

# Feedline

## The Voice of Cary Amateur Radio Club

### New Officers Start Term

During the January meeting, the new officers started their term. Elected during the October 2000, meeting, the officers took office without verbal protest or ballot recount.

The president, WA4KE, Mike Lewis, Extra Class, received his initial Technician License in 1995 at the RARS Hamfest. Mike served as the club's secretary during the Y2K term. Mike is employed as an engineer at Underwriters Laboratories in the RTP.

The vice-president, AB4S, Ed Stephenson, received his first license at the RARS hamfest 1977. After 30 years with IBM, Ed "retired" in 1993. and began a 2nd career in 1994 at AT&T. Ed is the Treasurer of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network (PCRN).

The secretary, N4AJF, Lee Swanson, retired from IBM in 1992, after 32 years of service as a hardware engineer. HAM interests are mainly VHF and Packet.

The only incumbent officer is WA4AKB, Susan Jones, Extra Class. Susan did a wonderful job as treasurer during 2000 and kindly volunteered for the position for 2001. Susan is a training developer at SAS Institute in Cary.

NW2M has an excellent website for the Yaesu FT-101. [www.qsl.net/nw2m/ft101.html](http://www.qsl.net/nw2m/ft101.html)



<http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>

### NC Section NTS Nets

North Carolina Morning Net (NCMN)

Purpose: Traffic handling in and around NC

Mode: SSB

Frequency: 3927 Khz

Time: 0745 ET Daily

Net Manager: KI4YV Bob Southworth

Carolinas Slow Net (CSN)

Purpose: Traffic handling and training in NC and SC

Mode: CW 5 to 8 WPM

Frequency: 3695 Khz

Time: 2000 ET Daily

Net Manager: (acting) Carl W4EAT

ARRL Field Day starts on the fourth Saturday of June. Plan accordingly.

North Carolina Evening Net (NCEN)

Purpose: Traffic handling in and around NC

Mode: SSB

Frequency: 3923 Khz

Time: 1830 ET Daily

Net Manager: N0SU Don Negus

Carolinas Net - Early (CN)

Purpose: Traffic handling in NC and SC

Mode: CW 20 to 22 WPM

Frequency: 3573 Khz

Time: 1900 ET Daily

Net Manager: K4IWW Will Harper

Carolinas Net - Late (CN)

Purpose: Traffic handling in NC and SC

Mode: CW 15 to 18 WPM

Frequency: 3573 Khz

Time: 2200 ET Daily

Net Manager: K4IWW Will Harper

Did you know that the National Electrical Code addresses Ham Radio installations. Refer to NEC 1999, Article 810, for more information.

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## SWAPFEST UPDATE

During the January meeting, Will, K4IWW, anchored a discussion concerning the upcoming Cary Amateur Radio Club Midsummer Swapfest. The discussion focused on the pre-fest ticket sales, arrangement of the seminars and prices for tailgate flea market spots.

The participating vendors from past fests will be notified shortly with pre-registration rental information. Also, the club was informed to notify any vendors who have not participated in our fest of the date, time and contact information.

The Annual Cary Amateur Radio Club Midsummer Swapfest is always the third Saturday in July.

The 2001 Swapfest will be on July 21, 2001 at the Cary Community Center at the intersection of Academy Street and Chapel Hill Road. This is one block from the Cary Amtrak station.

Details and a flyer will be posted here soon. In the meantime, contact Will Harper, K4IWW for more information.  
(k4iww@attglobal.net)



AB4S and W3HL passing traffic at the Cary Mall during the late '70's.

## SKY WATCH INFORMATION

With the descent of the MIR Space Station and the construction of the new International Space Station, the orbit around the Earth is starting to look like Interstate 40 at rush hour. One benefit of the increased traffic is the ability to view the space vehicles from the comfort of your backyard.

A NASA website provides a Java driven application to determine the best possible times to view the passing orbital traffic. The application allows the user to select specific longitude/latitude locations as well as the object to view.

This site also provides information for orbital tracking a variety of man-made space objects.

[www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/index.html](http://www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/index.html)

## Upcoming Hamfests

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair, Charlotte, NC, March 10&11.  
[www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org)

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, RARS Hamfest and Computer Fair, Raleigh, NC, April 8,  
<http://rtpnet.org/~rars/hamfest/>

## To Split or Not To Split?

The most important function chasing a rare DXpedition is the VFO Split function. This function allows for greater efficiency during the logging of contacts and ensures that the stateside ham is able to hear the response over the pile-up.

The split VFO allows the sender to transmit on a frequency while the reception is on another frequency. This set-up is very much like a repeater operation except the offset is variable.

Prior to the next Dxpediton, take a chance to read your radio manual and become familiar with functions which are only used during the CQWWSB contest on 40m or during an expedition to a small uninhabited island in the South Pacific.

## HANDLING CW TRAFFIC

Will Harper, K4IWW, gave an excellent presentation on the handling communications traffic using CW.

Will used fellow members, AB4S and W3HL, to demonstrate the efficiency and coordination required in handling a CW net. During the program, AB4S and W3HL sent and received messages while K4IWW transcribed the message on the board. During the message, Will took time to stop the message and described the protocol, prosigns and Q-signals involved in traffic handling.

Currently, the large majority of traffic handling in the US is done with code, which is due to the efficiency of the net controllers.

Will reminded the club of the Net schedule and the speeds of each net. The schedule appears in this Feedline edition on the first page.

Will was first licensed as KN8QPY in 1959. Will is NM of CN, NCS on 4RN, Rep to EAN, and the NC Section Traffic Manager.

Minutes of 25 Jan 2001, Cary  
Amateur Radio Club

The meeting was called to order by president Mike, WA4KE.

Introductions were made by all the attendees, and a checkoff list was sent around the room.

The treasurer report was read by the president, as the treasurer, Susan, WA4AKB, was unable to be present.

The October secretary report was read by the president, as last year's secretary. (There was no November or December report, due to the Christmas Party.)

New Business:

Herb Lacey, W3HL, has reserved tables for the Charlotte Hamfest. He will collect money for any who wish to get advance tickets for the Charlotte Hamfest, at the break. He will do the same for RARS next month.

Discussion was held on tables for RARS, Herb will reserve them.

Old Business:

Will Harper, K4IWW, is the Swapfest Czar. He reported that the use of the building has been secured, at less cost than last year, as we will just using the downstairs this year. We will cut the Friday night setup hours to 6 PM to 10 PM.

Discussion was held on:

Discount for pre-reg? It was recommended to keep it, as no significant savings would occur, and it would help cash flow.

Outside Flea Market? It was recommended to keep it, but to raise the cost to \$5.00 a space, along with requiring the users to have a regular admission ticket.

Thanks were given to Will for a good job.

Reports:

PCRN: Ed, AB4S, reported. He said that donations continue to be made out of pocket by K4ITL, Danny, and W4FAL, Frank. Danny has been "under the weather" lately, and we hope he is doing better. They, with the help of SERA, are still working on the problem of "lockup" on the 440 Mhz machines, due to the inversion of frequencies of some machines in the Northeast, when the bands open up.

There was some discussion of the problems with the 145.39 machine in Cary, Ed explained the situation again.

WDCG: Lee, N4AJF noted that nothing has changed lately in the status of WDCG, the packet network continues to operate, but it could still use some more usage.

Herb, W3HL reported that there is still over \$500 in the kitty for it.

Other: Bill, W4FNB thanked the club for the flowers that were sent by the club, during his recent illness.

Lee, N4AJF announced that the Feedline is looking for a new editor. Tom, KM4LB, will continue to fill in, at a reduced level, until a new editor can be found.

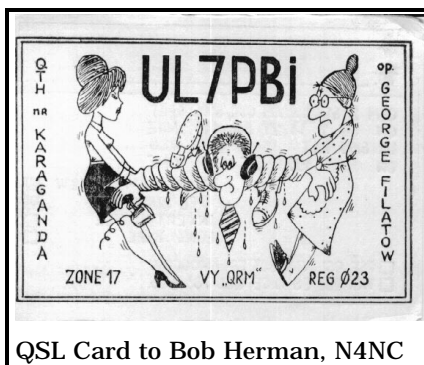
Program: Will, K4IWW, with the help of Ed, AB4S and Herb, W3HL, gave an interesting and information-filled demonstration of CW Traffic Handling.

Lee H. Swanson, N4AJF, Secretary, CARC

Q SIGNAL QUIZ

We hear QSL and QTH all the time, but what about the following Q signals:

- QNA
- QNI
- QSY
- What is the difference in QRM and QRN?



QSL Card to Bob Herman, N4NC

ARRL DUES ARE INCREASED

The ARRL Board voted to increase membership dues from \$34 to \$39 annually for full members younger than 65, and from \$28 to \$34 for full members 65 and older. The dues hike goes into effect July 1, 2001. The last ARRL dues increase was in July 1997. The dues increase resulted from the need to fund initiatives to expand the League's advocacy activities on behalf of Amateur Radio-including the defense of amateur spectrum-and to enhance ARRL's ability to serve members during a period of projected deficits.

The Board approved a \$1 greater increase for seniors in an effort to narrow the gap, as more and more ARRL members fall into this category.

**ATTENTION  
ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS**

The 2001 ARRL Club Annual Reports are due. These reports are used to determine whether or not your club is still active, and to provide information about your club to prospective amateurs who want to learn more about our hobby. The club annual report is the only available mechanism for identifying who the newsletter editors are. Your prompt response is appreciated. Remember, the data provided to prospective amateurs and others is only as good as that which is received by the ARRL from the club's annual report.

**AFFILIATED CLUBS  
BENEFITS**

In addition to being associated with 2000 like-minded clubs with similar goals (remember, there is strength in numbers), being an affiliated club brings your group a number of tangible benefits, presented here:

1. 1.The opportunity to order (for free) the ARRL Annual Report (this is the business report of the ARRL)
2. 2.ARRL-sponsored liability and equipment insurance
3. 3.Referrals of prospective radio amateurs to your club (great for new member promotion)
4. 4.ARRL club stationery
5. 5.\$5 commission for every new ARRL member recruited by your club
6. 6.Free mailing labels or lists of ARRL members or clubs once a year
7. 7.Free geographical lists of all amateurs in a specific city
8. 8.Free clip-art, great for fleshing out your newsletter
9. 9.\$2 commission for every ARRL membership renewal handled by your club
10. 10.Only affiliated clubs are eligible for participation in the gavel competitions in the ARRL DX Contest, the November Sweepstakes and the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
11. 11.Affiliated clubs can obtain a complete set of ARRL publications for the discount price of \$170 good for donating to your local library
12. 12.Free lists of other affiliated clubs in your Section -- for coordinating large-scale events
13. 13.discount on club advertisements in QST

*(ARRL Web Site)*

I F  
Y O U  
C A N  
R E A D  
T H I S

You are receiving the hard copy version of FEEDLINE.

If you have the ability to view / download FEEDLINE from the CARC website, please contact TOM, KM4LB

(klimala@mindspring.com

469-5129

to have your name removed from the snail-mail list.

**The February Meeting is  
February 22 at 7:30**

**The program will be on  
PK31 operations.**