer the wireless service.

The *Finger Lakes Times* article quotes Marchionda as saying that the village didn't want to be involved with handling complaints or operating the broadband system. It just wants to rent space on village-owned utility poles and benefit from any revenue the system generates.

Penn Yan and DVI had been looking at a 10-year agreement, but the latest proposal calls for a two-year contract with provisions for an automatic two-year renewal.

In a March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," *Wall Street Journal* reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

ARRL also has learned that Energy East--a cooperative of New York State Electric & Gas and Rochester Gas & Electric--decided against deploying BPL in its Western New York service area. Energy East based its decision in large part on the high levels of radio frequency interference that an engineer and company officials observed during a visit to the Penn Yan field trial.

On July 29, Grand Haven, Michigan, announced that it had become the first community in the US to deploy a WiFi network that blankets the city and up to 15 miles off shore in Lake Michigan with broadband Internet access.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site.

[ARRL Web]

Weaver's Words

GETTING ON THE SAME PAGE

To be certain we are all on the same page when it comes to the new Grassroots Congressional Action program the ARRL Board has approved, it appears a few additional words of explanation are in order. Specifically, I have heard speculation that this project threatens the
non-profit, US CFR 501(c)(3) tax status of the League. It is right to be concerned over such issues, but in this case, the concern is without foundation.

The issue here is that we are openly planning to "lobby".

Many people erroneously believe that "lobbying" is prohibited to tax exempt organizations. It is true that tax-exempt organizations including ARRL are limited in what they can do to lobby, but it is incorrect to believe they cannot lobby. A variety of factors is involved in determining if the manner in which a tax-exempt organization lobbies is consistent with its tax status. These include the percent of receipts spent in lobbying, to whom the lobbying effort is directed, what the lobbying effort is and more.

Some people prefer to call the type of lobbying ARRL is allowed "advocacy" instead of lobbying. Regardless, a rose by any other name still smells the same. I prefer to call lobbying exactly what it is -- lobbying. Our ARRL General Counsel and our Congressional Public Relations (lobby) firm feel the same way.

One key factor concerning the propriety of ARRL lobbying is that we are asking only our members to take action. We are not and will not under the current laws ask non-members to follow our lead. If someone decides on their own that our plan is the way to go, they are free to do whatever it is they wish. If the whatever is the same thing we advocate, it is not our fault and we risk no penalty. We cannot, however, direct our lobbying efforts to non-members.

So, let's get ready to lobbbb-by! Lobbying is proper for us and will prove useful in protecting the legitimate needs of Amateur Radio. It has become the only viable way we have of getting our story across to critical decision makers.

THE LAST POLL

I didn't keep detailed statistics on the last poll, but I can report its results pretty well. You will recall I asked what you in the Great Lakes Division (GLD) felt about your contact !) with ARRL HQ and 2) with the SMs and his staff, Vice Director Mondro and me. Here is where we came out with some 500 replies having been received:

1. Feelings about HQ: ca 95% had excellent experiences, ca 5% had poor experiences.
2. Feelings about the Division: ca 90% had excellent experiences, ca 10% had poor experiences.

Looking at this further, the poor experiences reported for HQ related essentially to the perception that the HQ folks were disinterested in what the member had to say. Pretty much was true of the feelings of those who reported poor experiences within the Division.

Regarding HQ, the information you provided me served as the basis for an in-depth discussion at a committee meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting and again during a session of

the Board meeting. Our conclusion is that the staff truly is interested in each member, but that on occasion of heavy load this interest sometimes appear to be hidden. Measures are being taken to make our good, responsive people at HQ even better.

As to perceptions within the Division, I forwarded comments to the proper SM for whatever action he sees appropriate. And, yes, there was an instance or two when I dropped the ball. All I can do is to apologize for these instances and try to avoid them in the future.

Tnx for sharing your comments with me.

REGULATING BAND SEGMENTS BY TRANSMITTED BANDWIDTH

The editorial in the September QST discusses the rationale behind regulation by bandwidth. I encourage you to read this and consider it carefully. At the same time or soon thereafter a synopsis of the proposal will be available to you to review. You will be asked to tell us if you see any problems that are likely to occur if the proposal would be implemented in the manner it is presented to you.

In the meantime, don't get bent out of shape thinking Regulating by Bandwidth will take us into a new ballgame. Simply stated, it won't. About the only thing that will change materially is the fact that putting newer forms of transmission into our bands will become simpler, quicker and more logical. All of your favorite modes of transmission (yes, AM included) will still be available.

All is good!

GLD CONVENTION

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18. This is the date of the second, biannual Great Lakes Division Convention. It will be held in Greater Toledo this year on the day before the Toledo Hamfest (March 19)). Our friend, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH of CC Enforcement fame will be the banquet speaker Saturday evening. In the planning stages at this moment are a meeting of Letter Sorters of the 8th District Incoming QSL Bureau and a DX forum with some heavy shooters -- i.e., Big Guns – to discuss how to get things done. The list of remaining top-class seminars is being firmed as we speak.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GLD STUDENTS

The following GLD students received scholarships through the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) at the recent meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors. Their names, residences and scholarship names are:

QCWA SILENT KEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
Robert C. Mate, KB8VXJ, No. Olmstead, OH
David R. Parmiter, KC8IHT, Roseville, OH
Stephen M. Sciarini, KC8IDJ, Dover, OH

LAWRENCE E. AND THELMA J. NORRIE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Therese G. Long, KC8PEZ, Imlay City, MI

10-10 INTERNATIONAL NET SCHOLARSHIP
Joshua J. Long, N8CFS, Imlay City, MI

ROBERT E. TRUE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Justin R. Rigling, KC8OIO, Hamilton, OH

Fifty five scholarships were awarded. Each scholarship carried a financial award with it. Congratulations to all of the winners. If one of these is in your area, why not invite him/her to a club meeting or activity. Make them at home in the club. Praise their accomplishment.

ENFORCEMENT

Over the years, I've received questions and heard comments that indicate many hams do not understand how FCC and International rules that govern Amateur Radio are enforced. Here it is in a nut shell.

1. ARRL does not have and does not want powers and authority to enforce Amateur Radio regulations. Enforcement is the job of the FCC in this country.
2. ARRL gets involved in enforcement only to the extent of sponsoring the Official Observer Corps which is trained to gather and document information on poor operating practices. OOs typically provide a gentle reminder of good operating practices to operators who slide off the path of good operating. These reminders typically are enough to bring a mild transgressor back to the straight line. In instances in which someone insists upon violating legal practices on a routine basis, OOs are trained in gathering and documenting occurrences of bad operating and forwarding these to ARRL HQ.
3. At HQ, evidence of bad operating are reviewed. Consistent with instructions from the FCC this forwarded to the FCC enforcement bureau.
4. FCC may judge the information they receive to be inadequate to take strong disciplinary action. In these cases, more evidence is usually developed by FCC. Considering that some FCC enforcement actions are likely to be argued in court, the rules of evidence in these cases require that evidence be irrefutable. It takes time to gather irrefutable evidence in most cases.
5. Action upon information that is considered to be fully legitimate and dictate enforcement action may still take quite a bit of additional time. FCC may feel a need to gather its own data. In addition, any enforcement action by FCC requires having it approved by FCC attorneys. I have to say from years of experience with attorneys and litigation, the only one of them I've ever seen move swiftly is our League General Counsel, Chris Imlay, W3KD. This means, enforcement action approval is likely to take awhile.

Bottom line: It may happen, but it won't happen fast.

'Nuf for now. 73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

2004 Ohio Section Conference

The 2004 Ohio Section Conference, which skipped a year in 2003, will be held Saturday, September 18, at the Ohio EMA headquarters in NW Columbus. Which means the big social event of the year, the OSC Pizza Lunch, returns as well.

The Section Conference, a meeting of Ohio Section field appointments but all are welcomed, is held each September to review ARRL activity in Ohio. The ***Severson Memorial Award*** and Ohio Section Newsletter award winners are also announced. Plus pizza for lunch.

In 2003, the Conference was canceled because of the Great Lakes Division Convention being the same week.

The Conference begins at 10 a.m. The Ohio EMA address is 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road (Ohio 161) in Northwest Columbus.

[K8QOE]

Ohio Emergency Vans on Display at Columbus in September

Special treat this year's Ohio Section Conference will be the display of emergency vans from various county ARES programs in Ohio. In the era of Homeland Security, it is helpful to see what other Ohio ARES County groups are doing, said Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE

The 2004 Ohio Section Conference is Saturday, September 18, at the Ohio EMA headquarters in NW Columbus. Beside the parade of emergency vans, the Conference will feature the big social event of the year, the Pizza Lunch Party sponsored by the Ohio Section of the ARRL.

This meeting of Ohio Section field appointments but all Ohio hams are welcomed is held each September to review ARRL activity in Ohio. The Severson Memorial Award and Ohio Section Newsletter award winners are also announced. It begins at 9 a.m. (Not 10 a.m. as originally announced.) The Ohio EMA address is 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road (Ohio 161) in Northwest Columbus.

The Parade of Vans was last done in the September 2003 Conference. Nine such vans made the trip - but this year Section Emergency Coordinator John Chapman, WB8INY, is looking for a few more. At this display, you can see what other ARES programs in Ohio are doing and the equipment they employ.

[K8QOE]

Canadian Licensing Changes Proposed

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has proposed formally that Industry Canada (IC) eliminate Morse code as a ham radio testing requirement for operation in bands below 30 MHz in Canada. RAC wants Industry Canada to continue to make Morse testing available to Canadian amateurs still wishing to have that qualification specified on their certificate, however. At the same time, the RAC wants IC to require applicants for the Basic examination to score at least 80 percent before permitting operation below 30 MHz.

Under the proposal, present Basic plus Morse holders would be considered as holders of the new Intermediate qualification. Basic holders who have not passed the Morse exam would continue to hold that class with existing operating privileges. Current Basic-without-Morse licensees who retake the Basic examination and obtain at least 80 percent would be upgraded to Intermediate.

RAC also recommends that the passing grade for the Basic and Advanced examinations be raised from 60 to 70 percent when the Morse requirement is dropped. Ultimately, RAC wants the passing grade to be upped to 75 percent for all examination elements.

Anyone holding both the Basic and Advanced qualifications would have HF privileges, and the Intermediate qualification or Basic plus Morse would become a prerequisite to obtaining the Advanced.

The RAC also wants IC to create a new entry-level qualification. RAC President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, says Canadian amateurs can anticipate implementation of a first phase of the RAC recommendations by year's end. Details are available on the RAC Web site <***http://www.rac.ca/downloads/morserec.pdf***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Still Time to Comment in "Omnibus" Part 97 Rule Making

Because the complete text of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 04-140 failed to make it into the Federal Register until August 17, interested parties now will have until September 15 to comment. Released in April, the so-called "omnibus NPRM" seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rules changes as well as certain changes to Parts 1 and 2 of the FCC's rules. It does not deal with Amateur Radio license restructuring or the Morse code examination requirement for HF privileges.

Among other things, the NPRM&O recommends adoption of the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan and proposes eliminating FCC rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz.

Interested parties may comment on the NPRM via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In both cases, enter "04-140" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Emergency Communications Declaration Policy Prefers VHF-UHF

The FCC has formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. The policy, which became effective August 2, states that ECDs will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters--if the licensee consents--or on simplex channels in the 60-meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. Past emergency communications declarations--typically issued during weather-related emergencies--have put frequencies on 75 and 40 meters off limits to general use in an affected region.

"ECDs may only be issued after a disaster disrupts normal communication systems in a geographic area subject to FCC regulation," the FCC said, citing °97.401(b). Under its provisions, when a disaster disrupts normal telecommunications systems in a given area, the FCC may declare a temporary communication emergency that sets forth any special conditions and special rules stations must observe while it's in effect. The policy clarifies that the FCC has authority to issue ECDs only for communication emergencies and not on the basis of anticipated emergencies. It also tightens up the requirements to request an ECD.

The policy calls for VHF and UHF Amateur Service channels to receive preference for ECDs. Requests may indicate a specific repeater system, subject to permission from the repeater's licensee or

trustee. On HF, the FCC says, an ECD may authorize the use of one or two 60-meter channels, centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz, subject to °97.303(s). See ARRL's Frequently Asked Questions regarding 60-meter operation <*http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-60.html*> for details.

The FCC said frequencies in other amateur bands--where emergency nets already have been established--may be used during emergencies under the provisions of °97.101(c). That rule section stipulates that amateur operators give priority to stations providing emergency communications "at all times and on all frequencies."

The FCC policy, Emergency Communications Declarations in the Amateur Radio Service, is available on the ARRL Web site <*http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/emcom-declarations.html*>.

[ARRL Letter]

Ham Radio "Only Reliable Communication" at Hurricane Charley Ground Zero

Once again, Amateur Radio has proven its value in an emergency. With conventional telecommunication systems unreliable and power still out after the Category 4 Hurricane Charley blasted across the Florida Peninsula August 13, Amateur Radio has proven to be a communication mainstay.

"The only reliable communication we have here is Amateur Radio," ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, told ARRL earlier this week. He was one of the three dozen ARES volunteers at the Charlotte County command post. "We're out in the field trying to handle so many different things that it's almost overwhelming," he said five days into the activation.

By week's end, the need for additional ARES volunteers in the Hurricane Charley relief and recovery effort had stabilized. Communications and Warning Officer John Fleming, WD4FFX, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) told ARRL that ham radio volunteers already on duty in the five most severely affected counties were holding their own in maintaining necessary emergency communication. But he advised Amateur Radio volunteers to remain at the ready, just in case, and recommended that ARES teams, clubs and individuals work through their ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

The FDEM says Hurricane Charley caused two dozen deaths and nearly 4000 injuries, and almost a quarter-million residents were still without power at week's end. Other reports indicate that as many as 10,000 homes were badly damaged or destroyed.

The most severely stricken communities are in largely rural areas of western and central Florida made up of smaller towns. Among other storm relief duties, hams have been part of an effort to check on residents and determine what they need and to "make sure everyone's okay," Armbrust said.

Amateur Radio operators have been handling emergency traffic and assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in setting up HF communication to the state emergency operations center in the capital of Tallahassee. ARES also has provided communication for search-and-rescue teams and supported American Red Cross and The Salvation Army humanitarian relief efforts.

In addition, ARES operators handled outgoing health-and-welfare traffic from storm victims now taking refuge in shelters, provided or supplemented public safety communication and even took on some dispatching duties. Amateur Radio volunteers also deployed to hospitals, some of which have experienced spotty communication. Several VHF and UHF repeaters have been buzzing with emergency traffic all week.

Armbrust emphasized that Hurricane Charley cut a broad swath across Florida, and the devastation was widespread. "This looks like a war zone," he remarked. Hot, humid weather has aggravated the relief effort, especially for emergency medical service personnel who not only are dealing with storm-related health issues but with those resulting from the heat.

ARES teams from Florida Miami-Dade, Martin, St Lucie, Broward, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties deployed to relieve or assist the amateur operators on duty in the affected communities.

In Sarasota County, Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ, has been working at the county EOC and assigning volunteers to assist in neighboring Charlotte County, where Armbrust has been holding down the fort.

"We've had offers of help from guys in Montana, Ohio, and New York!" Wetjen said August 19. "We have a couple from Tennessee here now, with two more on the way for the weekend."

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz spent nearly five days in continuous operation. It's also used Amateur Radio for its logistical communications. The Salvation Army has been providing meals, household necessities and other assistance to residents displaced by the storm and has been relying on its own Amateur Radio resources. SATERN also has taken on responsibility for health-and-welfare inquiries, both via Amateur Radio and through its Web site <*http://www.satern.net*>.

In advance of the storm, SKYWARN teams were active the Hurricane Watch Net and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center cooperated to gather ground-level weather data and damage reports.

"It seems as if the Amateur Radio world is listening and waiting to help when an event such as this occurs," observed SATERN National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, "and it's edifying to realize the positive impact of their dedication to the task of helping others."

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Goes to Bat for Arizona Amateurs, Seeks BPL Field Trial Shutdown

The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately shut down a broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. Electric Broadband LLC and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted Electric Broadband in March. Michael Kinney, KU7W, filed the first Amateur Radio complaint in June. It cited testing by the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) <*http://www.vvara.org*> in the 1.8-30 MHz range to show that BPL interference made attempts at ham radio communication useless.

"The interference on typical Amateur Radio equipment shows received undesired signal levels in excess of 60 dB over S9 on the receiver's signal strength meter," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told FCC officials on the League's behalf. "The utility and Electric Broadband were contacted, and no response was received." The ARRL asserted that both companies are aware that the BPL field trial has been causing harmful interference and "neither has taken any steps to either resolve it or terminate the test."

The League said VVARA and ARRL testing indicates

"extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which Electric Broadband told the FCC it would comply. VVARA testing revealed "actual harmful interference" from the BPL system to mobile stations in the vicinity and to a fixed station.

The League's shutdown request went out August 16 to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon and Deputy Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Bruce Franca.

ARRL called on the FCC to instruct Electric Broadband and APS to shut down the BPL trial immediately and not resume operation until it can demonstrate that all interference issues have been resolved. It also insisted that the FCC immediately revoke any STAs granted for the Cottonwood or nearby operations, and that it institute forfeiture proceedings against the two companies for knowingly causing harmful interference.

VVARA submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report to the two companies and to the Commission in late July detailing the interference issues. The club took baseline measurements in January, before the BPL trial began, and it's continued taking measurements since the system's startup. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, conducted independent tests of the Cottonwood BPL system in July, and the League attached a summary of his findings to its letter.

The VVARA and ARRL measurements, the League said, indicate widespread interference to Amateur Radio communication in an area within a mile of the BPL field trial, and radiated emissions from BPL modems at levels "several orders of magnitude higher" than the FCC Part 15 limits. One ARRL measurement cited was more than 32 dB higher than Part 15 allows. The League further accused Electric Broadband of misrepresenting facts to the Commission by saying it would comply with °15.109 of the FCC's rules.

The ARRL said continued operation of the system while violating the conditions under which the STA was granted constitutes "willful and repeated interference," and both the utility and the BPL provider should be subject to fines as a result.

"ARRL requests that this test station be shut down immediately and that the appropriate monetary forfeitures be imposed against both Electric Broadband and APS," the League concluded.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Offers "First QST" Reproduction With Early 2005 ARRL Handbook Orders

To mark the League's 90th anniversary, those placing early orders for the 2005 edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications will get a reproduction of the first edition of QST as a bonus. Orders received by 1159 UTC on September 30 will qualify to receive the bonus reproduction--while supplies last. The September issue of QST spells out details of the 90th anniversary promotion.

"A limited supply of QST, Vol I, No 1, will be printed before it is returned to the 'ARRL vault' for at least 10 years," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. He points out that the 2005 edition of the Handbook edition--the 82nd--is by far the most extensively revised version of the popular reference in a decade. ARRL Assistant Technical Editor Dana Reed, W1LC, edited the 2005 edition, with assistance from Dean Straw, N6BV, Jan Carman, K5MA, and Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH.

"Entire sections of this book were updated to reflect the most current state-of-the-art," Inderbitzen noted. The new edition includes material on digital techniques, DSP and software-defined radio design, surface-mount construction and components, high-speed multimedia and previously unpublished antenna designs plus advice on baluns, satellites and moonbounce--including details on the pending Phase 3E satellite--and much more. There's a new chapter covering Internet tips for hams, wireless fidelity ("WiFi") and other wireless and PC technology. The 2005 Handbook also includes more projects, including a new 10 W transceiver for 60 meters.

For the first time, the 2005 Handbook will come bundled with a free copy of The ARRL Handbook CD (version 9.0)--a $39.95 value. The 2005 Handbook is available in softcover, Item 9280, for $39.95 and hardcover, Item 9299, for $54.95 (visit the ARRL Products Catalog <***http://www.arrl.org/catalog/***>). It will begin shipping by early October.

ARRL co-founders Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska published the premiere issue of QST in December 1915 at their own expense. It cost 10 cents and contained 24 pages. Contents included the "December Radio Relay Bulletin," an ARRL membership application (membership was free in 1915!), a membership list, photographs of early amateur stations, advertisements for headsets and radio components and more. The debut back-cover advertised a rotary spark gap and a cat's whisker detector.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). Hope to see you on Monday, September 20, 2004!!

> The worst thing you can do for those you love is the things they could and should do for themselves.
>
> *Abraham Lincoln*

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

September 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
September 8 - Butler County EMA Countywide FEMA Drill - 0700-1400 focusing on WMD			1 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	2 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	3	4
5	6	7 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	8 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	9 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	10	11 **BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am** **OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am** **ARRL September VHF QSO Party**
12 **Findlay Radio Club** Findlay, OH **ARRL September VHF QSO Party**	13	14	15 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	16 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	17	18 **OHIO Section Conference** Columbus **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest**
19 **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** **GCARA Hamfest** Scarlet Oaks Cincinnati	20 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	21	22 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	23 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	24	25
26 **Hamfest Association of Cleveland** Cleveland, OH	27	28	29 **Technician Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	30 ***DIAL* Radio Club Net** @ 9pm W8BLV/R	**September 8 Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS	

October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
October 13: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Room 229, D. Russel Lee JVS					1	2
3	4	5	6 Technician Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	7 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	8	9 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am
10	11	12 Butler County *ARES* Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	13 Technician Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	14 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	15	16 BSA Jamboree on the Air
17 BSA Jamboree on the Air	18 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	19	20 Ham Exams Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	21 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	22	23
24	25	26	27 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	28 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	29	30
31 DST Ends						

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

October 2004

Minutes of the September 20, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
WA8DTU, W8LKU, Kathy, N8EH, N8RHA, KC8WOF, W8EH, N8NQF, N8RYS, N8DIG, N8PI, WD8DFK, AB8QP, Ben, W8MVN, WB8MYT, N8GGE, N8HP, KD8W, K8CM, KB8WKL, KC8ZJM, K2RWP, Matt.

Call to Order:
Meeting called to order by president Art, N8PI.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ernie, N8EH, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published, second by Elizabeth, N8RYS. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, gave the August financial report. We have 109 members. Carl also gave an extensive report of expenses and income for the year and predicted we will end up in the black.

There was a discussion about the possibility of raising the dues because of the general fund expenses exceeding the basic dues income. The repeater dues makes up the difference. One option discussed was to raise the dues gradually over a few years. Another was to promote club membership and increase the number of members. This will be brought up again in a few months for further input.

Repeater/Station Report:
Ernie, W8EH: Everything working, no money spent.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU: Members participated in the Butler County drill with EMA and the hospitals. Dave, KD8W, remarked that he had a good time. Ernie, N8EH, said the problems were with the public safety agencies having difficulty communicating between each other. Each hospital will be getting a Kenwood radio, for permanent installation, which will be used by the ARES organization.

Classes & Exams
Beverley, N8GGE: The Fall Technician class was canceled due to low enrollment. Next exam is October 20 and General Class instruction begins October 27. Any current Technician licensees who would like to upgrade to General, now is the time. Beverley will be actively recruiting instructors soon.

Kelley, KC8ZJM, spoke about the possibility of conducting a Technician class with the Middletown High School Science Club during their after-school meeting time.

Old Business:
The SWR demo by Bill Hayes will be at the *Digital Symposium* on Saturday, January 15, at Miami-Middletown. Admission is free. Volunteers will be needed to help with setup and run the Symposium.

New Business:
Lorie, W8LKU, volunteered to chair the *DIAL* meeting in October due to anticipated absences of our top officers. Next month (October) the 2005-Nominating committee will be appointed; volunteers should contact Lorie and indicate their interest.

Ed and Sandi (KF8PD and AB8LA) will be hosting the *ARRL Sweepstakes* contest at their home on Saturday and Sunday, November 20 and 21.

Reminder that the Round table net meets on Saturday evening at 9:30 pm on the 146.61 repeater.

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, W8EH, and duly seconded by Mark, WD8DFK. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, October 18, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

November Sweepstakes - Phone November 20 - 21

Sandi and I are, again, planning to host the *November ARRL Sweepstakes* contest next month, so let's see if we can have an even better turnout than last year.

We are planning a Saturday evening dinner and probably will have enough food and drinks for the rest of the time too.

If you are interested in coming, please let me know so we can get a planning discussion going. If you just want to come and hang out, that's "OK" too. We have bumper pool, air hockey, and ping pong to keep you busy in case you can't find something to talk about.

You may check out the *Sweepstakes* rules at ***http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/novss.html***. You may reply to Ed and Sandi at ***kf8pd@arrl.net***.

[KF8PD]

Ham License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, October 20, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 13 Johnston Hall,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $12.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($12) made payable to the *Dial Radio Club*. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson,

and must arrive no later than Monday, October 28. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Talk-in on 146.610 -

Amateur Radio Class Fall 2004-2005 Ham Radio Class

The General Class section of the **DIAL RADIO CLUB's** Fall, 2004-2005, Amateur Radio class will begin on October 27, in Middletown, 6-9 pm. Meeting in Johnston Hall, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, classes will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in General Class amateur operator license.

Morse code and theory instruction will conclude December 8. *Morse code proficiency is a requirement for the General Class license.*

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available in Middletown, at the conclusion of General class instruction, on December 15.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class. License training manuals are expected to be available, for purchase, the first night of class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

Butler County ARES

September 8th, 2004 at 9:08 A.M. it happened, a terrorist attack in downtown Hamilton at the Government Services Building and the release of chemical and biological weapons.

That was the scenario for the countywide Ohio Emergency Management Agency drill this year for Butler County.

OEMA, Butler County EMA and TITAN organized, planned, and executed a drill with so much detail and realism the responders believed it to be real.

At approximately 9:08 A.M. a loud explosion was heard at the old Mercy Hamilton hospital site and soon afterward heavy thick, gray smoke poured from every opening on the building, the walking wounded leaving the building were (acting) disoriented, confused and injured confronted the first arriving crews.

Fire crews with testing kits determined that Sarin Gas was present and began decontamination of everyone on and around the site.

One of the drills primary objectives was to actually use all of the high tech and required equipment should something like this happens, to make sure everyone knows how it all works, goes together, and operates.

Titan Corporation, working with FEMA and Ohio EMA Columbus, provided drill "Controllers and Evaluators" to oversee the drill and to evaluate things that went well, things that were OK and things that needed improvement on.

ARES roll for the drill was communications support for the served agencies.

Primary contact points were:

Larry Moore W8WT at the Butler County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center- Hospital Net Control.

Ed Thornsburg KF8PD at the Red Cross Office in Hamilton – Red Cross Net Control

William Moore W8KVU at Butler Tech – Resource Net – Net Control

Bob Spratt N8TVU & Rob McPherson N8OMW – On Site with the ARES Mobile Communications Trailer.

Each of the local hospitals had 3 operators assigned to their Incident Command Center, Emergency Room staff and Decontamination Unit.

Red Cross had operators assigned to each of their vehicles and on site functions. In all, 23 operators participated in the drill.

The Titan Corp. also needed communications for their controlle

and evaluators.

The City of Middletown, thanks to Ernie, W8EH, provided 20 Motorola HT-1000's and Butler County EMA provided 11 HT-1000's, that were re-programmed to match the Middletown radio's by N8TVU.

49 portable radios in all were distributed for the drill. Hummm? 20+11=31 where did the rest come from? N8TVU provided the remaining 18 commercial portable radios from the ARES trailer.

ARES members were also the vital links between the Titan Controllers and Evaluators at the Hospitals back to the Chief Controller on site at the incident.

Every operator involved in this year's drill commented on how they felt ARES played a huge roll in pre-drill planning and activity during the drill. ARES will also provide an After Incident Report to EMA that will be distributed to all the agencies involved.

As you can see, we had a great time and made some fantastic headway in promoting amateur radio in Butler County with great success.

Butler County EMA director William Turner has agreed to place Kenwood TMD-700 systems in the 4 local area hospitals for emergency communications.

The hospitals will need 4-5 operators per shift, and most likely we will need 3 shifts for a long term operation.

So it is not hard to see we still need more active operators to help cover the new assignments that will be up and coming.

Come join us-we're definitely on the move! Meetings are every 2cd Wednesday 7-9 P.M. at Butler Tech.

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

Weaver's Words

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

I've been forgetting to mention this, but I appreciate receiving club newsletters. I don't want to add to club expenses, so if your newsletter is available via the Internet, please put me on the list either to send it to me by E-mail or to send the notice when an issue becomes available.

Thanks to the many editors who already are sending me their newsletters.

Speaking of newsletters, don't forget that the Division winner of the newsletter contests will be announced at the Great Lakes Division Convention March 19, 2005 (see, I can get it right!). The Convention is the day before the Toledo Hamfest which, according to the answer I got when I included my toes in the counting, is March 20.

Tnx to the Toledo Mobile Radio Association for sponsoring the Convention this coming year.

I'm so thrilled that I finally typed the dates correctly that I'm going to stop on this topic right where I am. You know, "Stop while you're ahead!" (I usually get the sense that I should "stop while I'm not any farther behind!")

BPL

The campaign season for the coming National elections is clearly upon us. This season provides us with a tremendous opportunity to lobby our US Representatives and US Senators concerning interference from BPL. They will be touring their Congressional Districts seeking votes and will be very available to voters when they do this. Go to their rallies. Take every opportunity given for you to meet the candidate even if only for a minute. Talk to them about the devastating interference BPL can cause if it is not fully controlled by the FCC. Try to get a meeting with them at a more relaxed time to discuss the damage BPL interference can cause to public safety and law enforcement agencies if it is left uncontrolled.

REGULATION BY BAND WIDTH

Thanks to concerted effort by a few ARRL Board members, including yours truly, you have seen a historic degree of discussion of the Board's petition to move from regulating our amateur bands based upon type of emission to regulating by the bandwidth of emissions. To this date, I've received (via forward from HQ or direct E-mail) only a half dozen comments since the proposal was published in synopsis form on the web. One of these strongly favored the proposal while two were in the manner of questions for clarification. The other three notes expressed disapproval although there were no technical reasons cited for the disapproval.

A number of Great Lakes Division members had asked questions prior to the publication of the proposal's synopsis after reading comments I have made on the proposal over past months. Again, these questions expressed uncertainties over the proposal, but this was natural. The details of it had not yet been published.

I intend to give my formal blessing to forwarding a petition for rulemaking to the FCC to regulate by bandwidth and not by mode of transmission. My reasoning for this is: 1) There has been quite a bit of discussion via the E-mail and in forums I've presided over in recent months about the bandwidth proposal. 2) There have been no firm objections raised against the bandwidth proposal by you members. 3) Finally, I believe after reviewing the proposal and the background to it that regulation by bandwidth vs. mode is the best way to go to promote the future development of Amateur Radio.

CONGRATULATIONS GLD SMs

In closing, I wish to extend my congratulations to all three of the Section Managers in the Great Lakes Division for being returned to their offices for another two-year term. The three are dedicated and hard working and deserve the support of every member in their individual Sections. Great jobs, Dale, Joe and John.

'Nuf for now. 73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

Fears For a New Digital Radio System

By Chris McWhinnie
BBC Monitoring in Amsterdam

Plans to offer the internet using mains electricity cables could cause so much interference that new digital radio stations could be obliterated, a broadcasting conference has been told.

A consumer DRM digital radio set will be in the shops next year.

The warning came from Peter Senger, the chair of the Digital

Radio Mondiale (DRM) at the International Broadcasting Convention in Amsterdam.

DRM is a standard agreed by world broadcasters for a completely new short wave radio system

The new internet power line distribution system has been evaluated by engineers, including the BBC, and has been found to affect short wave in particular.

Short wave is mainly used to broadcast internationally and the AM bands have been used since radio first started in the 1920s. The DRM system uses existing AM broadcast frequencies to deliver near-FM quality digital sound.

It uses compression to squeeze clear digital sound into the narrow radio channels that currently carry crackly analogue signals. The DRM technology has the potential to make digital radio available in places that Digital Audio Broadcasting (Dab) radio or even FM will probably never reach.

As for the hardware required to hear these stations, there will be a new consumer DRM radio in the shops by Christmas 2005 and a tiny PC-only DRM set is already on sale.

Testing times; DRM is not being used by many radio stations yet. However a number of radio stations have seen the potential for new cross-border radio stations.

A Germany-based music station is believed to be in the planning stages. BBC World Service and its counterparts abroad already have some regular DRM programmes and are backing the system. DRM is being seriously considered in many countries where the FM radio band is full. China sees DRM as the answer to pushing digital radio across its vast territory.

The UK is not planning to use DRM for domestic radio. The UK has pinned its digital hopes instead on Dab, which offers stations like BBC 1Xtra, 6 Music, Oneword and Core. More digital radios have been sold in the UK than any other country.

Switching-off analogue FM and AM may take years and making millions of much-loved analogue radio sets useless will no doubt be controversial.

If power line internet transmission is introduced, then international broadcasting on shortwave may also be consigned to history due to the interference from data traveling over mains electricity cables.

[Received via-email]

"Intruder Signal" on 40 Meters Disappears

The odd and unidentified signal that had been reported showing up on the 40-meter phone band on or about 7238 kHz has disappeared just as mysteriously as it arrived earlier this summer. Numerous amateurs in the western US and Canada had reported hearing the signal over a period of a few weeks.

The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding Facility in Maryland, which had narrowed down the signal's source as somewhere east of Prescott, Arizona, was unable to hear it at all during the day and evening watches on September 16.

Earlier FCC monitoring had indicated the "buzz" was centered on 7238.1 kHz with a bandwidth of about 1 kHz and consisted of series of discrete signals spaced at about 90 Hz apart.

According to a FCC HFDF staff member, a radio amateur in Camp Verde, Arizona, who had reported hearing the signal at nearly 40 dB over S9 a week earlier said it suddenly disappeared, and no one in that area has heard it since. The FCC said the amateur had indicated the signal's presence had generated a lot of discussion on a local repeater. The FCC offered no firm opinion on the signal's source.

Don Moman, VE6JY, in Alberta, took a couple of spectrogram of the signal. Bob Gonsett, W6VR, reported that engineers Communications General Corp (CGC) looked at the intruder September 6 found "several close-spaced CW carriers."

The 7238 kHz signal is not the only apparent intruder reported on 40 meters. Bob Reynolds, KD5PSH, in New Mexico, has told ARRL that he still hears--or recently has heard--signals at approximately 7.020, 7.077, 7133, 7126, 7170 and 7246 kHz.

He says the signals resemble the one that had been heard on 7238 earlier in the month, which he described as "a powerful signal with a mix of tones."

Stations with reports on these or other unidentified signals in the amateur bands should send them via e-mail to International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Monitoring System Liaison Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, *cskolaut@arrl.org*.

[ARRL Letter]

Amateur Radio Swings into Action in Storm Stricken Gulf Region

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams were ready and waiting as Hurricane Ivan devastated entire sections of the US Gulf Coast early September 16. Packing 115 MPH winds as it made landfall, Ivan zeroed in on the Mobile Bay area of Alabama, but because of its huge girth, the storm wrought widespread death and destruction in the Florida Panhandle and also affected Mississippi. Below-sea-level New Orleans was spared major flooding, however. Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, sai ham radio has been helping relief agencies, especially in the hard-h. southernmost counties.

"Right now the adrenaline's still up," he said September 16 of volunteers staffing a statewide ARES communication network--an HF net with liaisons to local repeaters and including all of the state's emergency operations centers. "Most everybody south of us is operating on emergency power."

In Baldwin and Mobile counties--which straddle Mobile Bay--telephone service was out, so ham radio was providing a substantial communication link, Isbell said. "We're giving their messages priority." Most traffic has been logistical--requests for shelter cots, tarpaulins and generators--"but they've also asked for three four-wheel drive vehicles and a helicopter for search and rescue as well as damage assessment," he said.

ARES teams along the Gulf have been providing communication support for the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief organization. ARES already is assisting with damage assessment activity, for the first time using Global Positioning System units and computerized mapping as an aid.

ARRL Alabama SM Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, praised Isbell's efforts and said he's proud of Alabama's radio amateurs. "Many amateurs stepped up to provide communications and assistance," he said. "Several amateurs traveled to Southern Alabama before Ivan to help get ready for the hurricane." He said others traveled to the Mobile area to help emergency managers "and people they don't even know."

In Northern Florida, Western Panhandle ARES District Emergency Coordinator Bill Hayden, WY8O, reported dama

assessment was under way in Okaloosa County, where the storm took out several repeaters and telephone service. In southern Santa Rosa County, massive flooding and several fatalities were reported, and refugees were forced to take shelter. In Escambia County, five shelters and four hospitals sustained storm damage, and several people died. The hurricane destroyed the Interstate 10 bridge connecting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, cutting off residents and relief workers alike.

At week's end, Northern Florida Section Traffic Manager Dale Sewell, N4SGQ, was working up a list of relief personnel and waiting on how to get them into the affected area. "Having lived in Pensacola for 35 years, I know the complications of being surrounded on so many sides by water," Sewell said. "I just never imagined that all the routes would be cut off simultaneously." He said Escambia County was left virtually without power, which utilities say could take three weeks to restore.

In Mississippi, ARRL SM Malcolm Keown, W5XX, reported that outside of some "significant interference" the West Gulf ARES Net operation went smoothly. Most traffic was tactical, he said, to help the Red Cross with needed equipment and supplies. The net, on 7285 and 3873 kHz, operates in accordance with a memorandum of understanding among the ARRL Louisiana, Mississippi and South Texas sections.

Keown says ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, stepped in to restore the fallen dipole antenna of West Gulf ARES Net National Traffic System Coordinator Carolyn Womack, KC5OZT, who's also North Texas Section Traffic Manager. "He went over and fixed it, and by 4 o'clock she was back on the air, so chalk one up for the ARRL president!" Keown said.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org> on 14.325 MHz secured operations for Hurricane Ivan September 16, but only to take another breather before an anticipated reactivation for Hurricane Jeanne in a few days. The nearly continuous activations over the past four weeks have taken a toll on HWN members, HWN Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, told ARRL, and several were affected by storm-related damage.

The HWN coordinates its activities with WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org> at the National Hurricane Center to gather real-time ground-level weather data and damage reports from Amateur Radio volunteers in a storm's path and relay these to forecasters. This hurricane season WX4NHC has been taking advantage of IRLP and EchoLink via the new VOIPWX Net <***http://www.voipwx.net/***>, which also provides streaming audio.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) <***http://www.satern.org***> on 14.265 MHz has been handling health-and-welfare inquiries in the wake of the recent round of hurricanes. The net also handles emergency communications from storm-affected areas. SATERN also takes health-and-welfare inquiries via its Web site.

The National Weather Service was warning areas still in the path of the remnants of Hurricane Ivan that they could be in for heavy rainfall and possible tornadoes. *[ARRL Letter]*

"More Than Just BPL!" League Kicks Off 2005 Spectrum Defense Campaign

The ARRL this week kicked off its 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund campaign with the slogan "more than just BPL!" ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says that while interference from BPL--broadband over power line--technology is the most prominent and immediate threat to amateur spectrum, generous donations from ARRL members and supporters make it possible for the League to face it and other spectrum challenges. Haynie says that not all of ARRL's advocacy efforts necessarily involve taking defensive measures, such as with BPL, but all of them are essential.

"Forty meters, Little LEOs some years back, the work that the League's Technical Relations Office in Washington does--all this makes the spectrum available to us," Haynie said. "And without spectrum, the license that we have in our pocket or hanging up on the wall is pretty much useless."

Haynie says that, as he sees it, the League's job is to look out for the best interests of Amateur Radio and make sure that we have spectrum to operate on. "And that's a big job, it's a huge job that we've undertaken. It becomes very important because spectrum is so precious."

It's also a job whose cost and complexity have risen considerably in the past decade, as new technology-driven demand for spectrum has put increasing pressure on Amateur Radio frequencies. World Radiocommunication Conferences, at which ARRL and International Amateur Radio Union personnel represent Amateur Radio's interests, now occur every two or three years instead of once a decade. As ARRL CEO David Sumner pointed out in a fund-raising letter <***https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/***> to League members, in such an environment, the League no longer can cover the cost of its operations and advocacy efforts with dues revenue and the sale of publications and QST advertising.

"The whole philosophy of spectrum management is being rethought, with the objective of easing access for new products for consumers and industry," Sumner wrote. "But as the rules for their introduction and use are developed, we in the Amateur Radio Service need an advocate to ensure that our interests are safeguarded. With your help, the ARRL will continue to be that advocate, for ourselves and for future generations of radio amateurs."

In 1985, the League spent perhaps $200,000 on advocacy and spectrum defense. The League's Washington office at the time consisted of one staff member. As 2005 looms, it's a much different picture.

"Today we spend close to $900,000, and I know it's something that hams can't see, touch or feel, but it's just as important as those things that they can--like QST and the Handbook," Haynie said, "because we would not have all those things if it were not for the fact that we have a place to operate."

The 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund depends on membership support and is essential to the League's continued success. Radio amateurs may contribute online via the ARRL's secure donor Web site <***https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html***>. Those contributing at or above the $50 level may request a gift as a token of the League's appreciation.

For more information about the 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund or to discuss other ways you can support the ARRL's continuing work on behalf of Amateur Radio, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH.

[ARRL Letter]

Let's Make a Deal: FCC Agrees to Trade Amateur's License for Big Fine

The FCC has agreed to write off a $12,000 fine it levied against

an Iowa man in exchange for his giving up his Amateur Radio license for five years. The FCC last year affirmed a $12,000 fine against Technician licensee Scott E. Kamm, N0UGN, of Sioux City. Kamm later filed a Petition for Reconsideration that proposed the license-for-fine quid pro quo. The Commission formally granted his petition in a September 7 Memorandum and Order (M&O).

"In support of his petition, Mr. Kamm offers to immediately withdraw his pending application for renewal of his license for amateur radio station N0UGN, and to refrain from applying for any other license for a period of five years," the M&O said. "Accordingly, we conclude that cancellation of the $12,000 forfeiture is warranted."

The FCC said its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) would process the withdrawal of Kamm's license renewal application concurrently with its order. FCC Enforcement Chief David Solomon signed the M&O, which was released September 9.

Following up on Amateur Radio complaints in the fall of 2002, agents from the FCC's Kansas City field office tracked interfering signals to Kamm's station--which was in Waterbury, Nebraska, at the time. Several months earlier, however, the FCC had granted Kamm's application to change his mailing address to a location in Sioux City. In January 2003, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Kamm alleging willful and repeated interference to ongoing amateur communications, broadcasting of music, and failure to identify by call sign while operating on a 2-meter repeater.

During 2002, Kamm was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. In the fall of that year, the WTB set aside Kamm's renewal application based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's license expired September 29, 2002, and his renewal application reverted to pending status while the matter was referred to the Enforcement Bureau.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Warns Additional Trucking Firms About 10-Meter Unlicensed Operation

The FCC has issued warning notices to five more trucking companies asking them to respond to allegations that their drivers may have transmitted illegally on the 10-meter amateur band. The alleged violations, based on "information before the Commission" as opposed to FCC monitoring, are said to have occurred in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and California.

"While many truckers use Citizens Band radio equipment, please be advised that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934," FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote the five firms in late August. The letters were made public September 18. Hollingsworth warned that violators, if caught and convicted, are subject to fines or prison time as well as seizure of their equipment.

In three of the cases, the frequency involved was 28.085 MHz--in the CW band--while the other two cases cited transmissions on 28.215 MHz and 28.315 MHz. Hollingsworth asked Teaberry Trucking LLC, United Van Lines, Dowell Express Inc, Con-Way (CWX) Trucking and K&K Cartage to contact him to discuss the matter.

In general, trucking company and courier services have responded promptly and positively to similar FCC warnings, indicating that they would warn drivers to refrain from unlicensed use of amateur frequencies.

"UPS does not condone using any radio equipment that violate FCC rules," said a statement that went out to "All U.S. Feede Drivers" earlier this year after the FCC issued a Warning Notice alleging unlicensed 10-meter operation to the package delivery service. "Employees continuing to use radio equipment that violates FCC rules and UPS policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action along with fines or penalties owed to the FCC." UPS also admonished its drivers regarding the use of CB power amplifiers and transceivers capable of
operation on both 10 and 11 meters. UPS said violating FCC rules also ignores the terms of its collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Union.

A New Jersey trucking firm that received an FCC Warning Notice last spring promised to look into the allegations and "immediately remove all illegal equipment" from the truck in question. Gaffney, South Carolina, trucking company J Grady Randolph Inc wrote Hollingsworth earlier this year to say it had also received an anonymous report citing allegations similar to those in an FCC Warning Notice to the firm. Director of Human Resources and Safety W. O. Brown said Grady Randolph immediately advised all of its drivers that it is against the law to operate Amateur Radio equipment without a license.

"We feel the problem with 10-meter radios is very widespread in this industry, since most truck stops have them for sale," Brown added. "We will continue to police our trucks in an attempt to prevent future incidents of such violations."

While it's uncertain that these and similar admonitions have translated into fewer instances of alleged unlicensed operation on 10 meters by truckers, no further allegations have been raised involvir operators of firms, such as UPS, that already have received FCC warning notices.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area). Hope to see you on Monday, October 18, 2004!!

> *You* must be the change you wish to see in the world.
>
> *Gandhi*

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
October 13: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Room 229, D. Russel Lee JVS					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	8	9 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am
10	11	12 Butler County *ARES* Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	13	14 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	15	16 BSA Jamboree on the Air
17 BSA Jamboree on the Air	18 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	19	20 Ham Exams Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	21 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	22	23
24	25	26	27 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	28 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	29	30
31 DST Ends						

November 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	4 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	5	6 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
7 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW	8	9 Butler County *ARES* Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	10 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	11 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	12	13 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am
14	15 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	16	17 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	18 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	19	20 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone
21 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone	22	23	24 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	25 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	26	27
28	29	30	31 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	**November 10 Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS** **November 20-21: ARRL November Sweepstakes at home of Ed (KF8PD) and Sandi (AB8LA) in Camden, OH**		

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

November 2004

Minutes of the October 18, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, KC8WOF, N8NQF, N8RYS, N8ODK, W8WLM, N8OZN, KB8WKL, K8CM, N8GGE, N8HP, WA8PRA, KB8VSX, W3GP, N8TQG, KC8TXA, N8DHW, KC8ZJM, K8TNF, KF8PD, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KE8OH.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Lori, W8LKU, in the absence of both the President and Vice-president

Secretary's Report:
Motion by George, W3GP, second by Ron, N8NQF, to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in the *Newsletter*. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, presented the Treasurer's report for September. We have 109 members. Motion to approve by Ron, N8NQF, second by Barney, N8HP. Motion approved.

Repeater/Station Report:
Ernie, W8EH, reported that all equipment is functioning normally.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU, gave the activity report. November 20 at 9 am will be an ARRL Emergency Communications certification test session at the D. Russel Lee Vocational School. The next ARES net is November 9 at 7:30 pm on 147.33. The next Butler County ARES meeting is November 10, 7 pm, subject is *GO* bags.

Carl, K8CM; Dan, N8DIG; and Kelly, KC8ZJM, participated in a demonstration with a Webelos Cub Scout den.

Classes & Exams
Beverley, N8GGE, reported on classes and exams. Next exam this week *[October 20]*; General Class starts October 27 and runs for 6 weeks. A test will follow.

Old Business:
Kelley, KC8ZJM, reported plans are coming together for a Technician class to be conducted at the Middletown High school for the science class, in January. It will be Friday afternoon, after school. Instructors will be needed.

Ed, KF8PD, reminded us that the planned ARRL sweepstakes contest would be at his home. The contest starts Saturday, November 20, at 4 pm and runs until Sunday evening. Show up and have some fun. Motion to approve $75 for food expenses for the contest by Ron, N8NQF, second by Jon, K8TNF. Motion approved.

Jon, K8TNF, reported that the Saturday evening Round Table net needs more check ins.

Carl, K8CM, reported that the SWR demo program that Dave, KD8W, is coordinating would be Saturday January 15 in Miami University's Thesken Hall. It will be in conjunction with the [annual] *Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium*. Watch ***http://www.swohdigi.org/*** for additional information.

George, W3GP, was back from the Colorado hunting trip with Dave and Mark. Dave and Mark operated some; George got an Elk.

New Business:
Jon, K8TNF; Dave, KD8W; and Barney, N8HP, were appointed to the nominating committee. Their report is due at the November 15 meeting

Adjourn:
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth, N8RYS, and duly seconded by Erich, N8ODK. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, November 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Ham License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, December 15, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 13 Johnston Hall,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $12.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($12) made payable to the *Dial Radio Club*. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson,

and must arrive no later than Monday, December 13. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Talk-in on 146.610 -

November Sweepstakes - Phone
November 20 - 21

Sandi and I are, again, planning to host the *November ARRL Sweepstakes* contest Saturday and Sunday (November 20-21), so let's see if we can have an even better turnout than last year.

We are planning a Saturday evening dinner and probably will have enough food and drinks for the rest of the time too.

If you are interested in coming, please let me know so we can get a planning discussion going. If you just want to come and hang out, that's "OK" too. We have bumper pool, air hockey, and ping pong to keep you busy in case you can't find something to talk about.

You may check out the *Sweepstakes* rules at ***http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/novss.html***. You may reply to Ed and Sandi

[KF8PD]

Butler County *ARES*

September was very busy for Butler County ARES members.

September 8th, 2004 – 23 operators participated in the Butler County Emergency Management Agency Countywide Weapons of Mass Destruction drill.

We are not trained in or with WMD! We did our normal thing – COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT - for the entire event!

We had 3 Nets active.

Our Hospital Net was used to keep the participating hospitals up-to-date on the ever changing situation and notified them as soon as the chemical agent was identified so they would know what they were dealing with.

An "ALERT" was also broadcast on the amateur radio hospital net.

A "walk in victim" in Oxford made it into the Emergency Room and to the nurse's desk, as they normally would do to get treatment.

The problem is, they were contaminated with the agent, now the hospital was closed and quarantined!

That information quickly went to the remaining hospitals that immediately locked their emergency room doors and began "screening" inbound patients.

We also had a Red Cross Net active on 145.3900 to support their function during the drill, and our normal Resource Net on 147.3300 for volunteers to assist.

Titan Corporation provided guidelines for the drill coordinators, evaluators and facilitators praised the communications we had setup for them to use.

- 49 business band radios were utilized for this drill.
- 20 came from Middletown Radio Maintenance, courtesy of Ernie, W8EH
- 12 came from Butler County EMA
- 17 came from N8TVU's trailer (we still had 12 spares)

September 18th our members took our response trailer to the Ohio Section Conference as part of the display of Emergency Communications Vehicles.

The conference covered topics such as the Best News Letter in the Section, awards for the Net Control of the OSSBN, etc.

One of the main topics was WINLINK 2000 and AIRMAIL as a means of interconnecting the internet and amateur radio to provide the missing link to the internet should the service go down in a disaster stricken area.

This would mainly provide EMAIL service to and from served agencies by connecting a WINLINK 2000 computer with an amateur radio at the agencies office or field location (shelter).

September 19th, 3 operators participated in the Oxford State to State Mini-Marathon, which has grown to well over 800 participants in the past 2 years.

September 24, BCARES was invited to take a tour of the WXIX TV studio's by Chief Meteorologist Rich Apuzzo. Tour participants visited both upper and lower control rooms, editing rooms, mixing rooms, saw the machines that "air" the commercials and sitcoms on a daily basis, and Rich's Weather Center.

An interesting tour if you ever get the chance.

September 25th 2:30 P.M. Butler County ARES was activated by Red Cross to provide support communications on Monday September 27th for the rally for President Bush in West Chester. Red Cross was told to expect between 30-35,000 people. 50,000+ showed up!

There was a rush to get the names of the available operators to Red Cross by 6 P.M. on the 25th so they could be forwarded and processed by the White House Staff and Secret Service for admission as "workers" for the rally.

BCARES utilized our trailer as the on site net control station. The trailer had to be on site Sunday 09-26 for inspection by the SS.

While transporting the trailer to the site on Sunday, the EMA

called and wanted to know where the Sheriff's Office could get a dozen Army style litters for the event.

We knew Bill Moore, W8KVU, had connections with the National Guard, so we made contact with Bill. He gave us a phone number for the SO to call. They got their 12 liters plus extras.

Amateur Radio and ARES has come into the spotlight in Butler County with Emergency Service officials in more ways than "just being hams".

They are beginning to realize the huge asset amateur radio operators can be and what a great resource of information they are.

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

Weaver's Words

BPL -- THE FAT LADY HASN'T SUNG, YET!

The FCC did pretty much as we expected. They put their blessing on the national roll-out of BPL. In doing this, they actually recognized (for the first time) the possibility of QRMing Amateur Radio bands, and in theory established procedures that could force BPL suppliers to clean up their act. The jury is out on this, of course.

Even though FCC Commissioners forced their non-technical will on us, we are not "out," yet. With the help of our burgeoning Grassroots Action system, there is at least one more ploy we can attempt to force the Commissioners to stop the roll-out until after they have conducted scientifically-sound data that will determine the degree, if any, of interference BPL is likely to cause not only to us, but to all other users of the involved spectrum.

I thank Michigan amateurs K8CQF and N8DJP who so willingly came to the front in emphasizing public safety interests in avoiding interference. We will see fairly soon how this new effort pans out.

REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH

I thank each of you who wrote to me or ARRL HQ to share your views on this proposal. I read each of these regardless of where they were directed. I saw a number of good recommendations. Thanks for them. I also saw some misunderstandings. Thanks for these as well.

One point I wish to make is that I attempted to answer each comment very soon after I received it. This worked in most instances, but in a few my E-mail was rejected as undeliverable, apparently because of security setting some place along the line. If this is intentional, this is OK with me, but it means I will be unable to discuss issues with you.

The status of the proposal is that a summary of comments received on it have been reviewed by the Executive Committee. The EC met just this past weekend so I don't know exactly what changes were made as a result of them. I believe I can guarantee everyone that changes are being made and that the basis for these changes is input from members. Great job, folks.

One additional comment is that there is very misleading information being spread by a former member of the ARRL HF Digital Committee concerning this Committee's report and how some recommendations in it were put into the Bandwidth proposal. I don't want to make this issue of the newsletter longer that it already is certain to be, but let me attempt to assure everyone that most of the information in this individual's claims are inaccurate or are taken out of context so that they misrepresent the facts.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAM

Little by little there seems to be growing understanding among Great Lakes Division members of the need for them to become involved in our Grassroots Lobbying program. I am able to begin putting volunteer's names on the list for the several Congressional Districts in our three states. If you are willing to consider making as many as two contacts a year with your US Representative or Senator, please notify me. The task will be to provide basic information to them and ask them to support legislation ARRL has had introduced into Congress. This legislation is on such topics as protecting our amateur bands and on Federal guarantee of the ability of amateurs to have antennas.

Background information and handout material will be provided to members of the Grassroots team. The reality of modern times is that we can no longer rely on the FCC to do the right thing. We must become involved on a non-partisan basis with Congress. Please contact me for more information.

MICHIGAN SECTION ARRL CONVENTION

The 2003 Michigan Section Convention was the first I had attended for many years. To say it was a good one is an understatement. Even saying the 2004 Convention will be better understates expectations. For one thing, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, will be the speaker at the Friday evening banquet and will hold forth at the ARRL forum on Saturday.

The Convention is Friday evening, November 5 and Saturday, November 6. The Holland ARC's hamfest is Sunday, November 7. For more information: ***http://superswap.hollandarc.org/***.

KENTUCKY SECTION ARRL CONVENTION

Congratulations to the folks in the Louisville area for a fine convention. It shows promise of growing in future years.

GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

This will be the second of our bi-annual Division Conventions. It will be held on Saturday, March 19, the day before the Toledo Hamfest. Featured speaker for the Saturday evening banquet is Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. He will also hold a forum earlier in the day. Riley, of course, has been extremely active in enforcement not only of Amateur Radio rules, but of rules against QRM caused by power companies, etc. The representative from ARRL HQ for this convention will be Wayne Mills, N7NG. Wayne probably is best known for his work in the DX community, but he is more than this. He is Manager of the ARRL Membership Services department.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Now is the time to submit nominations for the George S. Wilson, W4OYI, the Amateur of the Year, the Technical achievement and the Newsletter awards. For information on the Convention and the awards, go to: ***http://greatlakes.arrl.org/***.

FINAL THOUGHT

It seems that some amateurs look to ARRL to enforce FCC rules. Frankly, we don't. Moreover, we can't. The rules are established and enforced by the FCC. If one looks at the staffing level of the Commission, it is readily apparent they cannot be everywhere at any one time. Riley Hollingsworth, for example, has few people on his staff and still they must attempt to cover the US and its possessions

to enforce the Commissions' rules.

Simply put, this is an impossible task. Riley and his folks do a great job, but they cannot do it all. We, radio amateurs, can assist Riley; however, by being his eyes and ears. The ARRL Official Observer Corps is the specific group that he looks toward for help. OOs simply collect information and pass it up the line where it is reviewed for completeness and is passed on to Riley. I encourage each of you to consider becoming an OO. This is easy to do and the job required is pretty simple, also. The job done by OOs is of great help in getting at least the worst offenders off our ham bands. To learn more about becoming an OO, go to: ***http://greatlakes.arrl.org/***. Click on the link to your Section's web site where the OO Coordinator for your Section is listed. He will be happy to describe the hows, whys and whats of OO work. Keep in mind that if we don't help, we will have no one but ourselves to blame for many of the operating problems on our bands.

'Nuf for now. 73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

Draft Bandwidth Petition, BPL Focus of ARRL Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting October 16 in Dallas, Texas, the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) devoted much of its fall session to a discussion of comments received on ARRL's draft FCC petition seeking regulation of subbands by bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The EC also authorized the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration in response to the BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37, which the FCC adopted October 14. Drafting and filing the petition must await release of the actual R&O, which should happen in a few weeks. Responding to a synopsis of the bandwidth petition and proposed rule changes posted on the ARRL Web site, several hundred League members and others in the ham radio community offered comments and suggestions.

"The Executive Committee found considerable support for the concept of the petition," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, "along with constructive suggestions to reduce both the impact of the changes on current amateur operations, as well as possible unintended consequences." Sumner's "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, "Regulation by Bandwidth," in September QST addressed the bandwidth petition.

Earlier this year, the EC decided to make a synopsis and explanation of the petition available to ARRL members before filing it with the FCC. At this month's meeting, the EC agreed to submit several recommended amendments to the proposed rules changes to the ARRL Board of Directors for its consideration in January. These include:

* Retention of rules permitting automatically controlled digital stations (packet and other digital modes) in narrow HF subbands. The draft petition had proposed dropping these provisions.
* A rule prohibiting so-called semi-automatic digital operation (automatic control in response to a communication initiated by a live operator) on frequencies below 28 MHz where phone is permitted. This addressed a concern that "robot" digital stations might take over the phone bands.
* A segment for 3 kHz bandwidth (no phone) emissions at 10.135-10.150 MHz to accommodate existing and planned digital operations.
* Deletion of the word "continuous" from the description of test transmissions authorized on most frequencies above 51 MHz.
* Simplification of proposed changes to §97.309 to clarify that FCC-licensed amateur stations may use any published digital code as long as other rules are observed.

"These recommendations are not intended to be the final word on the draft petition, but are intended to address the major issues raised to date," Sumner emphasized.

The draft bandwidth proposals take into account the ARRL's prior "Novice refarming" petition to expand some HF phone bands, included in the "omnibus" FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket 04-140.

The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Acknowledges Interference Potential of BPL As It Okays Rules to Deploy It

As expected, the FCC has approved revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate the deployment of broadband over power line (BPL) technology. The Commission adopted a *Report and Order* in ET Docket 04-37 when it met in open session today (October 14). At the same time, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael K. Powell, specifically mentioned the concerns of Amateur Radio operators at the open meeting and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin addressed Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in his written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission's shift from the early days of the BPL proceeding, when it followed the lead of the BPL industry in largely ignoring interference to amateurs as a real issue in the proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints.

"Those were things that we brought to the table," he said. "I think we scored some pretty good points." Haynie concedes, however, that the devil is in the details of the *R&O*, which likely will not be made public for at least a few weeks. The FCC issued a Public Notice reporting its action.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), who outlined the draft *R&O*, acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride went on to

say, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

Copps Comments on Amateur Radio Concerns

In his remarks before the FCC vote, Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said he remains concerned about interference to Amateur Radio users. "I take the concerns of this community very seriously and believe that the FCC has an obligation to work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action, where appropriate, to resolve harmful interference." Seemingly the least enthusiastic about BPL among his FCC colleagues, Copps called it a promising technology and new broadband pipe "if everything goes really, really well."

Copps said if interference occurs, "we must have a system in place to resolve it immediately." He expressed the hope that the new rules will have some "rapid turnaround procedures" in place to handle interference complaints. Haynie said he was pleased at Copps' remarks on behalf of Amateur Radio and hopes that the Commission follows through.

Copps, who dissented in part with the *R&O*, again raised the question of whether utility ratepayers should have to "subsidize an electric power company's foray into broadband."

Some BPL Systems Can Co-Exist, Some Don't Fare as Well

As did his colleagues, the Commission's other Democrat, Jonathan S. Adelstein, asserted that BPL would spur competition in the broadband marketplace, but he said the question of interference has made the proceeding a challenging one because it had to accommodate concerns raised by Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators.

"These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said, "and I'm glad we made every effort to do so in this [agenda] item." At the same time, Adelstein continued, the Commission has an obligation to encourage new technology.

Adelstein said recent BPL tests have been "very useful" in developing techniques to mitigate interference. "It's clear that some of these systems can co-exist very well with existing licensees," he said. "Other systems, though, are not as effective and haven't fared so well," he said, adding that such systems shouldn't be deployed commercially until it's assured that they won't cause harmful interference. He issued a public statement following the meeting.

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a Republican, said the FCC had to "make some hard compromises" to deal with questions about interference. But she expressed confidence in "technical solutions." Abernathy and Powell released a joint statement.

"A Banner Day"

Powell, who did not recuse himself from speaking and voting on the BPL proceeding as ARRL had requested (see "ARRL Asks FCC Chairman to Recuse Himself from BPL Vote"), called it "a banner day" for communications in the US because, he said, BPL promises "ubiquitous service to all Americans at affordable rates."

The chairman, a Republican, conceded that BPL will affect some spectrum users--including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there." Powell said the FCC has "taken that seriously from the very beginning" and has taken great care to ensure that protections are in place "to allow that service to continue." At the same time, Powell implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

"But let me underscore the potential for the American economy is too great, too enormous, too potentially groundbreaking to sit idly by and allow any claim or any possible speculative fear keep us from driving this technology and drive America into the broadband future."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Powell was overstating the necessity of yet another broadband pipeline. "It's astonishing to me that the chairman of the FCC can talk about needing a 'third way' to provide broadband to consumers when multiple technologies *already* are available, including wireless broadband," he said.

Post-Meeting Press Conference

In a press conference following the meeting, OET Deputy Chief Bruce Franca said some of the BPL equipment now in place may not meet the tighter guidelines in the rules the FCC approved. "Some of the technologies that are being deployed today do not have all of the capabilities that we are requiring for BPL systems," he said, "so there'll have to be some adjustments to current deployments."

Franca also emphasized that "life and safety" radio systems would receive priority protection from BPL interference through frequency notching and exclusion zones. Other licensed users would be protected on a complaint basis, "when and if interference occurs."

OET Chief Ed Thomas said the *R&O* contains "an administrative procedure, step by step" to address interference complaints. He characterized the procedure as "a bit of a refinement" to current Part 15 requirements. He also said the FCC determines "black and white" what constitutes "harmful interference" under the rules.

"It's our belief that the notching provides the protection that's reasonable and in the public interest," Thomas continued, "and we don't think that's a major problem. There's been a lot of rhetoric surrounding this as well."

For more information on BPL, visit the *"Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio"* page on the ARRL Web site.

[ARRL Web]

UK Amateurs Poised to Get Bigger 40-meter Band

Amateur Radio operators in the United Kingdom hope to soon have a bigger 40 meter band. UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has announced plans to extend 40 meters by an additional 100 kHz to 7000-7200 kHz for Foundation, Intermediate and Full Amateur Radio licensees in the UK.

Ofcom says the band extension would be a secondary allocation to the Amateur Service on the basis that amateurs not cause interference to other services within or outside the UK.

Allowable modes would include CW, phone, RTTY, data, facsimile and SSTV. Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) Spectrum Forum Chairman and HF Manager Colin Thomas, G3PSM, says that barring the unlikely event of an objection, the additional 100 kHz should become available to UK amateurs Sunday, October 31.

Ofcom has invited comments on the proposal until October 23.--The Daily DX <***http://www.dailydx.com***>; RSGB

[ARRL Letter]

No News is . . . No News

There have been no changes to the Amateur Radio Part 97 rules

nor any news to report regarding FCC action on proposals that address the number of license classes, the 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to obtain a General or Extra license, or other amateur licensing qualifications or privileges.

The FCC continues to review the thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including a petition from the ARRL--that, in general, address various facets of license restructuring and the Morse code requirement. Prompting most of these petitions were changes to the international *Radio Regulations* approved during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

The FCC first must issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* and assign it a docket number, then invite comments on what it decides to propose, based on the petitions it has before it. The ARRL estimates that the FCC is only about one-third of the way through its review of the petitions, however, and the League does not anticipate any final FCC action--in the form of a *Report and Order*--until sometime in 2006. The ***ARRL*** has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring initiative on its Web site; ***http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html***.

[ARRL Web]

FCC Adopts New BPL Rules, Acknowledges Its Interference Potential

As expected, the FCC this week adopted revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate broadband over power line (BPL) systems. Meeting October 14 in open session, the Commission adopted a Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37. In comments before voting, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael Powell, specifically cited the concerns of Amateur Radio operators and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin mentioned Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in a written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission acknowledge interference to amateurs as a genuine issue in the proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said Thursday. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. Haynie conceded, however, that the devil is in the details of the R&O, which likely will not be made public for at least a few weeks.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride continued, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said he remains concerned about interference to Amateur Radio users. "I take the concerns of this community very seriously and believe that the FCC has an obligation to work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action, where appropriate, to resolve harmful interference."

Copps said if interference occurs, "we must have a system in place to resolve it immediately," and he expressed the hope that the new rules would include such "rapid turnaround" provisions. Copps, who dissented in part with the R&O, raised the question of whether utility ratepayers should have to "subsidize an electric power company's foray into broadband."

The Commission's other Democrat, Jonathan Adelstein, said the interference question made the proceeding a challenging one because it had to accommodate concerns raised by Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators. "These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said.

Adelstein also said that while it's clear that some BPL systems can co-exist with existing licensees, others "haven't fared so well." He said those systems shouldn't be deployed commercially until it's assured that they won't cause harmful interference.

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy, a Republican, said the FCC had to "make some hard compromises" to deal with questions about interference. But she expressed confidence in "technical solutions."

Chairman Powell called it "a banner day" for communications in the US because, he said, BPL promises "ubiquitous service to all Americans at affordable rates." The chairman, a Republican, conceded that BPL will affect some spectrum users--including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there." Powell said the FCC has taken Amateur Radio interference concerns seriously from the start and has put protections in place "to allow that service to continue." At the same time, Powell implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell said BPL's potential for the US economy "is too great, too enormous, too potentially groundbreaking to sit idly by and allow any claim or any possible speculative fear" keep the Commission from promoting adoption of BPL technology.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Powell was overstating the necessity of yet another broadband pipeline. "It's astonishing to me that the chairman of the FCC can talk about needing a 'third way' to provide broadband to consumers when multiple technologies already are available, including wireless broadband," he said.

The United Power Line Council (UPLC) applauded the FCC's action, saying the new rules should encourage BPL deployment while protecting licensed services from harmful interference. "We didn't get everything we wanted," said UPLC President and CEO William R. Moroney, who called the R&O "the result of close cooperation and compromise" with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to address its concerns about potential interference.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <***http://www.arrl.org/bpl***>. .

[ARRL Letter]

Australian Amateurs Seek to Stake a Claim at 500 KHz

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) has announced plans to request the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) to establish an experimental amateur allocation at 500 Khz.

"The best way to do this is to establish a small slice of spectrum around 500 Khz--probably 495 to 510 Khz--as an Amateur Radic

band," said WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU. "The band would also provide a unique opportunity for experimentation with antennas, propagation, advanced narrowband modulation techniques and receiver digital signal processing."

A former shipboard radio officer, Dunstan noted that 500 Khz was the international maritime Morse code distress frequency for most of the 20th century. Following the introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) in 1999, 500 Khz use has declined rapidly, Dunstan said. China, the last official user of the frequency, plans to discontinue operation there next year.

Dunstan concedes that since 500 Khz remains allocated to the Maritime Service, gaining a permanent amateur foothold there is "some way off," but the WIA is hoping that Australian authorities will grant access to some spectrum there in the meantime for experimental use.

The ARRL and the RSGB have expressed some interest in a 500 Khz Amateur Radio allocation. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 and various US amateur long-wave groups also are actively pursuing experimental use of 500 Khz. Additionally, the IARU favors a worldwide Amateur Radio band at 135.7 to 137.8 Khz and is seeking support for such an allocation at World Radiocommunication Conference 2007.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Digital Communications Study Under Way

The ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee on Amateur Radio Emergency Service--ARES--Communications (ARESCOM) is seeking the assistance of the amateur community in documenting what digital communications systems now are in use today on the VHF and UHF bands. While the majority of digital communication is via packet, here are many different packet systems in use, and they are interconnected using a variety of methods.

The ARRL Board of Directors resolved at its July 2004 meeting to encourage the deployment of e-mail via Amateur Radio--"as exemplified by Winlink 2000"--to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications.

ARESCOM now wants to gather input on systems already in place. "We are seeking input from packet System Administrators, not individual users, as we need information on how the packet nodes are linked and what connectivity methods the packet systems use with systems outside their coverage area," said ARRL Ad-hoc ARESCOM Committee Chair Dick Mondro, W8FQT. The committee plans to wrap up data collection December 31.

The study seeks detailed information on current packet infrastructure, and one person may respond on behalf of several system operators if they all approve. "We simply ask that the names and call signs of all involved be listed," Mondro said.

To participate download the on-line form <***http://www.arrl.org/digtest/TestSurvey.pdf***> or <***http://www.arrl.org/digtest/testSurvey.doc***>. After providing all applicable information, submit the survey form or via surface mail to ARRL, DCTI Study, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Those interested in sharing comments and ideas are invited to subscribe to the DCTI Reflector. For more information, visit the ARRL Digital Communications Study Web page ***http://www.arrl.org/digtest***. *[ARRL Letter]*

ARISS Logs Two "Firsts" in Australian School Contact

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program marked two "firsts" during a September 23 school group contact with students from an elementary school in Australia. The QSO with youngsters from Kilburn Primary School was the first using the ARISS Phase 2 radio gear aboard the ISS and the first in which an attempt was made to provide contact audio worldwide via IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) nodes. NASA ISS Science Officer Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, took the controls of the NA1SS Kenwood TS-D700 transceiver in the crew quarters for the occasion. Responding to one youngster's question, Fincke described an ultrasound experiment that he and Expedition 9 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, have been running during their tour of duty.

"Ultrasound uses sound waves to look inside people's bodies," he explained, "and we can see how our bodies have changed because we've been exposed to this weightlessness--this microgravity--for a long time." Fincke said he and Padalka already have noted some changes. "By being able to tell how our bodies change in microgravity, we can figure out how to keep us healthy and strong, so that when we go to the moon and Mars, we'll be ready for it."

Fincke also fielded questions about how the ISS gets its electrical power, sleeping in space, the ISS' onboard environment, space walks, how Earth and the moon look from space and--of course--space food.

The Kilburn students were guests of the Investigator Science and Technology Centre in Adelaide for the occasion, and 13 of them got to ask Fincke questions about life in space before the ISS went out of range. Serving as the Earth station for the contact was Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Honolulu. An MCI-donated teleconferencing circuit provided two-way audio to the students. ARISS veteran Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, assisted at the Investigator Centre.

Members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club in Nova Scotia undertook the IRLP experiment, which had limited success. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said he'd like the program to explore future opportunities to make ARISS school group contacts available to other schools and the general ham radio population. One major issue this time was the presence of timers on IRLP systems.

ISS crews have used the Phase 1 Ericcson handheld VHF radio for the 146 previous ARISS school group contacts. The Phase 2 station was not expected to be used for a school group contact until the Expedition 10 crew arrives later this month.

ARISS <***http://www.rac.ca/ariss/***> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

[ARRL Letter]

New World Record Set on 47 GHz

On September 19 during the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Cumulative Contest, Frank Bauregger, W6QI, and Gary Lauterbach, AD6FP, claimed a new world distance record on 47 GHz after they completed a contact over a distance of 290 km.

W6QI operated from Shuteye Peak (DM07gi) just south of Yosemite, while AD6FP operated from Frazier Mountain (DM04ms) north of Los Angeles. Although it was officially still summer, W6QI had to brave 30-degree temperatures and snow while modifying the

radio in order to complete the contact. Signal margins were 40 dB on the W6QI end and about 8 dB on the AD6FP end.

The contact was completed using a combination of narrowband FM and CW. The two reported weather conditions were quite unusual for September with scattered rain showers in the central California Valley between Shuteye and Frazier.

[ARRL Letter]

DXCC Desk Accredits DX Operations

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: 9U6PM, Burundi, effective August 20, 2004; ZS8MI, Prince Edward & Marion Island, April 1-May 9, 2004. A new feature, "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" <***http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/***>, can answer most questions about the DXCC program. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <***http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc***>. Current ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins for 2004 page <***http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/***>.

[ARRL Letter]

November Meeting Program

Our program for the November meeting will be presented by Mr. Donald L. Corbet, representing D. L. Corbet & Associates, LLC. He will be speaking on the application of the *Linux* operating system.

You've heard about it. You've read about it. Perhaps you've seen it on a desktop or laptop computer. Or maybe you've even tried it.

Governments, major industries, small businesses and even the military are now coming to *Linux* in droves. The trickle from other operating systems to Linux is quickly becoming a torrent. The reasons vary from financial to security, but the mass migration has begun.

Glad you asked! Linux is commonly known as a server operating system or an operating system for advanced users. Can a non-pro use it, and why should he or she do so?

While Linux did begin its life as a server operating system and an operating system for advanced users, Linux has made significant progress in a most key area: its graphical user interface.

Linux now has a very easy to use interface for both the Windows and Mac crowd. The desktop looks, acts and feels incredibly familiar, as do applications such word processors, spreadsheets and photo editors.

Donald L. Corbet, a.k.a. *TheLinuxGuy*®, is an accomplished corporate senior executive, technical expert on Linux, Unix, Windows and other platforms, trainer, educator and public speaker. Mr. Corbet represents the ideal combination of "suit" and "tech". He is a member of the Board of the Linux Professional Institute and is a certified Linux cyber forensics specialist. He has received numerous corporate awards for his ground breaking work in customer satisfaction. He is a recognized presence and speaker at global Linux events, has hosted technical radio talk shows and was a columnist for a midwest computer publications. Mr. Corbet is a member of *Who's Who in America*. He founded D. L. Corbet & Associates, LLC in late 2002.

Additional information available at ***http://www.dlcorbet.com/linux.htm***.

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area).

Our program for the November meeting will be presented by Mr. Donald L. Corbet, representing D. L. Corbet & Associates, LLC. He will be speaking on the application of the *Linux* operating system.

Hope to see you on Monday, November 15, 2004!!

> Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart.
>
> *Henry Clay*

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

November 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	4 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	5	6 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
7 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW	8	9 Butler County *ARES* Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	10 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	11 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	12	13 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
14	15 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	16	17 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	18 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	19	20 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
21 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone	22	23	24 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	25 *DIAL* Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	26	27 *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
28	29	30	31 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	November 10 Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS November 20-21: ARRL November Sweepstakes at home of Ed (KF8PD) and Sandi (AB8LA) in Camden, OH		

December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
December 8: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS			1 **General Ham Class** **Johnston Hall** **MU-Middletown** **6 - 9 pm**	2 **Net Tonight** **9pm** **W8BLV/R**	3 **ARRL 160 Meter Contest**	4 **ARRL 160 Meter Contest** ***DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R** **ARRL International EME Competition**
5 **ARRL** 160 Meter Contest **ARRL International EME Competition**	6	7 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	8 **General Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	9 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	10	11 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **ARRL** 10 Meter Contest *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
12 **ARRL** 10 Meter Contest	13	14	15 **Ham Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	16 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	17	18 *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
19	20 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	21	22	23 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	24	25 *DIAL* Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
26	27	28 **ARES Net** 9pm 147.330 +	29	30	31	

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio
APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825
Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice-president:
Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Distribution:
Ruth Howard, N8OZN
Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

December 2004

Merry Christmas

Minutes of the November 15, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:
W8EH, N8EH, N8HRA, N8NQF, KC8TXA, KB8VSX, KB8ZMO, Sarah, K8CM, W8WLM, N8HP, KD8W, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KC8ZJM, N8DIG, WD8DFK, KC8QQH, AB8QP, N8PI, Ben, KB8WKL, Scott Harshman, KE8OH, Tillie, N8OZN, Molly, N8RYS, Ari, W8MVN, Bonnie, W8GNV, N8TFH, WB8MYT, WA8PRA, N8DHW, KC8DUZ, WD8NKJ.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Art, N8PI. This meeting was moved to the *Golden Dragon* at the last minute due to a scheduling conflict at our usual place. Our special guest, Donald L. Corbet, representing D. L. Corbet & Associates, LLC, was acknowledged.

Following the meeting, Mr. Corbet presented a very interesting and informative overview of the Linux operating system. Linux is a very stable and useful computer operating system that may be used in a variety of amateur radio applications.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by Ron, N8NQF, second by Ernie, N8EH, to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in the *Newsletter*. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, presented the Treasurer's report for October. We have 109 members and 17 renewals for 2005. Motion to approve by Ron, N8NQF, second by Ernie, N8EH. Motion approved.

Repeater/Station Report:
The 146.61 repeater is receiving QRM from some paging transmitters. Carl, K8CM, and Ernie, W8EH, went to the repeater site and performed some tests with a spectrum analyzer. We are 99% sure the problem is not in our equipment. It is only present when our transmitter is on. It is mixing somewhere with a 900 MHz paging transmitter. We will keep checking to try to find the transmitters involved in the mix.

Activity Report:
Lorie, W8LKU, reminded all of us of the *Sweepstakes* weekend at Ed & Sandi's (KF8PD and AB8LA) home. Lorie also reminded us to check-in to the two *DIAL* nets; Thursday evening at 9 and Saturday at 9:30 pm. Both nets meet on the 146.01/.61 repeater.

Classes & Exams
General class going on, Art, N8PI, and Don, WA8DTU, teaching this Wednesday.

Old Business:
Dave, KD8W, reported for the nominating committee. Candidates for election at the December meeting are: Art, N8PI, President; Mark, WD8DFK, Vice-president; Ron, N8NQF, Treasurer; Jon, K8TNF, Secretary; and Lorie, W8LKU, Activities Manager.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the December meeting.

New Business:
Dick, W8GNV, made a motion that we find a place to meet so we could have guests and where we didn't have to eat. There was no second but much discussion. It appeared that by a show of hands that most want to eat. The motion was withdrawn.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 20, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Mr. Harshman spoke about a Boy Scout troop that is sponsored by metro housing. He would like to introduce amateur radio to the Scouts and is looking for help. Several offered to work with them.

Art, N8PI, tossed out several names for an audit committee. Those appointed were Dave, KD8W; Jody, AB8QP; and Mark, WD8DFK. They will audit the Club's financial records [year 2004] and issue a final report at the January meeting.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and duly seconded by Carl, K8CM. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Nominations for DIAL Officers for the Year-2005

Dave, KD8W, reporting for the nominating committee, lists the following as officer nominees for 2005. Additional nominations may be received from the floor, prior to voting, at the regular December membership meeting.

President	Art Frasik, N8PI
Vice President	Mark Johnson, WD8DFK
Secretary	Jon Slone, K8TNF
Treasurer	Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Activities Mgr.	Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

Election of officers will be the focus of the December meeting and a great time for you to become involved in the management of your radio club.

November Sweepstakes - Phone November 20 - 21

Sandi and I would like to thank all of you that came out and visited, ate, operated, and supported this event. We had a wonderful time doing it! I counted 25 people total. There may be 1 or 2 that I missed, so if you know of someone, please let me know so I can add their name to this list. We doubled the amount of people from last year. Also, for those whose spouses made food and deserts for you to bring, please send along a great big thanks from all of us!

In attendance were: N8HP, N8GGE, N8PI, AB8QP, BEN, W8EH, KC8WOF, N8OZN, WA8DTU, W8LKU, W8ULC and Marilyn, K8TNF, KC8ZJM, N8TVU, KC8VDT, N8DHW, KD8W, N8DIG, Matt, Buck Randall (future ham), Tommy, Jessica, AB8LA, and KF8PD.

We made 240 contacts, worked all 80 sections for a *CLEAN SWEEP*, and ended up with 38,400 points. We operated 23hrs and 59 minutes of the 24 hrs allowed.

A couple of funny things happened that I'd like to share. If you have something you'd like to share, please tell it so we can all get a good laugh. I may be opening this up for self humiliation, but it may be YOU that the joke is on!

Jon, K8TNF, asked for check-ins on Saturday evening for the roundtable net. He was in the mobile when he did it. I lost count of the number of check-ins he had. He said he couldn't write them all down while driving. Guess he didn't expect quite so many!

Kelley, KC8ZJM, beat Jon, K8TNF, at air hockey! We all enjoyed that one.

And one more. Kelly, KC8ZJM, doesn't even know about this one yet. I was working a pileup on 80m and moving along pretty good. I was using the headphones so he probably couldn't hear much. He taps me on the shoulder while I'm picking out calls in this pileup. With my back to him, I raised up my finger to say "wait just a minute" and went back to listening. He taps me again, then again. I raised up my finger again and it still doesn't work. Then I think about what I'm doing and start cracking up inside while trying to listen for calls.....DUH!

Have a good Thanksgiving!

[Ed (KF8PD) and Sandi (AB8LA)]

Ham License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, December 15, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 13 Johnston Hall,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $12.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($12) made payable to the *Dial Radio Club*. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson,

and must arrive no later than Monday, December 13. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Talk-in on 146.610 -

Amateur Radio Class Winter 2004-2005 Ham Radio Class

The Technician Class section of the **DIAL RADIO CLUB's** Winter, 2004-2005, Amateur Radio class will begin on January 12, in Middletown, 6-9 pm. Meeting in Johnston Hall, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, classes will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in Technician Class amateur operator license.

Theory instruction will conclude March 2. *Please note, Morse code proficiency is not a requirement for the Technician Class license.*

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, in Middletown, at the conclusion of instruction, on March 9.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class. License training manuals are expected to be available, for purchase, the first night of class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

The 19th Annual SWOH Digital Symposium

The 19th Annual SWOH Digital Symposium will be held on January 15, 2005, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Thesken Hall, Miami University, Middletown, OH. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Center for Chemistry Education, Miami University, and the *DIAL* Radio Club, Middletown, OH.

The afternoon program will feature an active presentation by William (Bill) Hayes, AE4QL, entitled *Standing Up for Standing Waves*. This is a topic of utmost interest to hams endeavoring to better understand how their equipment functions.

Program will, again, be under the able leadership of Hank Greeb, N8XX. Details may be obtained by contacting Hank

Check out ***http://www.swohdigi.org/*** for up-to-date information.
*This is an **ARRL** sanctioned activity.*

Butler County *ARES*

Each year the ARRL has amateur operators nationwide test their Emergency Communications skills during the National Simulated Emergency Test the first weekend in October.

Many operators are working from portable stations similar to "field day", setup with a portable antenna, generator or battery power, and working out of a backpack full of gear.

The object of the game is to contact and handle NTS style traffic for as many agencies as possible within your own county, and forward messages to their headquarters in the capitol city in each state.

It is a little like contesting, but at the same time your honing your skills to handle those unusual messages from your agencies that don't quite fit the NTS format, so you have to make it fit without changing the context of the message!

Since we had just had the countywide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) drill in September, we took the opportunity to the National SET to hone our operator skills with some new tracking software that will be used by our Net Control Operators (NCO).

The software keeps track of assigned operators, location of shelters, Missing People; operators not assigned that are available, formal and informal messages, and team member's vital information.

We utilized this software in the N8TVU response trailer in West Chester during the President Bush visit to keep track of operators on site and their changing status and assignments.

We are working on the technology required to link the computer LANs at the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Center to a radio link so offsite computers can update the system as well. (Any of the gurus with an idea on this-please get with Rob N8OMW or Bob N8TVU. We would greatly appreciate it.)

Butler County Emergency Management Agency on October 25th delivered a brand new 8' X 8'X 28' trailer for ARES/RACES to utilize. The trailer came equipped with 110-volt fluorescent lighting and outlets, 12 volt lighting, 5500 watt gasoline generator & slide tray mount, roof mounted air conditioner with heat strip and tandem axle with electric brakes. The trailer belongs to EMA and ARES/RACES – no one else will be using the trailer for any other purpose.

It is up to the ARES team to design a floor plan for the interior of the unit.

We had a non-stop two hour brain storming session at the November meeting.

Designing the operator positions to be large enough to be comfortable and to make as much use of the available space as possible, lead to setting up "mock" tables and chairs in the meeting room to "see" what room was left.

This and many other projects are going on within the Butler County Amateur Radio Emergency Communications team.

We meet every 2cd Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 P.M. at Butler Tech Main Campus Room 229 – Come Join Us!

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC

Web: *www.qsl.net/n8tvu*

FCC BPL Report And Order Stresses Interference Avoidance, Resolution; ARLB032

The FCC has released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 that it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to "protect licensed services from harmful interference."

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

Notches would have to be at least 20 dB below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below on VHF. The FCC called the ability to alter a system's operation to notch out transmissions on specific frequencies where interference is occurring "a necessary feature for resolving interference without disrupting service to BPL subscribers."

The FCC declined to reduce the Part 15 radiated emission limit for BPL systems. It maintained that emissions from BPL systems are very localized and at low enough levels to generally preclude harmful interference.

The FCC said while it had no evidence before it that BPL operation would significantly contribute to background noise levels, it seemed to put some of the onus on Amateur Radio licensees to take steps to avoid power-line interference--and, by inference, BPL interference--in advance.

"In addition, because power lines inherently can radiate significant noise emissions as noted by NTIA and ARRL, good engineering practice is to locate sensitive receiver antennas as far as practicable from power lines," the FCC said.

In a footnote, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

BPL operators would be required to avoid certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, however, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service.

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said. "While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

The Commission reiterated its belief that BPL's public benefits "are sufficiently important and significant so as to outweigh the limited potential for increased harmful interference that may arise."

Among other specific provisions, the FCC's new rules mandate certification of BPL equipment instead of the less-stringent verification, a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. BPL systems will have to incorporate the ability to modify operation and performance "to mitigate or avoid potential harmful interference" and to deactivate problematic units, the R&O says.

Further, the new rules spell out the locations of "small geographic exclusion zones" as well as excluded bands or frequencies--concessions made primarily at the insistence of the NTIA, which administers radio spectrum for federal government users--and "coordination areas" where BPL deployments at any frequency must be "precoordinated by BPL operators." They also detail techniques to measure BPL emissions from system equipment and power lines.

The FCC said it expects "good faith" on both sides in the event of interference complaints. Shutting down a BPL system in response to a valid interference complaint "would be a last resort when all other efforts to satisfactorily reduce interference have failed," the FCC said.

ARRL officials are studying the R&O and considering possible responses. The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) already has authorized filing a Petition for Reconsideration. The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page at, ***http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/.***

[ARRL Bulletin]

ARRL Disappointed With Administration Over BPL Report and Order

The ARRL has expressed its disappointment with the Bush administration's failure "to prevent radio spectrum pollution by BPL systems." In a November 1 letter to Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans copied to President George W. Bush, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recalled Evans' assurances on the administration's behalf earlier this year "that we are responsible and sensitive to valuable incumbent [radiocommunication] systems." Haynie told Evans the FCC's BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37--adopted October 14 and released two weeks later--suggests otherwise.

"Despite excellent work conducted by the technical staff of your National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to document the extensive harmful interference that will occur if BPL systems are deployed at the radiated emission limits presently permitted by the FCC rules," Haynie said, "it appears that the NTIA concurred in the FCC's decision not to tighten those limits."

The FCC maintains that BPL emissions are localized and at low enough levels to preclude harmful interference in the first place, and it has left the door open to possibly upping the limit in the future.

Haynie pointed out that both international treaty and US law entitle licensed radiocommunication services to protection from harmful interference that unlicensed systems like BPL might generate. "Despite this," he continued, "the FCC has shifted the burden for initiating interference mitigation from the BPL system operator to the radio licensee." The NTIA's September 13 submission to the FCC shows that at FCC Part 15 limits, the probability of harmful interference is essentially 100 percent within 200 to 400 meters (approximately 660 to 1300 feet) of a power line carrying BPL signals--depending on the operating frequency.

"Amateur Radio stations are typically located in residential areas, nearly always well within such distances," Haynie noted. "The FCC's Report and Order provides no assurance that when interference occurs--as it unquestionably will--it will be promptly eliminated."

As part of the Commerce Department, the NTIA not only administers radio spectrum allocated to federal government users but advises the White House on telecommunications policy. On June 24, President Bush extolled BPL during a speech on technological innovation even while acknowledging interference concerns.

Haynie said the League will continue efforts to improve the R&O. Calling the HF spectrum "a unique and priceless resource," the ARRL president expressed regret that the administration "is willing to squander such a unique natural resource in order to provide a short-range broadband connection that can easily be provided by several other non-polluting means."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, echoed Haynie's concerns. The FCC R&O, he said, "shifts the burden to licensed operators to react to interference rather than adopting rules to prevent interference from occurring." The R&O advises locating "sensitive receiver antennas" as far as practically possible from power lines. Additionally, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas."

Reacted Sumner: "If a BPL system operator wants to meet its obligation by picking up all of the costs of relocating a licensee's antenna, it's free to make the offer."

If interference occurs, the new Part 15 rules will require BPL system operators to employ "interference avoidance techniques" such as "frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement." Notches would have to be at least 20 dB--slightly more than 3 S units--below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 1[illegible]

dB below Part 15 limits on VHF--not much protection for weaker signals common in HF work.

"We might be more optimistic if there had, to date, been a single instance when the FCC had ordered a BPL system to terminate operation for causing harmful interference," Sumner said. "The Commission continues to be in denial, despite hundreds of pages of documentation of ongoing interference."

Sumner said the ARRL was gratified that the FCC R&O recognized that BPL devices have significantly greater interference potential than other Part 15 devices and that the Commission will require certification of BPL systems rather than the less-stringent verification. Additionally, Sumner said, the League was pleased that the FCC-mandated public BPL system database will require systems to be listed several weeks ahead of actual implementation so that amateurs and others have advance notice.

ARRL officials continue to mull possible formal responses to the R&O. The ARRL Executive Committee already has okayed the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration. It further authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio Web page ***http://www.arrl.org/bpl***.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Participating in IEEE, Industry Efforts to Set BPL Standards

Working with industry through the IEEE Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Study Group <***http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/bpl***> and in other venues, the ARRL is taking part in efforts aimed at defining and establishing key BPL technical standards. Among other issues, these standards will address the avoidance of interference from BPL to licensed radio services. The study group has held three meetings this year, and the next session is set for January 14 in San Diego. The study group met most recently in Piscataway, New Jersey, on October 13, the day before the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules to govern BPL deployment. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, told those attending that gathering that any BPL standards must address issues of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).

"The consensus of the committee is still that dealing with emissions and EMC is very high on the importance list," Hare said later. In terms of EMC, he said, the components of any IEEE BPL standard should "include the needs of the BPL industry to have a workable environment in which to manufacture and market BPL technology while addressing the need for licensed radio services to operate in an environment that does not result in harmful interference."

Hare's presentation focused on explaining why the BPL industry's measurements using spectrum analyzers and test probes differ from the impact BPL emissions have on communications receivers attached to typical amateur antenna systems.

"I also continued to extend our offer to work cooperatively with industry representatives," Hare said. The ARRL and the FCC's Enforcement Bureau have a long history of cooperating in resolving Part 15 interference complaints resulting from power line noise.

Hare and ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI--who attended a July study group meeting in Piscataway--have been charged with drafting the part of the IEEE study group's "white paper" dealing with affected radio services, including Amateur Radio. Other aspects of the document will include safety; compatibility between access BPL and in-home BPL; compatibility with utility distribution systems, and security, privacy and authentication issues.

Following the July study group meeting, Rinaldo said the consensus of participants was that the core issue confronting the BPL industry was dealing successfully with the issue of interference from and to BPL. "BPL won't survive unless that fundamental problem is solved soon," Rinaldo asserted.

Rinaldo also took part in a Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) Strategic Summit and Business Briefing in late October in the DC area. His presentation concluded, among other things, that best practice for the BPL industry would be to avoid Amateur Radio spectrum at the equipment design level.

A few days earlier, Rinaldo had represented the League at a meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC) Broadband over Power Lines Task Force.

[ARRL Letter]

Permanent ISS Ham Station Human Crews Share Fourth Anniversary

Four years ago this week, the Expedition 1 crew arrived aboard the International Space Station, home of the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space. Just weeks earlier, the FCC granted the station's distinctive NA1SS call sign. By the time William Shepherd, KD5GSL, Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko arrived on November 2, 2000, the Phase 1 or "initial station" Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) gear was already on board for the crew to install. Crew increments comprised of US astronauts and Russian cosmonauts have rotated duty tours continuously ever since, and ham radio has played a role in each crew's routine.

"Every challenge for the International Space Station crews, flight control teams and management adds to the knowledge base we need to develop longer spaceflight missions to places like the moon and Mars," said International Space Station Program Manager Bill Gerstenmaier. "The work we're doing on station is directly connected to future exploration missions." ARISS International currently is mulling Amateur Radio's role in NASA's "Moon, Mars and Beyond" initiative.

With NASA's shuttle fleet now grounded, crew increments have shrunk to two people, while duty tours have stretched from four to six months. Despite fewer hands on deck, NASA says the two-person crews sometimes have been able to do more with less--often improvising.

The Expedition 10 crew of Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, and ISS Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov, arrived at the ISS just last month--aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle, just as the Expedition 1 crew did, although other crews traveled via the shuttle. Over the years, in addition to visiting space shuttle crews, there have even been a couple of paying "space tourists" and other short-term visitors who took advantage of the ARISS gear onboard. More recently, Russian Space Forces Test Cosmonaut Yuri Shargin--who arrived with the Expedition 10 crew--completed two ARISS contacts with school groups in Europe.

The Expedition 10 crew is not expected to begin its own series of school group contacts until the week of November 15 at the earliest. Unscheduled ham radio activity by crew members typically is suspended during crew changeover periods. As of November 4, the

NA1SS FM voice repeater remained off and the ARISS Phase 2 equipment was back in packet mode under the RS0ISS call sign.

This week marked a first when Chiao cast his vote in the November 2 presidential election while orbiting 230 miles above Earth. A law the Texas State Legislature passed in 1997 allows astronauts to vote electronically from space. Chiao submitted his electronic ballot to his county clerk's office via e-mail.

Some statistics: Since the Expedition 1 crew carried out the first successful ARISS school group contact--with Luther Burbank Elementary School near Chicago on December 21, 2000--ISS crews have racked up 150 similar Amateur Radio contacts. Approximately two-thirds of them have been direct, 2-meter QSOs, while the rest were carried out via "telebridge" stations, where two-way audio was teleconferenced to the school via an Earth station convenient to QSO NA1SS directly.

The crew holding the record for the most ARISS school group contacts was Expedition 3. Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, answered questions via ham radio posed by students at 22 different schools. Culbertson also activated NA1SS during the 2001 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) scouting event.

NASA recently announced that after an extensive review, it's planning its return-to-flight shuttle mission, STS-114, for a launch window that opens next May. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says PCSat 2--an externally mounted ham radio payload--is expected to fly on that shuttle flight, which also will mark the return of three-person ISS crews. "We will also be able to better negotiate the delivery of our computer, which is essential for the SSTV system," Bauer added.--some information from NASA

[ARRL Letter]

HF Propagation Falls Victim to Strong Solar Winds; VHFers Exult

As HF radio conditions drifted in the doldrums over the past week, the Space Environment Center (SEC) <***http://www.sec.noaa.gov/SWN/index.html***> reports that geomagnetic storm activity spiked into the "extreme" (G5) category November 9. A result of disturbances in Earth's geomagnetic field caused by gusts of "solar wind" blowing past the planet, geomagnetic storms adversely affected HF radio propagation during much of the week and even resulted in limited radio blackouts. The SEC estimates that G5-scale geomagnetic conditions will occur on just four days of each 11-year solar cycle. Things calmed to "minor" (G1) by week's end, and the near-term prediction was for geomagnetic storm activity to dwindle. Even at the G1 level, geomagnetic activity can cause weak power grid fluctuations, possibly affect satellite operations and still generate aurora at higher latitudes.

At the same time, HFers were suffering, however, VHF enthusiasts were exulting in the propagation the space weather generated on 6 meters. Chip Margelli, K7JA, in California says that as ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) was coming to a close, many HF signals exhibited auroral characteristics. Six meters, however, was becoming a hotbed of DX. Early on November 8 (UTC), he says, KH6SX reported on the 50 MHz Propagation Logger <***http://www.dxworld.com/50prop.html***> that he was hearing the K6FV beacon.

"I quickly rotated my beam in his direction, and with one call I had him in the log," Margelli reported. "His signal was full of rapid aurora flutter, which is astounding for a path to Hawaii!"

Margelli says the opening later shifted to the west and north, and additional stations were able to add Hawaii to their 6 meter WAS list. A path then opened between Hawaii and Alaska (BP51) and ultimately between Hawaii and Japan.

"It's hard to imagine a 'normal' Es opening with such a wide distribution, and the westward progression suggests an enhancement ahead of the heliopause," Margelli said. "But I think the book may need some re-writing on this one."

Among the lucky stations in the east was ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, who bagged his 50th state on 50 MHz by working NL7Z in Alaska via aurora.

On HF, Junji Saito, JA7SSB, told ARRL propagation bulletin editor Tad Cook, K7RA, that he was able to generate big 20 and 30-meter pileups on November 8 around 1430-1500 UTC, late evening in Japan, when the bands usually are closed. He noted deep fading and echoes on signals.

The recent space weather conditions resulted in auroral displays visible as far south as the Middle Atlantic states.

In terms of radio blackouts--disturbances of the ionosphere caused by X-ray emissions from the sun--the SEC reported conditions as moderate (R2) at midweek but nil as week's end. Solar radiation storm activity dropped from the "moderate" (S2) level at midweek to minor (S1) by week's end. At the S1 level, solar radiation storms can have a minor effect on HF radio propagation in the polar regions.

See this week's "Solar Update" (below) for additional details and the current forecast.

[ARRL Letter]

The Tone's the Thing for 2004 ARRL Frequency Measuring Test

There's a new twist to the ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW Frequency Measuring Test (FMT). The 2004 FMT takes place November 18 starting at 0245 UTC (the evening of Wednesday, November 17, in US time zones), replacing the W1AW phone bulletin normally transmitted then. Rather than measuring the transmission's carrier frequency, participants in this year's FMT will attempt to accurately determine the frequency of an audio tone. Engineer and ARRL Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, says measuring an audio tone will reinforce understanding of the relationship between carrier frequency and the components of a transmitted signal.

"The carrier is suppressed for SSB signals, leaving only the sideband components," Silver explains in "The FMT Strikes a New Tone," in November QST. "The frequency of components of the modulating audio signal is preserved as the difference between the carrier frequency and the transmitted component. A single modulating tone results in a single transmitted component."

W1AW will make the 2004 FMT transmissions on 80, 40 and 20 meters. The FMT will begin with a general W1AW "QST" starting at 0245 UTC sent simultaneously on the three W1AW transmission frequencies. The test itself will consist of three 60-second tone transmissions on each band, followed by a station identification. The whole test will run for about 15 minutes and will end with a station ID.

The tone frequency will be the same on all three bands.

During the 2004 FMT, W1AW will indicate the band on which participants should measure. After the initial call-up, W1AW will begin the test by announcing, "Now 80 meters." Except for the tone

transmission, all transmissions will be voice. Frequencies are 3990 kHz (LSB), 7290 kHz (LSB) and 14,290 kHz (USB). All frequencies will be accurate to at least 0.1 ppm (eg, 3990 ±0.4 Hz).

Submitted reports should include name, call sign, location, time of reception and, of course, the tone frequency. Those using an indirect measurement method also should include calculations showing how they arrived at the tone frequency. For additional details on indirect and direct measurement methods, see Silver's article "The ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests," on the ARRL Web site, <***http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/0210051.pdf***>, or in Oct 2002 QST.

Send entries postmarked by Friday, December 17, 2004, to W1AW/FMT, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Separate reports for each band are welcome. All entrants qualify for a Certificate of Participation. Those coming closest to the measured frequency will be listed in the test report and get special recognition on their certificates.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Reallocation of Federal Users Includes Some Amateur 2.3 GHz Spectrum

The FCC has acted to include the first five 5 megahertz of the 2390-2417 MHz Amateur Radio Service primary allocation among spectrum it's opened up to accommodate federal users shifted from other bands. The spectrum relocations, which also involved nonamateur spectrum at 2 GHz, are aimed at making room for advanced wireless services (AWS), including so-called "third-generation" (3G) wireless systems.

After voting unanimously October 14 to adopt a Seventh Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 00-258 and WT Docket 02-8, the FCC called the action "an important step towards the future auction of 90 MHz of spectrum for AWS." The Commission said it worked with the US Department of Defense and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to reallocate spectrum to allow for relocation of critical military and other operations into the 2360 to 2395 MHz band.

The FCC says its action will make room available to shift federal government aeronautical mobile flight test telemetry (AMT) operations from the 1.7 GHz band to the 2.3 GHz band by extending the primary allocation for AMT to include an additional 10 megahertz from 2385 to 2395 MHz. "Making the additional spectrum available for non-federal AMT will accommodate the higher data rates needed for non-federal flight testing," the FCC said.

The Commission similarly extended the existing secondary spectrum allocations for federal and non-federal non-aeronautical mobile telemetry operations in the 2360-2385 MHz band to include the 2385 to 2395 MHz band. In addition, it extended the existing federal primary radiolocation and secondary fixed allocations from 2360 to 2385 MHz to include 2385 to 2390 MHz.

Last December, the ARRL announced that it had agreed in principle with the Aerospace and Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council (AFTRCC) to develop coordination procedures. The League told the FCC it could support Amateur Radio sharing of 2390 to 2395 MHz on a co-primary basis with flight test telemetry operations. But it has insisted that 2395 to 2400 MHz remain an exclusive amateur primary allocation.

[ARRL Letter]

British Amateurs Get Additional 100 KHz on 40 Meters October 31

Starting at 0100 UTC October 31, the 40 meter band in the British Isles effectively doubled in size when radio amateurs there gain access to 7100 to 7200 kHz. Ofcom, the UK telecommunications regulatory authority, announced the Notice of Variation October 26.

The change, in the works since last year, is a result of actions taken during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, where conferees agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. Coincidentally, the UK band expansion, which also includes independently governed regions where Ofcom regulates telecommunications, will occur just about halfway through the CQ World Wide Contest (SSB) this weekend. Contesters take note!

The Ofcom NOV makes the segment available on a secondary basis, and amateur stations in the UK and affected regions may not cause interference to stations operating in other radio services inside or outside the UK.

The UK and Ofcom-administered regions join the Republic of Ireland--which reportedly gained access October 20--as well as Croatia, Norway and San Marino among Region 1 countries that have authorized access to the additional spectrum on a secondary basis. The WRC-03 change does not formally go into effect until 2009.-thanks to Lawrence Woolf, GJ3RAX; RSGB

[ARRL Letter]

Experimental Licensees Moving Low-frequency Agenda Forward

With no Amateur Radio low-frequency allocation in North America, stations operating under FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses <***https://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/oet/cf/els/index.cfm***> in the US or under special experimental authorizations in Canada nonetheless continue to research the nether regions of the radio spectrum. By and large, LF experimentation is occurring in the vicinity of 136 kHz--typically 135.7 to 137.8 kHz--where amateur allocations already exist elsewhere in the world. The FCC rejected the ARRL's 1998 petition for LF allocations at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz, however, after electric utilities objected that ham radio transmissions might interfere with power line carrier (PLC) signals used to control the power grid.

"Most of the new LF activity of Part 5 licensees has been in the shared 137 kHz amateur allocation available in some parts of the world," says low-frequency experimenter Laurence Howell, KL1X/5. "Although not in the Amateur Radio Service, these Part 5 experimental stations continue to add to our knowledge on propagation and engineering."

The holder of Part 5 Experimental license WD2XDW, Howell--who's also GM4DMA--previously operated LF from Alaska. He's since relocated to Oklahoma, and has now resumed his LF work on 137.7752 and 137.7756 kHz. Already he's reporting some spectacular success, despite antenna limitations. On October 28, New Zealand LFer Mike McAlevey, ZL4OL, copied WD2XDW's 137 kHz carrier "bursts" over a path of more than 13,000 km (8000 miles).

Howell believes the reception probably marked the first transpacific reception of a US-generated signal. "The land mass between Oklahoma and the ocean was considered to be a large

obstacle to long-range communications," Howell remarked, "but obviously not."

The next day, Jim Moritz, M0BMU, copied the LF signals of three North American in the vicinity of 137 kHz (137.777 kHz)--including Howell's WD2XDW and WD2XES, operated by John Andrews, W1TAG, in Massachusetts--using Argo software, which can detect signals not otherwise readable. The third station, Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Newfoundland, has been operating a beacon on 137 kHz. Howell says, VO1NA's signals serve as a bellwether of LF transatlantic propagation. LF signals of European amateurs likewise are heard in North America.

On November 12, Andrews and another LF experimenter in Massachusetts completed the first two-way data exchange between Part 5 Experimental license stations on 137 kHz. Andrews worked Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, operating as WD2XGJ in Wayland, using conventional CW. The stations are about 25 miles apart, and both used loop antennas for transmitting. Jay Rusgrove, W1VD, some 100 miles to the south in Connecticut, monitored and recorded the QSO.

In British Columbia, Lorne Tilley, VE7TIL, and Steve McDonald, VE7SL, have been heard throughout North America on LF. Howell says both are starting a formal study of variances in groundwave propagation.

Howell says the disturbed solar conditions earlier this month wiped out long-haul paths through or close to the auroral oval during nighttime hours--especially at higher latitudes. He notes, however, that daytime signals over paths of between 1000 and 1500 km (620 and 930 miles) showed increased signal strengths during the disturbances. Howell has more LF information on his Web site <***http://myweb.cableone.net/flow***>.

[ARRL Letter]

Useful Life of UO-22 Satellite Appears Over

According to AMSAT-UK, the UO-22 satellite is not in good shape, and its useful life may be over.

"The SSTL [Surrey Satellite Technology Limited] Ground Station control centre at the University of Surrey have attempted several times in recent weeks to reactivate the satellite," AMSAT-UK reports. "After one attempt it did come back to life, but only briefly. Other attempts have failed completely."

The SSTL ground control station may make further attempts to reactivate UO-22, "but it seems unlikely that they will be completely successful." The cause of the satellite's failure is not known for certain, but SSTL believes it may be related either to the spacecraft's batteries or to the fact that the satellite is very hot due to orbital precession, which has put it generally in full sunlight. The elevated temperature has been causing problems with the receivers as well as with the batteries.

Launched on July 17, 1991, from Kourou, French Guiana, UO-22 has served for many years as the 9600 baud store-and-forward satellite for the Amateur Radio packet radio worldwide SatGate service, which linked packet radio networks in many countries. AMSAT-NA reports UO-22 as "non-operational." For further information on UO 22 contact Jim Heck, G3WGM

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting & Last Month's SNAFU

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area).

We regret the confusion last month, resulting from the quick shift of our meeting from *The Golden Corral* to the *Golden Dragon Buffet*. Upon arrival the *Golden Corral* (about 5:15pm) we discovered a full parking lot and "no room at the inn". The *Golden Corral* was hosting a program recognizing veterans' service to their country and had a overflow crowd. Their management insisted that they had notified us of the change in plans; however, none of the officers had any knowledge of it.

The good news was that most of the members found us and we had 35+ in attendance; the bad news was that a few members had no knowledge of where we had gone although Art had posted a notice at *Golden Corral*. Guess this underscores the usefulness of having your radio on while enroute to the meetings.

Keep in mind the December meeting will include election of officers for 2005. Be sure to attend and cast your vote for those who can best work together.

Hope to see you on Monday, December 20, 2004!!

A loyal friend laughs at your jokes when they're not so good, and sympathizes with your problems when they're not so bad.

Arnold Glasgow

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!

December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
December 8: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS			1 **General Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	2 **Net Tonight** **9pm** **W8BLV/R**	3 **ARRL 160 Meter Contest**	4 **ARRL 160 Meter Contest** ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R **ARRL International EME Competition**
5 **ARRL** 160 Meter Contest **ARRL International EME Competition**	6	7	8 **General Ham Class** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	9 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	10	11 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 8:30am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **ARRL** 10 Meter Contest ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
12 **ARRL** 10 Meter Contest	13	14 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	15 **Ham Exams** Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	16 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	17	18 ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
19	20 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	21	22	23 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	24	25 ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
The 19th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium will be held in Thesken Hall, Miami University-Middletown, on Saturday, January 15, 2005, 0900-1600 EST. Parking and admission is free. Plan to attend and learn more about amateur radio's digital communications techniques. ***See page 3; December 2004 Newsletter for more information*** **or go to:** ***http://www.swohdigi.org/***						1 **New Year's Day** ARRL Straight Key Night ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
2	3	4	5	6 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	7	8 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am **ARRL** RTTY Round-up ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
9 **ARRL** RTTY Round-up	10	11 **Butler County *ARES* Net** 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	12 Amateur License Class Begins @ 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	13 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	14	15 **SWOH Digital Symposium** ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
16 SCARFest 2005 Nelsonville, OH	17 **Dial Meeting** 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	18	19 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	20 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	21	22 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
23 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes TUSCO ARC Strasburg, OH	24	25	26 Amateur License Class 6pm Johnston Hall Miami-Middletown	27 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	28	29 ***DIAL* Roundtable Net** @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
30	31	**January 12: Butler County Emergency Communication Team** Meeting, 7pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS				