

# FEEDLINE

August 2000

**Next Meeting is August 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

## Welcome New Members!

CARC's membership role almost doubled in one day. At Swapfest 2000 the Club's offer of membership and a ticket for \$9.00 was accepted by forty hams. The treasurer submitted forty-two call signs, but closer scrutiny proved two of those to be renewals.

The club's web page, <http://www.ipass.net/~falynch/carc/carc.html>, contains directions to our meeting location. We usually meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, with the exceptions being June, when the meeting is moved to the Thursday before Field Day, and is held at our Field Day site in Bond Park. In July, we meet on the Thursday before Swapfest at our regular meeting location, White Plains UMC in Cary. The November and December meetings are replaced by a holiday family dinner. The last two years we have been meeting at the K+S Cafeteria (near Crossroads Ford) on the Thursday after Thanksgiving Day.

We hope you can come to our meetings and put your two cents worth in...sometimes you cash in, sometimes you'll get change back! The more participation we have, the better the club will be. A good example of that kind of brainstorming is responsible for your membership, when Alf, KQ4FP, suggested we try the program JARS used to attract new members. (Despite our best efforts tho, sometimes all we can manage is a slight drizzle. ed.)

There are only three rules you need to be aware of as a member of CARC. First, don't wear a necktie to a meeting. That practice is reserved for the privacy of your own shack while conducting CW nets. Second, show up at meetings that involve planning for events, or else you'll open the next Feedline to find yourself elected to something. And third, if you plan to fret over the meager balance in our savings account, you probably joined the wrong club.

You did your part in joining, now we must do our part in getting you to stay.

The Officers and Members of CARC.

## FM and Repeaters: You are not coordinated

The FCC has ordered another uncoordinated repeater to justify its very existence. This in a July 18th letter from the regulatory agency to: Sherill C. Fore, W4LMO, of Rex Georgia.

According to the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, the agency has learned that W4LMO is operating an uncoordinated repeater on 147.05 MHz. Also, that this repeater is causing interference to a coordinated repeater. That system uses the call sign KD4AOZ.

Hollingsworth's letter told Fore that the Commission has evidence indicating that he has been informed of the interference by the Southeastern Repeater Association and by the licensee of KD4AOZ. The FCC says that as of the writing of the letter that W4LMO had refused to take steps to solve the problem. So Hollingsworth gave Fore twenty days from receipt of his letter to begin solving the problems created by the uncoordinated repeater operation. He must also report back to Hollingsworth on his progress.

While there is no law that says a repeater must be coordinated to be on the air, there is one that forces an uncoordinated repeater to clear up any interference it creates to a coordinated machine. And in recent days the FCC has been using that rule to get uncoordinated repeaters to accept coordination or go off the air. (via FCC)

## VEC System: Morse Testing standardized

Call it an end to VE teams administering Morse tests any way that they feel is best. This as the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators acts to revise and standardize the way in which all future Morse tests must be administered. Bill Burnett reports from Miami:

Possibly the most important change is the elimination of the long controversial multiple choice questions that are based on the text of the test. In what some are calling a trip back to the future, examinees will have the option of either hard copying twenty five consecutive Morse characters on a test sheets or correctly answering seven out of ten questions of a fill in the blank quiz dealing with the same text.

To eliminate complaints on the part of those being examined, all Morse examinations will use Farnsworth character speed and spacing. This means that test characters will be spaced at 5 words per minute but the characters themselves will be sent at a recognition speed between 13 to 15 words per minute. Standard tests using a 5 word per minute character speed could be administered only as a special accommodation.

There will also be some simple but rigid technical parameters that VE teams will have to adhere to. The pitch of the Morse characters will have to be maintained between 700 Hertz and 1 kilohertz. That means VE teams can no longer rely on aging tape cassettes or off speed players which have resulted in a number of complaints to the FCC.

The decision by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators to standardize Morse testing came on July 21st during a meeting of the Nations Volunteer Examination Coordinators that was held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. According to the American Radio Relay League, the new Morse testing standards are to be in effect no later than July 1st, 2000, but VECs are free to implement them even sooner. (via NCVEC Release, ARRL)

## Remote Base / Repeater Platform Anyone?

In what may have been Iridium's last chance to come back from the near dead, a buyer backs out of a potential deal saying the system can not generate even "low levels of revenue" with any certainty. With that sort of "blessing", it would seem that Iridium may be dead for good - meaning they may yet have to de-orbit their 66 satellites. Castle Harlan had offered a mere \$50 million for the \$5 Billion satellite network.

Perhaps starting as soon as next week, Motorola will begin to de-orbit the failed \$5 billion Iridium satellite phone system. Motorola launched the system, originally, to provide mobile and portable wireless phone service, throughout the world. But the system was plagued by usage problem (the handheld phones only worked outside, and not inside vehicles, buildings or under trees), and high costs. The result was very few customers. (via Ham Radio Online)

## That's TWO ACRES of Dish!

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory will dedicate the Green Bank Telescope on Friday, August 25th and ham radio will be a part of the celebration. The new celestial instrument being commissioned is also located in Green Bank West, Virginia. It is a giant, 100 meter by 110 meter parabolic dish radio telescope and is the latest edition to the observatory's astronomical research facilities, which also includes New Mexico's Very Large Array. (This is not an Aracibo-like dish, but rather a steerable dish - a very large, steerable dish. ed. ) At 485 feet tall, it is comparable in height to the Washington Monument. It weighs 16 million pounds, yet by swiveling the dish in both azimuth and elevation, it can be pointed to any point in the sky with exquisite accuracy. pix at: <http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/pr/gbtpanel.html>

The NRAO Amateur Radio Club will operate Special Event Station W9GFZ from the observatory grounds in Green Bank to mark the dedication. The hours of operation will be from 16:00 UTC on August 25th until 20:00 UTC on August 27th. Frequencies will be: 3.940, 7.245, 14.275, 21.375 and 28.350 MHz. Stations working the operation may obtain a commemorative card by sending their QSL and a SASE to: W9GFZ, P.O. Box 2, Green Bank, West Virginia, 24944 (via arnewsline)

## Ham Radio in Space: ISS on the air this fall - Maybe

Some preliminary ham radio operation from the International Space Station could occur as early as this fall.

According to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the next phase in the development and installation of the ham radio gear on the ISS is the launch and installation of the Phase 1 amateur radio station. This is expected to occur on the Shuttle Flight, STS-106 currently slated for launch on September 8th.

Bauer, who is AMSAT North America's Vice President for Manned Spaceflight says that the initial station will include 2 meter and 70 cm Ericsson handheld radios. Also in the package is a Pocom packet TNC, a specially developed David Clark headset, a signal adapter module, specially developed radio power adapters and the necessary interconnecting cabling.

Unfortunately, the antenna systems that the Italian, Russian and US team have developed for the Service Module cannot be installed until 2001. In the meantime Bauer says that permission has been given to use the Zarya Sirius antennas on 2 meters.

The first crew will arrive around October 30. Once on-board, they will connect the hardware to the Sirius antenna and set up the station. No time frame was given as to how long this will take, but it now appears that we will be hearing the return of manned ham radio in space before the end of the year. (via AMSAT-NA)

## DX

In DX, look for United Nations Headquarters station 4U1UN on the air until August 27th. This as DL4TT operates a personal mini DXpedition of sorts from that very special club station. Fritz says that his operations will be mainly on CW. QSL to 4U1UN. Do not send any cards to DL4TT. (via DXNS)

## Getting Stuff We Don't Want Faster...

Sprint PCS is starting to roll out a "56 kbps" wireless Internet access service. Reading between the lines, the raw data rate will apparently be less than that (I'm guessing 28 kbps or less) and data compression will be used to improve the throughput. This may work as Sprint is allegedly targeting the newer technology at business customers who want wireless access to email text messages.

Metricom introduced this week, a 128 kbps wireless Internet access service in the San Diego, California market. Over the next couple of years, Metricom will roll out their 128 kbps wireless internet access to most large metropolitan areas across the country.

This press release does not indicate monthly service pricing. Other sources have suggested that pricing will be about \$70 per month for unlimited wireless access at 128 kbps, including Internet service and email. That is priced to compare with the wired alternative of a phone modem, separate phone line and Internet access (about \$45/month) or ISDN service (typically \$70 or more per month).

A Yankee Group market survey reveals that customers care little about wireless Internet service - but care a lot about cellular and PCS voice coverage areas. The problem is that cellular and PCS coverage is considered poor, by many customers, and most providers are doing little to alleviate the problem. (via Ham Radio Online)

## Swapfest 2001 to be Subject of August Program September Program: Foxhunt

September Program will be a Foxhunt. The last winners, Jeff, NX9T, and Charles, KE4CDI, will be in charge of constructing and hiding the transmitter.

## Swapfest 2001 to be Subject of August Program

At the August meeting we will discuss the financial status of the club after the SwapFest 2000. We will review SwapFest 2000's expenses and determine if a SwapFest 2001 is viable. If a SwapFest 2001 is to occur, a committee will be formed. The committee will determine a new location, and establish ground rules, such as admission cost, table fees, food vendors, flea market location, prizes. The committee will have two months to determine this information and will report back to the club during the October Meeting.

The presentation of the Committee's findings will be conducted as a Council meeting. During the presentation of the Committee's findings, no discussion will be allowed. After the presentation, the floor will be opened for comments. Once the comments are heard, a vote will be taken concerning SwapFest Issues.

This issue is very important to the club and an orderly meeting is required and your presence is requested. Please mark your calendars for the August meeting and prepare to serve if called upon for the committee. WA4KE Mike Lewis

## ARRL Volunteers Find, Fix "THE DITTER"

ARRL staffers were greeted the morning of July 24 with reports of a continuous string of CW dits near 14.008 MHz--heard throughout North America over the preceding weekend. Initial reports gave conflicting beam headings of the offending signal, dubbed "the ditter." But when FCC staffer John Reiser, WQ4L, called ARRL to report his observations, things started to happen.

Reiser facilitated an FCC DF trace to the San Diego area. The ARRL San Diego Section leadership was notified, and Section Manager Tuck Miller, NZ6T, coordinated local hams in a close-range DF effort. San Diego section Official Observer Coordinator Bill Sallee, K6TWO, took several field readings. At one point, when he'd narrowed the location to within two miles, the signal abruptly disappeared. The ARRL Monitoring System also was alerted. It was confirmed that this was a normal CW signal, not a "woodpecker"-type intruder. Dialing around the bottom edge of 20 meters early on July 26, IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Martin Potter, VE3OAT, heard the ditter once again, this time near 14.026 MHz. Potter determined that the signal had an identical period and beam heading as the one heard earlier. He notified ARRL Headquarters, and the San Diego hams picked up where they'd left off.

Sallee's field strength readings drew him closer and closer to the coast, where the heading reversed. Sallee reports that he ultimately found the apparent source in the oceanfront community of La Jolla. He says the woman who answered the door said her husband was a ham and allowed Sallee to take a look at the station. Sure enough, a stuck dit paddle was keying a powered, unattended rig, which Sallee disabled. Sallee theorizes that heating and cooling within the ham's uninsulated shack and a combination of corrosion in the keyer paddle's pivot mechanism and close dit contact spacing contributed to the contact's migrating to a closed position. He said the ham later told him that he'd been operating on 14.007.5 MHz on July 21 but did not return to the shack until Monday afternoon. "He remembers listening to a CW contact on 14.026 but did not transmit," Sallee said. "He then left the shack unaware that by leaving the rig on, he would fall victim to unattended transmission when the moisture and temperatures began to change."

Sallee says the ham, whom he did not identify, "was most embarrassed."

"I really felt sorry for him and assured him that public hangings were no longer in vogue," Sallee said. "He said he had learned a valuable lesson about disabling a rig that will be unattended."

Potter congratulated the ARRL Monitoring System and the San Diego field organization for what he called "a fine example of quick reaction and good, solid work" on tracking down the unintentional transmission.-- Brennan Price, N4QX (via the ARRL Letter)






### Fox Hunt Report

The FOX hung out his "home fisher" sign last night, sporting off his feet, meeting in some 20 minutes.

Ed, K4MS, and Tom, K4MLB, loaded a five-gallon bucket with a 38ah battery, a live fish, and a fishing rod with RG174 threaded thru the side with the last 15' 1/2" stripped for a quarter-wave on 24.

The fox was placed just off of the jogging path at Shiloh, Lake in Raleigh. Tom and Ed walked the bank, reading in genuine curiosity, while the hunter...

Mike, K4BLFH, was the first to arrive at the park, and the first to locate the fox. He's missed him, from the starting point of North Hills Hall, to the fox, was 20 minutes.

Participation in this past hunt (6), was twice that of our first in the series of regularly scheduled hunts. For the next hunt! Hunts are scheduled for the second Saturday of odd numbered months. The next one is the Saturday after the Shelby hamfest. The hunt will be September 12th.

You have to participate in at least one hunt to be invited to the annual hunters awards banquet in January.

K4MLB

### EOC Antennas Raised

On July 25th, a crew of ARES members trekked to the roof of the Administration Building on Jones Street. The use, if you remember, in the west of the 35 degree plus heat wave. The roof was bright and HOT!

NAELI built a 40-75 trapped dipole with materials supplied by the state. Her "four arm harrier" was run from the penthouse to the new radiator. The existing but poor counterpoise mast was extended another ten feet, and a pulley was installed to facilitate future service calls. Dave brought a battery-powered HF rig, and the antenna was tuned with the rig right there on the roof...and a lot of shouting five stories down the stairwell!

The team lead was Moody, K4MS. His UHF-VHF rig is the technical center of State and County EOC's. Other able-bodied hands included Dave, K4MLB, Bill, K4LLU, Jim, K4MOC, Dave, K4MLB, Tony, K4APC, and Sam, K4MRL.

A new two meter antenna was installed in place of the "mystery antenna" that was in use.

Moody and Tom, K4MLB, returned the following Thursday to fine up the new Kenwood 450-5 and make some contacts on the new air. He received 5 and 10 over new reports from NY, PA and DE, running the Kenwood barfoot.

K4MLB

### Wanted / For Sale


I need two and a half sections of RDMN 25k. The half section will be used at the base.

I also an entertaining offer of 50M, two meter, mobile use for use for my possible packet station.

K4MLB

## Help Wanted

### Inquire Within



## FEEDLINE

October, 1992

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**SEPTEMBER 12 FOXHUNT**

Well, another memorable Foxhunt has come and gone. The transmitter was finally found at Bond Park in Cary. The participants, K4MLB & son, KO4PY, K4JLC, N4YT, W4ENL and K4IWW, started at Crossroads Plaza. Forty minutes after the start, K4MLB and son Lee arrived at Bond Park. KO4PY and K4JLC arrived about 10 minutes later. But that didn't mark the end of the hunt! It wasn't until twenty minutes after they arrived that Lee found the transmitter which K4MLB was guiding his way. Ten minutes later, KO4PY zeroed in on the fox, followed shortly by K4JLC. N4YT had to leave early and he never made it to Bond Park. W4ENL found the fox after making it to the park. K4IWW decided to come out and take a look at the fox's hiding place.

The fox (transmitter) was hidden in a wooded section of Bond Park inside a hollowed-out log! The setup consisted of a Handy-Talky, a tape player, and a timer/keyer circuit. The antenna was placed in a nearby tree, out of sight. Everyone seemed to make it to Bond Park easily enough, but had a hard time zeroing in on the fox's hiding place.

Get ready for the next Foxhunt! K4MLB and son will be hiding the next transmitter and I bet they have something up their combined sleeves! It is tentatively scheduled for November 14th!

73, Mike, K4BLFH

**NEW MEETING LOCATION**

The Family Center at White Plains has been completed and the Cary Amateur Radio Club held its September meeting in the new building. We will be meeting in the lower level of the new two-story structure, in rooms 103, 105, 107. These three Sunday School classrooms are separated by folding partitions.

Two of the classrooms are large enough to hold the monthly meeting, so if you have any ideas for activities for the third room, let us know. One idea is to hold CW qualifying sessions from 7:00 till 7:30 for those who would like to improve their CW proficiency.

Now that the construction is complete, and the contractors are gone, smoking is being prohibited on the church campus. We have made it to Bond Park. W4ENL found the fox after making it to the park. K4IWW decided to come out and take a look at the fox's hiding place.

The building on the southwest corner of the lower level.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

The September meeting was called to order by CARC president, Bill, K4TLX, at 7:35 p.m. After member introductions, the minutes of the October meeting were accepted as published. Will, K4IWW, presented the treasurer's report.

The nominating committee placed the following names in nominations for the elections to be held at the October meeting. For president, N4RED; Vice-President, K4MLB; Treasurer, K4IWW, and secretary, N4UE.

## Sabbatical Planned

8 years of getting Feedline into the mailboxes of CARC members has been evolutionary, educational, and very satisfying.

Electronic publishing offers new, untried techniques of composition and distribution that can be implemented to ease the workload of the next editor.

OJT available.

KM4LB

CARY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB      August 1992

# Feedline

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**Just a Phone Call Away...**

Here's an excerpt from a letter to Mr. Ed, from Wilbur - no kidding!

Ed,

You may have heard Micro Message Service has started new services for hams. We have made one area free of charge to hams and persons interested in becoming hams. Ed like to invite you and any members of the Cary ARS or PCRN to join in the fun. What we are doing is setting up ham access accounts by calling in as a new user on the 772-9176 line and negotiating using callsign and first name. This generates a password later and ham account for the caller. This is good for one hour of time per day and access to the amateur radio the download areas and Internet-related echoes. Several people have asked "what's the catch?" well, there isn't one really - although we suspect there may be a few calls that will see something that will cause them to subscribe... but that is their option. I'm also looking for some good text files that describe CARC and PCRN on-line. The area isn't finished yet. There are things to add: the Internet amateur related news groups and an on-line domestic callbook database program.

73 de Wilbur, W4DRDT



The Code of Conduct for hams urges us to maintain some degree of balance in our lives. To this end, the Cary ARS has cancelled the August meeting so that we all can become reacquainted with those who do our laundry, cook our meals, empty our refrigerators, or ask for just ten dollars.

See you in September!

**ARES Members Support SHNPP**


Forty-one local hams, and thirty-one others across thirteen counties participated in the bi-annual Sheslay Hamfest Nuclear Powerplant Exercise. The Federally-incorporated drill lasted for seven hours. All of our experiences will be put into a first-wr SHNPP ARES SOP document so that two years from now we will build on this year's success.

My sincere thanks to all who participated.      K4MLB

**Shelby Hamfest-September 4th-6th**

The Shelby Hamfest is something you have to experience to believe. 35,000 hams can't be wrong! The fest overflows the Cleveland County Fairgrounds with hundreds of dealers indoors, and hundreds of hundreds of hampsters outside.

Doors open at 6 a.m. on both days. Everyone must experience the Granddaddy of them all, at least once!



\* YOU MORON!  
We ding the ship's radio into the raft, and YOU forget the surge protector!

September 1997



**Another kind of telegraphy**

I should have known then that somehow was well, different.

Growing up in a city the size of Chicago the opportunity to visit fire stations were many. As classroom trips or just a way to kill time while your parents shopped or visited nearby, such visits made you more the expert, more aware, more appreciative of the sights and sounds of your heroes at work.

Yes, while the other kids climbed on the hook-and-ladder, or slid five feet down the poles after being boosted up by a congenial fireman, I got stood there. I stood and waited. For the telegraph. It was magic. I guess part of the fascination was the ability of the busy firefighters to decipher a foreign language, and non-verbal at that.

This article is dedicated to all my ham friends. To those who need to large cities and shared similar experiences, and to those who when standing the alarm was being on a triangle on the back porch or ringing the church bell. Enjoy.

*"If you pick up the telephone receiver in the town you may, or may not, get a dial tone. If you get a dial tone you may, or may not, get stuck in a tunnel for an hour. The wall socket in your apartment may, or may not, contain electricity. The city's air may, or may not, be killing you. The only real sure thing in this town is that the firemen come when you pull down the handle on that red box." (From the book Report From Engine Company #2 by Dennis Smith, NY, NY.)*

The first Fire Alarm Telegraph was installed in Boston, Massachusetts in 1852. The first alarm responded was on April 26 of that year. At one time, almost every city with a fire department used these systems. Recently, due to the spread of 911 and especially 911, these systems are disappearing.

Once the box is received at the fire alarm office, it is retransmitted over



What's so interesting about Fire Alarm Telegraph systems? Well, a couple of things. First, box alarms are probably the only 19th century technology that is still in everyday use. It's in use because, simply, it works. No 911, chips, no meters, no ISO 7 layer model, a clockwork wheel that breaks a circuit. Here's what happens when you pull the horn to report a fire.

All the boxes in a neighborhood or town are on the same circuit. When you pull the horn, the switch trips a clockwork motor. The motor turns a circuit wheel. The notches break the circuit. The notches on the wheel are arranged to send a pattern of signals to the Fire Alarm Office.

For instance, Box 5113 code wheel has 5 notches, a space, another notch, space, notch, space, notch. The spring eventually unwinds and to this day, one can hear fire-computer being ordered to "wield box 5111". Each time the circuit is broken, a relay that had been held open by the box circuit closes causing a bell to ring and a paper hole punch register to send a pattern of signals to the Fire Alarm Office.

Once the box is received at the fire alarm office, it is retransmitted over

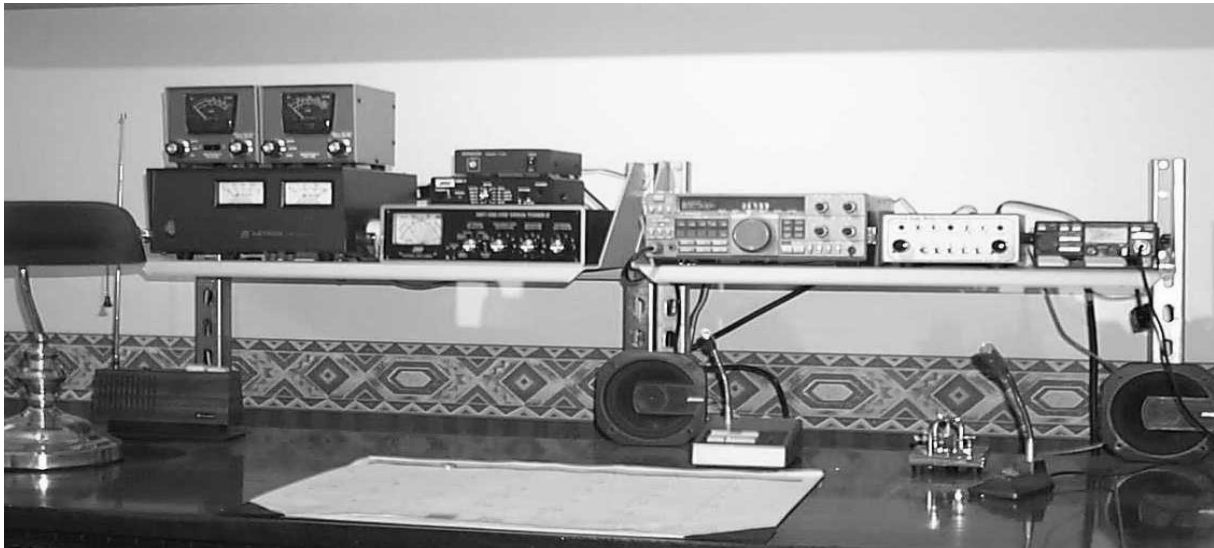


## Mystery Shack Ed Stephenson, AB4S

Mystery Shack is a new column which will feature the ham shack of one of our members each month, but without the identity of the owner. Hopefully, dead give-aways such as call signs have been removed from the pictures which will be published. The identity of the shack owner will be revealed in the next edition of FEEDLINE when a new shack will be shown and described.

There are no prizes, but try to guess or figure out whose shack you are seeing. Have you visited this shack? Do you recognize the combination of equipment? Is a microphone prominent? A CW key? Good Luck!

Editor's Note: If you would like your shack featured in Mystery Shack, you can either submit digital representations to the editor, or contact Ed, AB4S to have pictures taken.



From Left-to Right::

Astron 35M; Heathkit HM2102; Heathkit 102; MFJ-949C; JPS-NRF-7; Kenwood IF-232C.  
Kenwood 440-AT; CW Sendin' Machine 2048; ICOM 28H.  
Accessories: Kenwood MC-80; Vibroplex Key; Icom SM-6; Jensen Speakers.

### Feedline

Feedline is a member-supported publication of the Cary Amateur Radio Club and is published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the second Thursday of the month. Editor: Tom Klimala, KM4LB, 1545 Seabrook Avenue, Cary, North Carolina, 27511. [klimala@mindspring.com](mailto:klimala@mindspring.com)