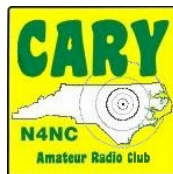


Feedline



www.qsl.net/n4nc/
N4NC@arrl.net

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

October 2002

CARC FEEDLINE

Editor -- Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ
w4kaz@arrl.net

The deadline for submission to the Cary Amateur Radio Club FEEDLINE newsletter is the second Thursday of the month. Information should be forwarded by e-mail to the editor at w4kaz@arrl.net.

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CARC Officers for 2002

President Ed Stephenson, AB4S
Vice Pres. Clare Owens, N2RJB
Secretary Lee Swanson, N4AJF
Treasurer Susan Jones, WA4AKB

Other 2002 Volunteers

N4NC Trustee : Will Harper, K4IWW
Swapfest Czar: Alf Johnson, KQ4FP
Field Day Czar: Herb Lacey, W3HL
Listserv admin: Will Harper, K4IWW
Website admin: Susan Jones, WA4AKB

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Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

Cary Band Day amateur radio operators needed on Saturday, Nov 2nd! (see page 3 for details!)

One of the interesting things about electronics technology is the pace of change. Everything is always in flux...(eeeiwww....bad pun)

Currently shipping from Amateur Radio vendors are the two rigs Yaesu introduced at this years Dayton Hamvention. The FT-897 is retailing for about \$1050 (options are extra), and the Yaesu 8900R for \$450.00.

I've seen the new FT-897 described as a cross between the FT-847 ,FT-817, the FT-920. (So, is that good or bad? If anybody has an FT-920, do you like it?) It's slightly smaller and lighter (without options) than my dead FT-840, but it's got 6 meters, 2 meters and 440. It also has room internally for either two batteries or a 120V power supply.

What I can't find is any sort of information on receiver performance, nor on just how it implements its DSP capabilities (audio or IF?) I guess I'll need to wait for the ARRL lab test for that.

I gotta wonder what the Yaesu marketing folks expect to accomplish. Perhaps they are hoping on word of mouth...

But it really looks as if Yaesu has decided there is a niche for a full function, full power "luggable" rig. At only 8.5 pounds (without optional autotuner or batteries) the 897 is small enough to pack, but it's still a bit too large to carry around like its smaller predecessor, the 817.

Seems like the FT-817 became a cottage industry. Perhaps this new rig will be just as popular as the 817 too.

Coming Cary ARC Events

Cary Band Day

Saturday November 2nd is Cary Band Day, an event traditionally supported by the Cary ARC. All volunteers will be welcomed. (see page 3)

October 24th meeting

The program will be on collecting antique electronic equipment and associated documentation.

Other Upcoming Local Area Events

Regional and Local Hamfests

Sumter, South Carolina: On Saturday October 26th. Sumter County Fairgrounds, 700 W. Liberty St, Sumter, SC Centrally located in South Carolina, about 15 miles West of exit 135 on I-95. 1 hour from Columbia, 2 hours from Charleston, Myrtle Beach or Charlotte.

JARSFEST, Benson, NC Rounding out the local area hamfests for 2002, on Sunday, November 17th, at the American Legion hall in Benson.
<http://www.jars.net/jarsfest.htm>

For Sale! For Sale! For Sale! For Sale! For Sale! For Sale!

Offered by Lee, N4AJF

HF Rig: Kenwood TS-520S

HF band, with remote VFO, external speaker, external frequency readout, and MC-50 desk microphone, manuals.

Asking only \$350.

HF Rig: Kenwood TS-930S

HF band with WARC bands, hand microphone, manuals. A lot of rig!

Asking only \$550.

Both of the above appear to work OK; **can be tested with anyone who is interested!** These belong to Marty, NY4H, who has decided to retire from Ham Radio.

Please contact Lee Swanson, N4AJF, to make offer, to see rigs, or for more information.

Offered by Keith, W4KAZ

One DEAD as a DOORKNOB Yaesu FT-840

This rig was used at the 2002 field day HF SSB station, but has now made the journey to radio Valhalla due to lightning induced EMP (most likely via the CAT cable, the silly computer wasn't grounded properly). The rig was estimated for repairs at \$475 (parts were \$325) by the Yaesu service department. Per my phone conversation with the Yaesu service tech, the main board is **DEAD**, but the finals are okay. Anyone needing an FT-840 parts rig for **CHEAP**, contact Keith, W4KAZ. All offers considered.....(maybe I can pay Charles to take it at the next auction!)

Guaranteed to make a great paperweight or doorstep!

Cary Band Day Call for Help

Herb, W3HL

Hello, folks. Saturday, November 2, 2002, is the 44th Annual Cary Band Day. The Cary ARC has supplied critical communications for this event since the middle 70s.

It is a low-key affair. Most people don't even know we are there. So, the publicity and acclaim is not the driving force. It is our chance to do what only good communicators can do: provide valuable, correct information in a timely fashion.

Your involvement will probably not be more than two hours. It is possible that you will not even do more than listen (and watch the parade, of course); bring the whole family.

You may be asked to position yourself at a particular intersection just in case some medical emergency arises.

There are early two-hour slots; middlin' two-hour slots; and late two-hour slots. You get your choice. We are done by 10:45 a.m., usually.

You don't even have to be a member of CARC. Just be licensed on two meters and bring a HT and warm clothing.

We will meet at the circular driveway at Cary Elementary School at the south end of Academy St. at 8:00 a.m. Some assignees will already be on post and in operation. Most will not. Grab an assignment sheet and some identification, get some coffee at the Bakery, and be in place by 9:30 a.m., for parade time at 10:00 a.m.

Any questions can be directed to me, Herb, W3HL, at w3hl@arrl.net.

November Birthdays

Dick Fredenburg, KM4SX:	November 8
Bill Kluttz , WA4ON:	November 10
Glenn Pittenger, K9RGS	November 19
Michael Clark, AA4YH:	November 22
Bill Cole: KG4CXY	November 24
John McCann, K4WTV	November 26
Clare Owens, N2RJB	November 30

Phillips Middle School ARC Weekly Phone Net

Cheers & 73s de Mark, W4CHL

The Phillips Middle School ARC hosts its weekly phone net at 1600 EDT (that's 4pm y'all) Thursdays.

If you get a chance, we appreciate your check-in via phone on the OCRA 442.150MHz repeater, or send a message to the club APRS station (still set to KE4JZM on 144.390MHz packet APRS). We are working to keep alive the tradition begun by Barbara Pedersen, KE4JZM before her retirement late last spring.

We monitor WinAPRS messages sent to the club station and will acknowledge APRS "check-ins" over the air. We are working on keeping the APRS station up constantly, so you may check-in there whenever convenient to you.

(10-14-2002 addendum → The APRS check-in that we attempted has hit a snag that we (I) haven't had time to troubleshoot yet. Will get back to it after the Cybiko programming is further underway. 73s de Mark, W4CHL)

PARC Fall Project: Portable ARES gateway using Cybiko PDAs

from Mark Smith, W4CHL OCRA liaison to PARC

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The Phillips Middle School ARC (PARC) has begun its Fall 2002 semester with a project that we think may be of interest to other hams in the area, especially the younger hams amongst you. The project involves building a link between handheld devices for ARES use in an environment such as a shelter and a net or NTS for transmission of that information outside the shelter.

The basic concept is: combine a handheld device that can allow a licensed, or perhaps non-licensed, shelter staff member to take information from an individual. That information may be later relayed by an amateur operator, perhaps using NTS. The handheld device serves as a simple, reliable means to acquire the information. Our challenge is to integrate the handheld with the tools that Amateur Radio operators use to transmit information outside individual shelters.

An initial design proposed builds a low end LAN with a wireless "cloud" of clustered PDAs and a gateway to either VHF/UHF repeaters or HF nets. Our proposed design integrates Cybiko PDAs for use within the shelter with a dedicated Cybiko PDA acting as a gateway to a TNC-radio combination. Initial demonstration of this capability will involve use of an APRS gateway to local digipeaters running the dedicated Cybiko to TNC machine and matching APRS clients running on all remote Cybiko devices. An option is to include support for NTS forms in a later version. This configuration is illustrated below:



Interest in the project began with a posting by Alex, KR1ST, to the NJQRP reflector on a UIGate and UIMessenger set of programs he had developed for an inexpensive and readily available wireless PDA. For background on the core hardware used in this project look under Older News on qrz.com for "Using the Cybiko for APRS" or follow this link:

<http://www.qrz.com/cgi-bin/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST&f=3&t=18970>

Following that notice, we innocently presented the existence of these heavily discounted wireless PDAs to PARC members. Unknown to us, the Cybiko PDAs had been marketed extensively to teens during the 2000 and 2001 holiday seasons. After several fruitful auctions on eBay, 5 PARC members and the PARC station now have Cybikos and are now learning how to program these interesting devices. The PARC students are eager to apply their newly acquired devices and skills to this worthy project. We will post more documentation as the project evolves linked from this entry on the host of our website: <http://rtpnet.org/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=109>

If this project interests you, we are happy to have you as part of the extended team. Sign up on the RTPnet.org/phpBB2 service and lend us a hand. We look forward to working with those interested in assisting or coordinating their efforts with ours !

By the way, PARC now stands for Phillips Amateur Radio & Computing !

JOTA Amateur Radio Balloon Launch Announced

ARRLWeb:In Brief, 10/03/2002

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/10/03/1/?nc=1>

Edge of Space Sciences (EOSS) of Denver, Colorado, will launch a high-altitude balloon in support of Scouting's Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). The balloon, identified as EOSS-60, will carry an Amateur Radio crossband repeater to an altitude of around 100,000 feet above sea level. The repeater will allow UHF and VHF communications over a range of several hundred miles using hand-held radios.

The launch is scheduled to take place at 9 AM on Saturday, October 19, from Meadow Lake Airport near Colorado Springs. Other payloads will include Amateur Radio gear used for radio direction finding and an Automated Position Reporting System (APRS) to report the position and altitude of the balloon using the Global Positioning System. EOSS recovery teams will use APRS and direction-finding equipment to recover the payloads after the flight. Also on board the flight will be an Amateur TV camera and transmitter.

Frequencies and procedures for using the repeater and receiving the APRS and ATV can be found on the EOSS Web site. The launch gives participating Scouts the opportunity to work toward several merit badges in the fields of science, radio, electronics, and space. EOSS is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 dedicated to promoting education regarding the science of the edge of space. EOSS launches several balloons each year in support of various educational and scientific programs. For more information, visit the EOSS Web site.

<http://www.eoss.org/flight/index.html>

Hurricane Andrew Gains Strength..... In Hindsight

Kaz, W4KAZ

In a re-analysis of their data, NOAA and hurricane scientists have upgraded 1992 hurricane Andrew to a category 5 storm on the Saffir Simpson Hurricane Scale. This will make Andrew one of three Category 5 storms on record to strike the continental US. The other two cat 5 storms were the "Florida Keys 1935 hurricane" and hurricane Camille, which struck Bay St. Louis/Gulfport, Ms in 1969. The group concluded that Andrew's sustained winds were 165mph, 20mph faster than earlier estimated. (Coming ashore, Camille sported winds of 190mph, an eye from 8 to 10 miles wide, aneroid barometric pressure of 26.85 inches, hurricane force winds extending sixty miles from the center, gale force winds for another 120 miles outward, and later produced torrential rains and flooding in the Appalachians.)

The change in estimates are due to new data produced since 1992 using data from "GPS dropwindsondes", which have given more accurate methods for estimating surface wind speeds based on 10,000 foot aircraft wind speed readings.

See http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/NOAA_pr_8-21-02.html

And read about the dropwindsonde at:

<http://www.atd.ucar.edu/rtf/facilities/dropsonde/gpsDropsonde.html>

Another Fine Leonid Display Forecast on Nov 19th, 2002

Kaz, W4KAZ

For those interested in this sort of thing, it's time to bone up on your high speed cw meteor scatter operating skills. The predictions are for this years visual display to be even better than the 2001 show. The best viewing will be early on the morning of November 19th(i.e., just before dawn.....yikes!), with forecasts showing a peak of about 35 meteors per minute at around 05:45, EST. North America is expected to receive the best viewing for this event Last year's display coincided nicely with the Benson hamfest, but unfortunately that's not the case this year.

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2002/09oct_leonidsforecast.htm

<http://www.meteorscatter.net/ms.htm>

Satellite Broadband Internet Access Goes Belly Up.... for Now

Kaz, W4KAZ

Teledesic has suspended work under its satellite contract, and will significantly reduce its staff as it explores "alternative approaches" to its business of providing broadband internet access via satellite. Teledesic Chairman and co CEO Craig McCaw said "We do not presently see elements in place that would result in returns to our shareholders that are commensurate with the risk."

This is more interesting fallout from the economic depression within the telecom industry....Better keep that landline for the near term....coaxial cable broadband wins another round. W4KAZ

For more see: <http://www.spacedaily.com/news/teledesic-02b.html>

Wireless Tower Industry Not Faring Any Better....

Kaz, W4KAZ

Hmmm....time for industry wide consolidations and more layoffs? Or perhaps we are simply already well within an oversupply induced technology business depression?

Recent interesting stock prices(10-16-2002)....ROHN \$0.07...American Towers, AMT-\$0.93...Spectrasite,SITE-\$0.07....Nortel Networks, NT-\$0.55....Lucent, LU-\$0.71

http://biz.yahoo.com/rf/021011/telecoms_american_tower_s_p_1.html

Saddam Wins In Huge Surprise Landslide

Ignatius Baxter Jokin, JOKE

In a referendum election with 100 percent turnout, Iraq's Saddam Hussein was re-elected with a commanding margin of 100 percent of the votes cast.

In a related item, the New Jersey Democratical party, fearing a low turnout among deceased voters, non-citizen voters, and multiply registered phantom voters, is rumored to be negotiating with Iraq's Republican Guard in hopes of obtaining their services as "poll monitors" for the November elections. Democratical party officials from states whose Supreme Courts are not as "progressive" as New Jersey's are also rumored to be following these ongoing negotiations closely.

http://reuters.com/news_article.jhtml?type=worldnews&StoryID=1582418

Cary ARC Minutes-September 26th Meeting

W4KAZ, Keith—pinch hitter Scribe

The September meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, September 26th, at the usual meeting place in the basement of the White Plains Methodist Church. The meeting was opened at 7:32 P.M. by AB4S, Ed Stephenson. Introductions were given, there were 16 members in attendance.

There was no old business discussion.

New Business:

Holiday Dinner-The annual Cary Amateur Radio Club Holiday dinner was discussed. As usual, the dinner will take the place of both the November and December regular meetings. Herb, W3HL, volunteered to contact the restaurant to make a reservation. The date of the dinner was tentatively set to December 5th, pending verification. By general agreement of those present, Golden Corral will again be the first choice for the location. Stay tuned....

PCRN Membership-Ed, AB4S, put on one of his other hats (PCRN treasurer) and spoke briefly about the current condition of the 145.39 repeater, what will be required to make repairs to the repeater, stressing the cold hard fact that amateur repeaters do not sprout spontaneously from towers. He also discussed a PCRN in general. Will, K4IWW, motioned that the club make a \$100 donation to PCRN from CARC funds. The motion was seconded and passed. An impromptu membership sign-up was conducted later, between the business meeting and the night's program.

Website- Susan, WA4AKB, brought up the subject of a \$25.00 donation to QSL.net. The Cary club website is hosted on QSL.net.(<http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>) This was agreed to by unanimous voice acclamation, no objections noted.

Announcements:

Nominating Committee- Ed, AB4S announced that he would appoint persons to sit on the ~~railroading~~ nominating committee for the annual changing of the guard.

Will, K4IWW, announced that he had received a note from a local ham, W4HV, who was seeking assistance in selecting equipment. Reed, AB4W, agreed to make the contact.

Clare, N2RJB, announced that operators were needed for the "Autism Run" on October 12th, and that any interested should contact Bob Breyer, K1RCB.

Cary Band Day- Cary Band Day will be November 2nd. CARC radio operators will be needed along the parade route.

The business meeting adjourned for a short break at about 8:20 before the program.

Program:

Clare, N2RJB, gave a good and very well received program regarding the "Care and Feeding of a UPS". (Nope not a brother-in-law driving for United Parcel Service, but "Uninterrupted Power Supplies")

Items discussed included sources of replacement batteries, things to look for when choosing a used UPS, the "always on" UPS. An item of primary interest was the fact that most companies dispose of UPS's instead of refurbishing them, so there is usually a ready supply of gear available for little cost.

"Good Amateur Practice" Means Never Having To Say You're Sorry

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 40, October 11, 2002

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has endorsed a list of several points that he feels help to define the concept of "good amateur practice." Section 97.101(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules refers to "good engineering and good amateur practice"--considered to refer to maintaining the highest standards of engineering and on-the-air comportment. But the rule lacks specifics.

"Good amateur practice is a hard thing to define," Hollingsworth conceded. "I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid."

Hollingsworth says amateurs have to realize that more people than ever are listening in, especially since September 11, 2001, and that amateurs always need to remember that "our rights end where another person's begin."

A Michigan Amateur Radio club has been credited with distributing a list of "Riley-isms" culled from Hollingsworth's various talks at conventions and hamfests and club meetings around the US. Hollingsworth--who verified that he had been cited accurately--says his various comments represent an effort to flesh out what "good amateur practice" consists of for considerate the Amateur Radio operator. According to Hollingsworth, good amateur practice means:

- * giving a little ground--even if you have a right not to--in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete.
- * respecting band plans, because they make it possible for every mode to have a chance.
- * being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and there's no need to damage or disgrace it just to save face.
- * keeping personal conflicts off the air. Settle your arguments on the telephone, the Internet or in person. Just keep them off the air.
- * cutting a net or a contester a break, even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting.
- * realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance.
- * you don't "own" or get preference to use any frequency.
- * not operating so that whoever hears you becomes sorry they ever got into (or tuned in on) Amateur Radio in the first place.

Hollingsworth notes that the list "doesn't touch on a lot of other technical issues, such as using 1500 W when your signal report received is 40 over 9." Good amateur practice, he said, "just means a lot of things that can't always be quantified."--thanks to Riley Hollingsworth

Ham-Congressman Appointed To Key House Subcommittee

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 38, September 27, 2002

Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Walden is one of two amateurs in the US House of Representatives, and his appointment to the key House panel is considered good news for the amateur community. Walden's appointment was announced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, a Republican from Louisiana.

"With his extensive background in broadcasting, Greg has a world of experience and expertise in telecommunications issues," Tauzin said. "His knowledge of the issues will help the Subcommittee address digital television, spectrum management, broadband deployment and other telecommunications matters."

Within the amateur community, he's best known as one of the original cosponsors--with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--of HR 4720. That's the bill pending in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas.

Ham Radio Package "Keeps On Ticking" Following Launch Disaster

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 41, October 18, 2002

What began as a perfectly magnificent morning in the Nevada desert September 19 ended in a disastrous launch failure for a group of Amateur Radio operators and amateur rocket enthusiasts. The Civilian Space Xploration Team's (CSXT) Primera rocket engine failed a few seconds into its flight, and the rocket was destroyed. CSXT team members had hoped the suborbital vehicle, which carried several Amateur Radio payloads, would be the first amateur-built rocket to reach space--an altitude of more than 60 nautical miles.

"It was very exciting. The sun came up, and the rocket was there, and we activated all of the computer systems, and everything came up fine," recalled Avionics Manager and CSXT Program Co-Leader Eric Knight, KB1EHE--one of the several hams involved in the project. "Everything went very very smoothly." Until everything went terribly wrong three seconds into the launch.

"There were a lot of people in tears," Knight said. "This is something for which everybody put their lives on hold for a couple of years. It was a very very upsetting thing." The team members went through "a period of mourning" as they went about the range picking up the pieces of the rocket. "It was very tough to swallow at that point," Knight added. No one was hurt.

Amazingly and unexpectedly, the Amateur Radio avionics survived the rocket's destruction and continued operating until they struck the desert floor. "We were extraordinarily pleased with the way the electronics performed," Knight said. "If there was an bright spot, it was that the avionics--all based on ham radio technology and built by hams--worked flawlessly. We had perfect video of the launch from the rocket right through the motor failure." All members of the avionics team are ham radio licensees.

The upbeat Knight said team members, while initially stunned and devastated, remain undeterred. "We will be pressing ahead for a launch possibly again next year," he said. "It was only a speed bump in our overall process." Knight called his teammates "a very resilient bunch" and determined to go forward.

The disaster means starting over largely from scratch. Along with their hopes and dreams for success this time went a considerable amount of hard cash--on the order of \$130,000--that came right out of the members' pockets. "We're actively looking for sponsors right now and people who would like to have their name and brand tied in with such a historic endeavor," Knight said. Primera Technology was the only corporate sponsor for the failed launch.

The September attempt was the group's third. Additional information is available on the CSXT Web site <www.civilianspace.com>.

