

Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

June 2001

June Meeting:

The June meeting will be on June 21, 2001 at approximately 6:31 p.m. (one week and one hour earlier than usual.) The meeting topic will be Field Day plans. The meeting will be held at Bond Park in Cary at 801 High House Road, once again our Field Day site. Talk-in on 145.39.

ARLB019 FCC puts regulatory ball in amateurs' court

The FCC says the ball is in the court of the Amateur Service to determine the course of future Amateur Radio regulation. Speaking May 20 at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

"Detailed regulation of the nitty gritty of communication services, including the Amateur Service, is not in the picture," Cross said. "Rather, the FCC is shifting to strong and effective enforcement of truly necessary regulations." The FCC, he said, now plans to look to the amateur community to reach consensus on any new regulations it thinks it wants and needs.

"I hope that those of you who are thinking about asking us to carve up a band by fiat will think again," he said. "You really are asking us to tie your hands regarding your use of your spectrum."

Before the FCC initiates any rulemaking proceedings in the Amateur Service to change privileges, Cross said it wants to see proposals involving the implementation of "new and more modern communications technologies," such as digital. In addition, he said, any future proposal "must include all licensees, and it must include all bands," and--most important--the amateur community must reach a consensus on the topic.

Cross said the FCC does not want and cannot handle "multiple proceedings that address piecemeal changes in operating privileges" that affect only certain classes of licensees or certain bands. (05/25/01 ARRL News Bulletin)

Canada makes 5 WPM official: Canadian Basic operators with 5 WPM credit now have full HF Amateur Radio privileges. Effective May 19, Industry Canada has amended the Technical Requirements set out in the Radiocommunication Information Circular 2, "Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service." The IC grants full operating privileges in all Amateur Radio frequency bands below 30 MHz to operators holding the Basic plus 5 WPM Morse code qualification. Copies of the revised RIC-2 are available from the Industry Canada Web site, <http://strategis.gc.ca/SSG/sf01226e.html> .--RAC (05/25/01 ARRL News Bulletin)

Official ARRL Field Organization Appointment

Description: Public Information Officer

Public Information Officers (PIOs) are appointed by and report to the ARRL section Public Information Coordinator (PIC) generally upon the recommendation of an affiliated club and with the approval of the Section Manager (SM). PIOs are usually club publicity chairpersons and must be full ARRL members. Training for PIOs should be provided regularly on a sectional or regional basis by the PIC and/or other qualified people.

Good "grass roots" public relations activities involve regular and frequent publicizing of amateur activities through local news media plus community activities; school programs; presentations to service clubs and community organizations; exhibits and demonstrations; and other efforts which create a positive public image for Amateur Radio.

The purpose of public relations goes beyond column inches and minutes of air time. Those are means to an end--generally, telling a specific story about hams, ham radio or ham-related activities for a specific purpose. Goals may range from recruiting potential hams for a licensing course to improving public awareness of amateurs' service to the community. Likewise, success is measured not in column inches or air time, but in how well that story gets across and how effectively it generates the desired results.

For this reason, public relations are not conducted in a vacuum. Even the best PR is wasted without effective follow-up. To do this best, PR activities must be well-timed and well-coordinated within the amateur community, so that clubs, Elmers, instructors and so on are prepared to deal with the interest the PR generates.

Recruitment of new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

Specific Duties of the Public Information Officer:

1. Establishes and maintains a list of media contacts in the local area; strives to establish and maintain personal contacts with appropriate representatives of those media (e.g., editors, news directors, science reporters, etc.).
2. Becomes a contact for the local media and assures that editors/reporters who need information about Amateur Radio know where to find it.
3. Works with Local Government Liaisons to establish personal contacts with local government officials where possible and explain to them, briefly and non-technically, about Amateur Radio and how it can help their communities.
4. Keeps informed of activities by local hams and identifies and publicizes those that are newsworthy or carry human interest appeal. (This is usually done through news releases or suggestions for interviews or feature stories).
5. Attempts to deal with and minimize any negative publicity about Amateur Radio and to correct any negative stories which are incorrectly ascribed to Amateur Radio operators.

6. Generates advance publicity through the local media of scheduled activities of interest to the general public, including licensing classes, hamfests, club meetings, Field Day operations, etc.
7. Works with the section PIC to identify and publicize League-related stories of local news interest, including election and appointment of local hams to leadership positions, QST articles by local authors or local achievements noted or featured in QST.
8. Maintains contact with other League officials in the local area, particularly the Emergency Coordinator and/or District Emergency Coordinator. With the PIC, helps prepare an emergency response PR kit, including general brochures on Amateur Radio and specific information about local clubs. Distributes them to ECs and DECs before an emergency occurs. During emergencies, these kits should be made available to reporters at the scene or at a command post. The PIO should help summarize Amateur Radio activity in an ongoing situation, and follow up any significant emergency communications activities with prompt reporting to the media of the extent and nature of Amateur Radio involvement.
9. Assists the section PIC in recruiting hams for the section's Speakers Bureau; promotes interest among community and service organizations in finding out more about Amateur Radio through the bureau and relays requests to the PIC.
10. Helps individual hams and radio clubs to develop and promote good ideas for community projects and special events to display Amateur Radio to the public in a positive light.
11. Attends regional training sessions sponsored by section PICs.
12. Becomes familiar with ARRL Public Service Announcements (PSAs), brochures and audiovisual materials; contacts local radio and TV stations to arrange airing of Amateur Radio PSAs; secures appropriate brochures and audiovisual materials for use in conjunction with planned activities.
13. Keeps the section PIC fully informed on activities and places PIC on news release mailing list.

FIELD DAY NEWS

Preliminary field day discussions are stilled being held. Once plans have finalized more information will follow.

CARC Minutes - 24 May 2001

The May meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on 24 May, 2001. The meeting was opened by Mike, WA4KE. Introductions by the attendees was done, there were 20 inattendance, 17 members and 3 visitors.

John Covington, W4CC, was introduced. He is the ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, and paid our club a visit while he was in town. It was announced that he would take questions at the break.

Under announcements, the upcoming Durhamfest was mentioned. There will flyers and pre-registration tickets for the Cary Swapfest there. Cary Swapfest flyers have been mailed, and pre-registration tickets are now available.

Congratulations were given to Dennis, KA4ATK, and Darrell, KF4URC, for winning the recent foxhunt, that was put on by NZOI, Charles. NZOI was the presenter of last month's program about foxhunting.

Lee, N4AJF, announced that a sympathy card has been sent to the family of WA4EZU, the Cap 'N' Badge Man. Dale has been a vendor at most of the Cary Swapfests, and we were sorry to hear of his death. A thank-you card was received from the family of Bill Hales, W4FNB, and circulated. We also received an acknowledgement of our contribution, in his name, to the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Mike, WA4KE, discussed Field Day. He introduced KF4RDN, Glenn, and KG4JXF, David, from the W4ATC club. W4ATC will join us for Field Day, which will be held, this year, at the N.C. Faculty Club picnic shelter. Mike will be Czar of the phone setup, he is looking for a volunteer for Czar of the CW operation. Any volunteers need to contact Mike.

The June meeting will be held one week earlier than usual, (21 June 2001) at the Field Day site. We will gather earlier than the normal meeting time, to prepare plans for this year's operation.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments, and John, W4CC, held an informal question-and-answer session.

The program was presented by Reed Whitten, AB4W. He presented an interesting program on the work he does, which has to do with the coverage area of a transmitter/antenna. He first took us through some basic RF equations, that can be used to manually plot coverage. Then he showed some maps and overlays, that visually showed the results of the computer program that he uses. They show, visually, what location and power will do the best job, without wasting coverage. He also showed how the HAAT calculation differs from the coverage calculation. There were several questions that showed the audience's interest in the subject.

Lee H. Swanson, N4AJF
Secretary, CARC

RADIO SAFETY PAGE

KENTUCKY AMATEUR DIES INSTALLING ANTENNA

A Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service member died May 20 while installing a 2-meter antenna he'd just bought at the Dayton Hamvention. According to ARRL Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, Ronald L. Oller, KG4JVT, of Irvington, died when the groundplane antenna he was installing fell onto the overhead electrical service line to his house. He had been a ham for about eight months.

Dodson said Oller and a teenaged friend, John Betner, KG4LHQ, had purchased new 2-meter groundplanes at the Hamvention. The pair already had installed one of the units at Betner's home and were in the process of raising Oller's antenna when the incident occurred. Betner was not injured and summoned help for his friend.

Dodson said Oller had a history of heart trouble but said he did not know if that was a factor in his death.

Dodson described Oller as "one of the most enthusiastic hams I have ever met" and as "a generous individual who loved to be helpful in spite of his heart ailment." Earlier in the weekend, Oller had traveled to Dayton Hamvention on a chartered bus with other amateurs from Kentucky's Meade, Breckinridge, Jefferson and surrounding counties.

Oller got his license last October and became involved in public service and, as AAT4YQ/T, in the Military Affiliate Radio System. He also had "elmered" the 16-year-old Betner when he studied for his license.

"It can happen to any of us at any time," said Dodson, who advised caution when installing antennas. "It's too late to help Ron, but, please, let's not lose anyone else to such a terrible tragedy."