
SPARKS

Vol. 20, No. 5

Puget Amateur Radio Society

May 2004

This Month's General Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20 from 7 to 9 PM, at the Bellevue Senior Center, located at 4043 - 148th Ave. in Bellevue, just north of the 148th exit on I-520.

I haven't heard from Charles about a speaker for the meeting. In lieu of another topic, I've included below some questions about *Sparks* I'd like the members to discuss.

As usual we supply coffee, juice and cookies. We hope to see you there.

Happy birthday to you!

Apr 25	Lorie Graff	N7LCO
Jun 17	Marvin Brewer	AC7AL
Jun 22	Charles Beckmeier	KC7GMF
Jul 8	John Black	W7HIL
Aug 1	Mark Whitaker	KD7KUN
Aug 11	Van Kichline	KD7QIT
Aug 11	Bob Adams	KJ7BP
Aug 13	Dick Schwanke	W9HXM

Call for Speakers

Charles needs ideas for speakers for upcoming meetings. Please call him at 425-822-2339 or email him at cebeck@gte.net.

Recent Larger Issues of Sparks

You may have noticed the recent increase in the size of issues of *Sparks*. In the past, we've tried to keep each *Sparks* issue to 4 pages. When I started using ARNewsline(tm) articles, it was just to fill the issue out to 4 pages.

However, recently the issues of ARNewsline have been full of news about restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service and about BPL (Broadband over Power Lines). I consider these news articles important enough that it has been difficult to keep the size of *Sparks* down to 4 pages. This issue of *Sparks* is over 7 pages, and is the first where I haven't spent the time and effort to edit it down to an even number of whole pages, because I couldn't do it in the time I have and keep the desired content.

How do you like all this news? Do you depend upon *Sparks* for information about restructuring and BPL? Or, are you tired of seeing so much about these issues? Have you made use of the WWW (World Wide Web) links for more information? Would smaller articles with more WWW links to additional information be a more

appropriate way to keep you informed without needing to have an over-large issue of *Sparks*? Would you like *Sparks* to include a list of ARNewsline articles from the past month with WWW links so that you can choose what to read about rather than leaving the choice up to me? Do you depend upon the hard copy of *Sparks*, not having access to the WWW? Please let me know via mail, email, phone or at a PARS meeting.

-Your Newsletter Editor

Sparks News Articles

Many *Sparks* articles come from recent issues of the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) (abbreviated ARNewsline). You can sign up to receive the weekly Amateur Radio Newsline at www.arnewline.org or hear it Mondays on the PSRG Net at 7:30 PM on the 146.96 repeater, or at 8 PM on the 146.78 repeater. Sometimes the report includes audio clips that aren't transcribed in the printed version, so it's better to listen to the audio version when you can.

Restructuring: FCC Housecleaning and the Beginning of Round Two

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1393, April 23, 2004: The FCC says its time to begin restructuring the Amateur Service for the 21st century and it has handed the nations ham radio community a 71 page start. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has looked it over and has the rest of the story:

Actually, you might call this a bit of housecleaning because the bulk of the FCC's proposal stems from a number of petitions that have been sitting on desks and in drawers at the regulatory agency for months; some up to three years.

And, we should say up-front that this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is separate from the latest license restructuring proposal put out for comment by the FCC a few weeks ago.

CQ Magazine Editor Rich Moseson W2VU, is focusing on this new FCC proposal in his "Zero Bias" editorial column for the magazine's June issue.

He tells me the centerpiece is what's known as the American Radio Relay League's "Novice Refarming" petition.

"A couple of years ago, the League filed a petition with the FCC saying: 'You're not issuing new Novice licenses anymore and that these band segments are not being well used. Let's expand the phone bands using some of these frequencies,' " Moseson explains.

Next general meeting - Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Also join us at 5:30 PM for dinner at Coco's, 14804 NE 24th St. in Redmond. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings and at Coco's.

Next board meeting - Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 PM at the Cowboy Steakhouse, located on the east side of the Totem Lake Mall in back of the Bank of America Bldg. Take the 124th St. exit off of I-405 and go east to the first street with a left turn lane. Turn left, cross the railroad tracks, continue to the next light, turn right at the bank, go one block and take a right. All PARS members are welcome.

Basically, Moseson says, the plan would expand code and data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

"And what they propose, basically, is giving Novices and Technicians with code credit access to the General CW portion of each of these three bands - 80, 40 and 15 and 10 meters as well. But CW only for them on 80, 40 and 15 and RTTY and Data on 10 meters. And then to take part of each of those Novice bands on 80, 40, and 15 and use them to expand the phone bands."

And, Moseson says there are also some big changes proposed for General, Advanced and Extra-class license holders.

"The big winners here are going to be General class hams," Moseson says. "They are going to get an extra 50 khz of phone band on 75 meters and on 40 meters and an extra 25 khz on 15 meters. Advanced and Extra class hams will also get additional space, 25 khz each on 75 and 40."

"But they're going to lose some of the exclusive areas that they have now. The exclusive Advanced class bands are going to be shrunk down by 25 khz or so."

"Of course, since there are no new Advanced class licenses being issued and since a lot of people have upgraded to General since the code-speed requirement was dropped to 5-words-a-minute, this may, indeed, be the right thing to do."

Again, Moseson stresses, this doesn't address the ARRL's proposal to revive a Novice class license that would be a "no-code" ticket with HF privileges. And, he says, it has nothing to do with the raft of petitions on file at the commission to change the code requirements or add an entry level class by some other name.

Another big change in the FCC document centers on a proposal to legalize the sale and use of amplifiers for frequencies in the range of 24 to 35 Mhz.

Moseson says back in the mid-1970s, when Citizen Band radio operators were at the heart of interference complaints due to excessive use of power, the FCC banned the manufacture and sale of the amps that could be used on a wide scale that included 27 Mhz.

Well, Moseson says, that decision hurt the ham community then and causes unnecessary restrictions now.

"It hasn't really had any impact on CB because those people who want to have illegal amplifiers have had no problem continuing to get them," Moseson says. "And the hams who want to abide by the rules have not been able to use the power that's permitted to them on 12 meters and 10 meters."

"So the commission is proposing to do away with those restrictions and once again allow commercial manufacturers to make amplifiers that will amplify on 12 meters and 10 meters and to let you build as many as you want."

And finally, among the major elements, one allowing remote-control access to an HF transceiver using the 2-meter band. It would essentially legalize Kenwood's "Sky Command" system.

"They are now proposing to allow auxiliary operation on 2 meters considering the fact that the loading of the band in terms of actual use of repeaters etcetera is considerably less that it was 5 to 10 years ago," Moseson says.

"So it's not as likely to create interference problems and it's something that could become very important with the advent of things like BPL and more and more antenna restrictions that people may want to have an HF transceiver in a remote location that they cannot operate from home for whatever reason either the environment is poor for it or it is restricted and that they can use their VHF/UHF handheld or mobile rig to communicate back and forth with that remote transceiver."

Moseson says you can find more on-line at the FCC's website. He says copies of the June CQ with more of an explanation will be available at Dayton and in your mailbox or on newstands by mid-May.

For the Amateur Radio Newslite, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.
(ARNewsline(tm))

A Very Important Note

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1394, April 30, 2004:
We urge all readers of this report to also download the audio version of this report at <http://www.arnewsline.org/quincy> and listen to it. Please pay special attention to the words of ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and the urgency in his voice as he discusses the latest developments in the fight to keep Broadband Over Powerline technology from encroaching into the Amateur Service bands. There is no way to express in print the very grave nature of this situation. Only by listening for yourself can you truly understand the extreme gravity of the circumstances that our service faces if BPL is introduced nationwide.

- The ARNewsline Production Team

The BPL Fight: Pres Bush vs. Pres Haynie and the ARRL

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1394, April 30, 2004:
The ARRL and its president has expressed what they call deep concerns about a speech by United States President George Bush. One where the leader of the free world says that standards need to be changed to encourage the delivery of Internet access using Broadband Over Poweline technology. Amateur Radio Newslite's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, is here with more:

In the boldest and most dramatic move yet in the BPL debate, the ARRL's president Jim Haynie W5JBP, directly appealed to President Bush to abandon his support for BPL technology.

Haynie says Bush's speech last week during the American Association of Community Colleges convention in Minneapolis prompted him to action. In that speech, President Bush stated directly:

"...power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

"I faxed a letter to the White House cause I wanted to make sure they got it and we followed it up again with the regular U.S. Mail," Haynie says. "And, it'll be curious to see what kind of reaction that we get. I think, like I said, it's ill-advised."

"It's so much hype that the broadband industry has been putting out and I'm sorry to say it looks like the president has been suckered into it a little bit."

Haynie says amateur radio has reached a defining moment in its history and he is issuing a call to arms.

"This is the time that amateur radio is going to have to pull together and speak with one big voice," Haynie says. "And, on our website, we put the contact information and I want everybody to go there and look at it (www.arrl.org) and you can write the president, you can write your congressman, you can write your senators, you can call 'em."

"Anything like that is helpful because amateur radio has been around for a lot of years and I'd hate to see it end based on a technology like this that any engineer worth their salt would be able to say, 'Well, this sounds fun but it's just not going to work.' "

Haynie says he wasn't blind-sided by President Bush's remarks, but has questions about his fellow Texan's true understanding of the issue.

"If you go back and read his speech he made in New Mexico, I think it was Albuquerque, he alluded to broadband then just as a general term," Haynie says. "Since that time, the actual term broadband over power line has come into his speech and I know he doesn't write his own speeches, other people do."

Haynie says its likely Bush administration advisers believe BPL is an issue that may have some mileage.

"This is an election year and anything that would seemingly stimulate the economy and create jobs is going to be a real political football and this has just got caught up in it," Haynie says.

Haynie says he is now working with the ARRL's Washington staff to arrange a personal meeting with President Bush to lay out the issue for him. And Haynie says he's hopeful that if Bush sees the damaging effect BPL has on radio spectrum - occupied not by just amateur radio - but police, fire, and government services - he may reconsider.

Haynie says he'll also go in with the findings of the National Telecommunications and Information Agency - the president's own advisory arm on radio frequency spectrum management - to make his case.

"When you get into the actual and engineering report, there's some good stuff there," Haynie says. "And I'm glad to see it. I'm also glad to see that they corroborated a lot of stuff that we said in our data."

"And, it gives us more credibility because NTIA has quoted ARRL in there a number of times in this report. But some of their measurements were even more - for lack of a better word - devastating to the industry than ours. They're talking as much as 200 meters. That's a long way!" Haynie says BPL threatens the future of amateur radio as we know it and it's time to step up and be counted:

"I've been a ham for 32 years, 33 years or something like that and this is the worst, most difficult situation I've ever seen amateur radio in," Haynie says. "And I think whether you're interested in licensing restructuring or you're interested in somebody not identifying every 10 minutes on 75 meters or whatever the case, that all pales. It is insignificant to this particular issue."

"So we need to set all these differences aside in the amateur radio community and come together. This is the time."

For the Amateur Radio Newslite, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

Since before the first test installations went into operation, the ARRL has been warning the public about the potential for massive radio disruption to vital radio communications that BPL has the potential to cause. More information is on line daily at the ARRL website at www.arrl.org (ARNewsline(tm))

Power Problems: Investigation into Blackout Faults Energy Companies

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1394, April 30, 2004: Power companies may be interested in reaping huge profits by selling high speed Internet access using BPL technology, but a report says that they disregarded voluntary rules that were intended to ensure the flow of electricity. This is what opened the way for last summer's blackout in eight states and Canada, the report says.

The investigators who prepared the report say that there was a clear understanding long before the blackout last August that the Ohio region was highly vulnerable to power distribution grid instability. Ohio is where the problem began.

The report continues that had the situation been properly addressed, the cascading blackout that sped across states from Michigan to New York and into Canada probably would have been averted. In fact, investigators said that something as simple as shutting off 200 megawatts of power an hour prior to the blackout might have kept the problem from spreading.

This is the final report by investigators who looked into the cause of last summer's electrical breakdown. They are urging Congress to impliment strict government standards to ward off future outages. (Published reports)

The BPL Fight: NC Power Company Makes Interference Claims

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1394, April 30, 2004: Meantime, a North Carolina power company says that the interference coming from its BPL system is not harmful to ham radio operations. As reported last week, Progress Energy claims it has solved almost all of the problems to the Amateur bands created by its test installation near the city of Raleigh. But local hams have a different view. Newsline's Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, takes an in-depth look at the claims being made by Progress Energy and what the ham radio community has to say:

The FCC has received its first reply from a BPL system operator to a complaint about BPL interference. Progress Energy, which operates three BPL trials near Raleigh, North Carolina, says that they are in full compliance with Part 15. Their letter attempts to set a mark for "harmful interference" to home stations, and makes a claim that BPL doesn't cause harmful interference to mobiles because they drive by so quickly.

When the Progress Energy trial began in January, Amperion, the equipment vendor, set the hardware up with signals on the overhead lines that covered the 10 and 12 meter ham bands, and most of the spectrum in between. The signals appear as a series of carriers, 1.1 kHz apart, covering 6 MHz of spectrum for each 2000 feet of power line.

Hams complained to the FCC, and Amperion moved the spectrum used. They attempted to operate in spectrum between the 20 and 15-meter bands, with a notch blocking BPL signals across the 17-meter band. They missed the mark a little, with BPL signals starting at 14.3 MHz, 50 kHz inside the 20-meter band. And while the notch at 17 meters did reduce the signal strength, the BPL carriers were still audible, and might be heard by home stations for a block or two, if there were any hams living in the trial area- but there are no hams living there.

In addition, the BPL signals don't end with a "brick wall" filter at the edge of their spectrum block. They trail off slowly. And those "fringe" signals were still falling inside several ham bands, again expected to be audible to a ham within a block or two of the power line.

After giving Amperion time to correct the apparent errors, hams complained again to the FCC. The result was a meeting between Raleigh hams and a Progress Energy engineer in the trial area on April 6th to review the complaint and the spectrum used. Bill Godwin, the Progress Energy engineer, had arranged to be able to talk to an Amperion technician to make adjustments to the spectrum used in real time - but, the technician was a no-show on the telephone.

On April 13th, hams checked the spectrum used again, and still no changes had been made.

On April 20th, Len Anthony, Regulatory Affairs attorney for Progress Energy, sent e-mail to the James Burtle, Chief of the FCC's Experimental Licensing Division, claiming that after moving the BPL signals off the ham bands, their system "is not causing any harmful interference and is in full compliance with the FCC's Part 15 rules."

Referring to the April 6th observation with Bill Godwin, Anthony says, "These tests revealed a small level of interference at the fringes of certain frequencies. Since that time, further modifications have been made to address this fringe interference. It is Progress Energy'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. This level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions or cause repeated interruptions. Importantly" he continues, "since Progress Energy can make modifications to completely eliminate any interference with fixed ham operators, the only impact of any kind upon ham operations is upon mobile operators."

As for mobiles, Anthony continues, "Given that any interference experienced by a mobile operator only occurs within close proximity to the BPL facilities, such interference would be very short lived. Thus, Progress Energy is not causing any harmful interference and is in full compliance with the FCC's Part 15 rules."

An observation of the trial area on April 21st, the day after the e-mail was sent to the FCC, revealed that there had been no changes to the spectrum used. The overhead line was still emitting a full-strength signal on the top 50 kHz of the 20 meter band; signals were still audible in the notch at 17 meters, and the "fringe" carriers were still encroaching on the bottom 50 kHz or so of the 15 meter band.

This is the first claim by a BPL operator that weak BPL signals do not create "harmful" interference by the FCC's definition, interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service." Ham operators, of course, routinely tune through quiet spectrum looking for weak signals, and a series of carriers one kHz apart covering the band might be considered to seriously degrade, obstruct or repeatedly interrupt that activity.

And a mobile driving 35 miles per hour along a BPL-carrying power line can be in the interference zone for a minute or more - and much longer in stop-and-go traffic, waiting at signal lights, or stopping in a driveway or parking lot.

Frank Lynch W4FAL, an ARRL Technical Specialist for North Carolina who has been concentrating on the Progress Energy BPL trial, says that he will be filing another complaint with the FCC, responding to the Progress Energy e-mail. He also says that hams are not opposed to BPL per se, just the interference it causes. And he notes that it should be easy to clear up interference in a small trial area. It's BPL signals

buzzing around every power line in town that have him worried.

Reporting for Newsline, this is Gary Pearce KN4AQ in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Once the new interference complaint is filed it will be up to the FCC to investigate it and to take whatever action it deems necessary. (ARNewsline(tm), KN4AQ)

Radio Law: Petition to Prohibit Business Communications on FRS Fails

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1394, April 30, 2004: A Petition for Rulemaking to prohibit daily business communications in the Family Radio Service has been dismissed by the Commission. Amateur RadioNewsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

On August 22, 2002, the Industrial Telecommuniations Association, Inc. - or ITA - filed a petition for rulemaking requesting that the Commission amend Section 95.401(b) of the Commission's Rules. This, to prohibit daily business communications on the Family Radio Service frequencies.

In making its case for the prohibition the ITA said that it was concerned about the unlicensed mix of business and personal users. The ITA said that traditional businesses were using FRS units for daily business needs and thereby limiting the ability of others to engage in the personal communications that the Commission envisioned for FRS.

One of those challenging the ITA petition was the Personal Radio Steering Group. This is an advocacy group for General Mobile Radio Service users who share part of the spectrum with the Family Radio Service. According to the PRSG filing, the FCC specifically indicated in the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for creating the Family Radio Service that small businesses may use the FRS to conduct their affairs. Also, while FRS congestion does exist in and near sports and recreational facilities, theme parks and shopping malls, little of this congestion is attributable to recurrent business or commercial communications.

Based on this and other information provided by the public, the FCC has concluded that day to day business communications is a valid use of the Family Radio Service. That this was intended in the Report and Order creating the service and that there is little merit to the Industrial Telecommunications Association rules change request.

Reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

In other words, it is okay to continue to use FRS channels for routine business as well as personal communications needs. The full story is on-line at hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-04-1035A1.doc (CGC, FCC)

The BPL Fight: NTIA Releases Long Awaited Report on BPL

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1395, May 7, 2004: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has issued its long-awaited report on the interference potential of BPL. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramwicz, NT3V, is here with an in-depth look at the report and the affect it might of on the introduction of BPL technology:

The very title: "NTIA Report Lays Groundwork for Responsible Deployment of Broadband Over Power Lines" doesn't sound encouraging.

But like any package - or the glowing press release that accompanied it - the more than 100-page document contains so much more once you open it.

And, you don't have to go beyond the executive summary that accompanies the report to find the glowing praise by Acting NTIA Administrator Michael Gallagher in the press release is quickly muted. Muted by the facts and some disturbing interference problems the agency's own technical review identified.

CQ Magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, digested and analyzed the NTIA report and agreed to share his findings with the Amateur Radio Newsline audience.

"It is one of the first really objective looks at the real danger of interference caused by BPL," Moseson says. "As of objective as studies by the ARRL might be, they would be perceived as someone with a certain interest here.

"The NTIA is a federal agency and their engineering study should carry a lot of weight with the FCC."

Moseson says he identified five major conclusions. First, among them, that the methods currently used to measure noise levels and interference potential are not adequate, according to the NTIA. Essentially, he says, there's an underestimation of peak-field strength. And, peak field strength is the leading contributor to high-interference risks.

"As applied in current practice to BPL systems, Part 15 measurement guidelines do not address unique physical and electromagnetic characteristics of BPL-radiated emissions," Moseson says. "That's a quote. That's pretty significant that the Part 15 guidelines do not address the unique physical and electromagnetic characteristics of BPL emissions. So the measurement system being used is not right."

Second, he says the NTIA engineers said noise levels must be measured from power lines carrying BPL as well as the device that couples the signal to the power lines.

"What the NTIA is saying here is that you can be 100 feet down the street from the actual coupling device or up to 300 feet down the street and if the signal bumps into one of these corroded connectors or something, then, it's going to start radiating there," Moseson says. "And you have to measure all along the line as well as at the coupling device."

Third, Moseson says NTIA found interference to weak- or medium-strength signals is likely to affect aircraft operation and the navigational frequencies used by aircraft.

"Interference to aircraft reception of moderate to strong radio signals is likely to occur below 6 kilometers altitude - that's 20,000 feet - within 12 kilometer center of the BPL deployment," says Moseson, quoting from the report. "Interference would likely occur to aircraft reception of weak to moderate signals within 40 miles of the center of the BPL deployment area."

NTIA's fourth major conclusion, according to Moseson, is that results of BPL tests and implementation in other countries has met with mixed results. And, in some cases, it has been shut down entirely. He cites an example:

"During an emergency exercise of the Austrian Red Cross in May 2003, communication was massively disturbed - that's their words - by BPL with interference levels exceeding the limits by a factor of 10,000," Moseson says.

The fifth NTIA conclusion identified by Moseson is the agency's desire to conduct more testing.

"They proposed some more stringent measurement standards and procedures along with some of the interference mitigation techniques that were mentioned in the FCC's Proposed Rulemaking and others that weren't," Moseson says. "But they're saying here that they're not even sure that those are going to work. They want to do more testing on them and report on it later in the year."

The bottom line: Will the FCC's commissioner take seriously the findings and red flags raised by the NTIA report?

"In this case, I'm not really sure because they seem to have made up their minds going into this as to what they were planning to do," Moseson says. "So, I am not as optimistic as I might be in other rulemaking proceedings."

So, how soon could the FCC act? Moseson says he wouldn't even begin to speculate.

"At this point the comment period is closed. Comments closed on May 3," Moseson says. "There's a two-week reply comment period. And, then it's up to the commission of what they're going to do and when they're going to do it."

"There is no requirement that the FCC issue a ruling in a given amount of time after the close of comments on a proceeding. So, they very well could wait until the NTIA issues its second report. And, I'm sure that it would be accepted into the record as coming from another federal agency."

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

The full report may be downloaded, either in full or chapter by chapter, from the NTIA website. Its in cyberspace at www.ntia.doc.gov/new.html (ARNewsline(tm))

Radio Law: Legalizing AMBER Alerts On The Ham Bands

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1395, May 7, 2004: Hams worried that they might get into trouble if they relay lost child or AMBER alerts on the air may soon have regulatory relief. This as wording in an omnibus 71-page, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on a variety of ham radio issues issued in mid-April tackles the problem had on.

One of the proposals in the April 15th NPRM proposes to - and we quote: "clarify that amateur stations may at all times and on all channels 'make transmissions' which may be instrumental in saving human life and property." In other words, if enacted as proposed, retransmitting AMBER Alerts and just about any other type of life-saving communications would become legal under Federal law.

The proposal is part of FCC WT Docket 04-140. The Comment deadline is June 15th. (CQ)

Rescue Radio: Young Ham Tries to Get Aid for Drowning Victim

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1395, May 7, 2004: A tragic story from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Townsend, Tennessee. That's where a youngster on a field trip drowned at Cades Cove while a classmate with a hand held 2 meter transceiver tried to get help to save him. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reports:

It started about an hour after the group arrived at the campsite on Friday, April 30th. According to news reports, a group of people including the ill fated teen took to the water. In a short time, the victim, identified only as Chris found himself in trouble. Others tried to save him while teachers using cell phones tried to call for help.

When it was found that there was no cell phone coverage, another student, Jordan Webb, KI4AVG, said he would try ham radio. Jordan had brought along his two meter hand held radio. He found a near-by high location and called for help over the Knoxville area WB4GBI repeater. He was answered by Jim Bond, K6SPY, who notified Park Rangers. Unfortunately they didn't arrive in time to save the victim, but because KI4AVG had the foresight to bring along his 2 meter talkie, his classmate's body was recovered within hours, instead of days.

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reporting.

Jordan Webb, KI4AVG is only thirteen year old and attends the Vine Middle School in Knoxville. He has been a ham for just about a year and serves as net control for the weekly Young Amateur Radio Net on the Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville W4BBB repeater. (K4PZT, KG4UJC, KG4YTT, WBIR.com)

Radio Records: XL to UA on 137 kHz

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1395, May 7, 2004:
Hams in New Zealand and Asiatic Russia have claimed a new world low-frequency distance record. ZM2E at Quartz Hill near Wellington and UA0LE near Vladivostok say that they completed a two-way contact the night of the 20th of March on 137.70kHz. The path length is estimated to be 10,311 kilometers or 6392 miles. (Q-News, GB2RS)

Emerging Technology: Spam Lowering Legit E-Mail

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1395, May 7, 2004:
Meantime, a recent survey finds that Americans are e-mailing less and trusting e-mail less because of the growing flood of junk messages. According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 29% of e-mail users have reduced their overall use of the medium while 63% of e-mail users say they are less trusting of e-mail overall because of spam. That's up from 52 percent in June of 2002. (Technology OnLine)

Honoring the Military

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1395, May 7, 2004:
Ham radio will be honoring those serving in the military. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, is here with the details:

Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day will be held world-wide on Saturday, May 29th from approximately 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central U-S time. According to Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, this will be a day-long operation to talk to troops, and associated groups around the globe in appreciation of their service and personal sacrifice.

The main operating location will be from Johnny Appleseed Park and Wizards Memorial Stadium in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, using Emery's KB9IBW call sign. That station will be on from about 4 p.m. Central Daylight Time through the end of the Wizards game.

Planners say that they know of at least 25 military bases and club stations that will be operating the event. This includes stations in Iraq, Kuwait, and bases around the globe. More information on this event is in cyberspace at www.fortwaneradioclub.org

Radio Rules: FCC Makes "Minor Amendments" to Part 97

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1396, May 14, 2004:
The FCC says that it has minor amendments to various Amateur Radio rules. A bulletin from the ARRL highlights some of them including the most significant one. It 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.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator to reflect the advent of the Universal Licensing System electronic licensee database.

The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control

operator of an amateur station." 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 FCC made these and several other regulatory changes on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions. The decision appeared May 5 in the Federal Register. The changes become effective June 1st. (ARRL)

Minutes of the PARS General Meeting, 15 April 2004

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center, with 7 members and 2 guests. The meeting began at 7:05 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attending were Adrian Jones KC7IYE, Jim Darby NY1R (formerly W7FYH), Steven Coles KD7YTE, Don Hickman WF7Z, Doug Bell KD7KKR, Dick Schwanke W9HXM, Edna Rideout KA7HNNH, Ron Verschuyl K7AAE, and Charles Beckmeier W7CEB.

Ron gave an interesting talk about his IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) node # 3315, at 135.7 MHz, 100 Hz PL tone, and about his MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) involvement.

Minutes: We forgot to approve the minutes.

Old business: We talked two months before about making a donation in memory of the recently deceased Staples brothers. We decided to table this again until Van Kichline gives his report on the charity we have in mind.

Repeater report: We are looking for a new site for our repeater.

Adrian Jones spoke about several repeater sites he has in mind for us.

Trailer report: We still need to do some work on the trailer. No one has offered to chair the committee to get this done. Last month the members talked about the possibility of moving the trailer to Emerald Heights where Dick Schwanke lives. Dick reported that they will not allow him to park a trailer there.

The members discussed the trailer's features for the benefit of the new members and guests.

New Business: Jim Darby, who years ago sold PARS its Heathkit linear, offered to buy it back for the same amount, \$300. Since we've only used the linear once, the members decided to accept the offer. Jim needs to talk to Kirk Bellar about the modifications he made to the linear.

Field Day: We'll probably operate from where the trailer is currently sitting.

News: Kirk Bellar has lost his job, fortunately with a generous severance package.

Charles will be going in for cataract surgery, his second, for the other eye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted -
Doug Bell, KD7KKR
PARS Secretary

PARS 2003 - 04 Club Officers:

President	Charles Beckmeier	W7CEB	425-822-2339
Vice-President	Don Hickman	WF7Z	425-821-7025
Secretary	Doug Bell	KD7KKR	206-362-2421
Treasurer	Van Kichline	KD7QIT	425-820-7278

The Puget Amateur Radio Society (PARS) is an ARRL-affiliated club serving radio amateurs in the greater Seattle area. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month (except July, August, and December) at 7:00 PM at the North Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE. Visitors are always welcome.

Annual dues are \$15.00 for individual membership, \$22.50 for family (2 or more persons at the same address). PARS will prorate the dues of new members joining after Jan. 31. Contact Doug, KD7KKR, for a membership application.

Visit our Web page at www.qsl.net/k7par This is always a work in progress, so check back often. Visit our Repeater at 443.200 MHz, positive offset, PL tone 103.5 Hz.

Send articles, comments, want ads, etc. for inclusion in this newsletter to Doug Bell, KD7KKR, 12755 27th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-4311, or email to Doug at kd7kkr@arrl.net.

Send all other club-related correspondence to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland, WA 98083-0032.