

# Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

February 2003

## CARC FEEDLINE

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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 2003

**President** Clare Owens, N2RJB  
**Vice Pres.** --open--  
**Secretary** Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ  
**Treasurer** Herb Lacey, W3HL

### 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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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carc>

## Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

“May you live in interesting times.”

That sentiment can be seen as either a curse or a blessing. Depends a lot on the times, doesn't it? Current events are certainly daunting. Space shuttle disasters. Record setting snowstorms. A run on stores for duct tape and polyvinyl chloride sheeting. Presumably a hot war in the Middle East.

Perhaps a momentary, totally frivolous diversion is in order?

Well, the Cary ARC will hold just such a diversion at the next meeting, the annual auction. Come one, come all. Any and all interested parties are welcome. Bring junk. See junk. Buy junk. Sell junk. Have a little fun.

Empty out that boat anchor closet. One man's trash is another man's treasure. But I'll wager both men's wives think its “that old radio junk, cluttering up the house”.

Well, last month I was scooped by QST on the FT-857. The new DC to Daylight mobile rig is now available from vendors, with the retail price currently running in the \$840 USD range.

I'm just guessing, but it would appear possible that the older FT-100D mobile might soon begin appearing at deeply discounted closeout prices. It's already quite inexpensive....

Discussion at the January meeting included questions about the ongoing construction at the Swapfest site. For anyone who has not been in that area recently, I have included photos on page 4. It's not just one parking lot being built upon, but two!

Whew....Another one bytes the ether.....

## Coming Cary ARC Events

### February 2003 CARC Program

AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!

**Bring your junk.**

**Sell your junk.**

**Buy somebody else's junk.**

**Have some fun doing it! Never can predict what turns up!**

AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!

## Other Area Events

### Amateur Extra License Upgrade Class

Frank, W4FAL

The Smith Chart Amateur Radio Society, K4OO announces an Amateur Extra License class. The class begins Monday March 10, 2003, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and meets every Monday night through May 12. The VE test session in Smithfield is the following Saturday.

### RARS License Class-

RARS will be holding its winter technician license class beginning 3/3/3, at the Nortel Education Center. Code class is optional. For full info, see <http://www.rars.org/class/moreclassinfo.htm>

## Upcoming Hamfests

**February, 23 2003 Elkin, NC**, Briarpatch and Foothills Hamfest

**March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair**, at the Merchandise Mart, 2500 East Independence Blvd. (This year coinciding with "The Woodworking Show", for those seeking to sate two appetites at once) For more information, see <http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest2003/hamfest.html>

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003—Kinston Downeast Hamfest**, Lenoir County Fairgrounds, Hwy 11 south, 8:00 am until

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003--- RARSFest 2003**, Raleigh, NC in the Jim Graham building at the NC state fairgrounds. Check [www.rars.org/hamfest](http://www.rars.org/hamfest) for contact information.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003---** **Catawba Valley Hamfest**, Morganton, NC, see <http://www.cvhamfest.com>

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003---** **DFMA's DUR-HAM-FEST**, Durham, NC, New date! New location! The DurHamFest will be at the Durham National Guard Armory, talk in on 147.225

**May 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2003---** **Dayton Hamvention**, Dayton Ohio. See [www.hamvention.com](http://www.hamvention.com) for info.

**July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003 -- Cary Midsummer Swapfest**—Only six months away!

## The NC QSO Party This Weekend!

1700 UTC Feb.23 through 0300 UTC Feb.24 (10 hours) See the website for the party at-  
<http://www.w4nc.com>

## Cary ARC Minutes-September 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The January meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at the usual meeting place in the basement of the White Plains Methodist Church. The meeting was opened right on time (one minute late), at 7:31 P.M. by Clare, N2RJB. Introductions were given, there were 12 members in attendance.

Treasurers report given to club by outgoing Treasurer Susan, WA4AKB

### Old Business

The only old business outstanding was the vacancy in the office of Vice President. The office remains vacant.

### Reports

Herb, W3HL reported that the deposit had been paid for the Community Center, location of the Cary Midsummer Swapfest. The site is currently undergoing renovations, with a new parking garage being built on the old parking area. The completion date on this construction is uncertain, and its availability for use during the Swapfest is also uncertain at the time of the January meeting.

Herb, W3HL, reported that a table had been reserved at the Charlotte hamfest, and that he was going to send in an order for admission/parking tickets, for any club members interested.

### New Business

**Swapfest** – Discussion on the Swapfest was opened. Al, KQ4FP, raised the issue of having fliers available for distribution in Charlotte. Herb, W3HL reported that Jerry, KE4TTS was willing to revise the master of the flyer for the coming year, and would be asked if it could be made available in time for Charlotte. *(see page 4 for photos of construction taking place on the Swapfest site... W4KAZ)*

Those members present agreed to fill the same Swapfest shoes that they had in the 2002 Swapfest.

**Skywarn Conference**-Discussion on the skywarn conference centered on the location. The McKimmon center was somewhat expensive, but seemed a reasonable central location. A tentative date for the conference is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Herb, W3HL, indicated that there would be a new speaker from the National Weather Service. Since the idea of the conference is to make it a regional event, the possibility of having other clubs assist with the expenses will be explored, as will the possibility of a different location.

**Auction**- The auction, normally the program for the March meeting, was moved to become the program for the February meeting due to the intended Skywarn conference scheduling.

**Field Day**- Field Day for 2003 was discussed briefly. No one present volunteered for the “Field Day Czar” position. CARC Field Day 2003 is currently an open item.

On that note, the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

### Program

Herb, W3HL, provided the night’s program, “Thoughts About Antennas”.

**FYI--Swapfest Site photos.....before and during construction:**



...above, tailgate/parking area at 2002 swapfest—below, current renovations to the site



The top photograph was taken at the 2002 Swapfest just prior to 8:00 am, looking towards the parking/tailgate area from the edge of the community center. The middle photo is the same angle, photo taken on February 20<sup>th</sup>, showing the new parking garage still under construction. The final photo looks back from the front of the existing community center towards the new Cary city council chamber, being built on what used to be the parking area at “the top of the hill.” (Note: some of this parking area is still there behind the construction site, but not much.)

## **OH NO!**

Congratulations to Bill, WA4ONO and his wife Betty, on celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary recently!

## **RFI Shielding In Your Walls?**

Kaz, W4KAZ

This may be overkill for the average homeowner and hamshack, but it would sure be a nice thing to have available. The following internet link is to a story describing an attempt to create a building material to aid restaurants and theatres in shielding from, and thereby suppress, cell phone usage. The “magnetic wood” panels are impregnated with nickel-zinc ferrite to suppress microwave RFI.

Hmmmm. I wonder if this stuff is gonna be tough on my saw blades....  
<http://www.newscientist.com/hottopics/phones/phones.jsp?id=ns99992461>

## **Erase That Hard Drive!**

Kaz, W4KAZ

With the plethora of used computers available today, this warning deserves to be mentioned again. If you plan to “donate” or sell an older model computer, be sure to take care to properly erase data on the hard disk drive. Merely “deleting” or moving data to the “trash can” icon is not enough. Common operating systems delete only directory entries, flagging disk space as available without actually overwriting any data. It’s possible to recover files that have not been overwritten. In this day of identity theft, this is even more important than ever, especially if the computer was used for banking or may hold credit card information.

There are several utility software packages that will properly scramble the ones and zeros on your hard drive before you part with a computer. It’s a wise precaution. These utilities usually “erase” data by overwriting the empty space on the hard disk several times with random data.

A sledge hammer works too, but be sure to pound the disk into small pieces.....

See: [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-02-05-drive\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-02-05-drive_x.htm)

## **Hard drive alternatives**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Maybe you have already seen these devices advertised or on the shelf somewhere, but there are now several USB port plug in hard drives available. Just in case you are looking for an easy alternative. No special device drivers are required(windows ME/200/XP), just plug into the USB port on your Pentium computer.....

<http://www.soyocom.com.tw/esoyocom/product/product11.htm>  
<http://www.thinkgeek.com/computing/drives/5994/>  
or just google search “usb drive”.....you’ll get plenty of hits.

## **More Hard Drive Alternatives**

Kaz, W4KAZ

After transferring photo’s from my digital camera to the computer (a Kodak dx3600, with the docking station), I opened an “explorer” window to shuffle the photos around. I noticed the camera was being displayed as a unique disk drive in the directory tree (in my case as “drive f:”). Out of curiosity, I opened the drive and was able to see a couple of directories and files on the “drive”. As an experiment, I copied a couple of files over to the “drive”, and otherwise manipulate the files, as long as the files had old DOS format eight character names with up to three character extensions.

Interesting. It would appear that you can possibly use your digital camera memory card as an alternate hard drive. I guess this will vary by camera and operating system, but such is life. Try it out.....but don’t blame me if you screw up the camera’s memory card! (I didn’t have any problems with mine, but your experience will depend upon YOU.)

## **Blinking LED's**

Kaz, W4KAZ

And in color, too! The following SpaceDaily report indicates that someone somewhere has developed LED's that can emit light of two different colors, controlled by varying the voltage. Just the thing to help accelerate the journey of the ubiquitous CRT(Cathode Ray Tube) towards a spot in the "obsolete/archaic technology" keepsake closet.

See <http://www.spacedaily.com/news/leds-03a.html>

## **Teeny Weeny Lasers**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Scientists here in the US at Harvard have made lasers that are small enough to be imbedded into silicon microchips. Called "nanowires", these lasers are hundreds millionths of a millimeter wide. The breakthrough here is that the lasers can be turned on and off electronically(rather than being pumped by an external laser source.

Practical applications? Who knows, but I'm sure they will think of something, maybe etching teeny-weeny microchip circuitry.

See <http://www.nature.com/nsu/030113/030113-5.html>

## **Mother Nature Wins—Always**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Antibiotic resistant staphylococcus aureus is discovered recently in a hospital patient in Detroit. A strain of Staph Aureus has been found that is resistant to vancomycin, the medicine previously used as the last line of defense against staph infections. It will be interesting to see if pharmaceutical companies are able to develop new drugs as fast as the little critters can evolve. Somehow, it seems to me that the critters will be more successful. Seems like a bad time in history to begin bludgeoning the drug companies with onerous new responsibilities, eh? Perhaps removing the profit motive will prove counterproductive in more ways than one.

Will the microorganisms will get us before the CO2? Just wondering....  
[http://www.freep.com/news/health/nstaph12\\_20021112.htm](http://www.freep.com/news/health/nstaph12_20021112.htm)

## **Ham Radio Causes Earth's Magnetic Poles to Flip—Cell Phone Users Stoned To Death By Angry Mob**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Okay, that lede is a joke (I hope!), but I assume the luddites will come up with some comparable blame-humanity theory for an otherwise wholly natural phenomena. Reversals in the magnetic poles have occurred about every 250000 years throughout history, and it is known that the Earth's magnetic field has been weakening for the past two centuries. But then natural phenomena are far less useful politically, eh?

This article makes one stop to ponder upon the ramifications for mankind of an actual reversal of the magnetic fields. Seems like such natural events might explain the interesting recent changes in ozone levels, or help make suntan lotion a real growth business....but I wouldn't rush out to invest just yet.

<http://www.observer.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,837058,00.html>

## **Famed Computer Hacker Kevin Mitnick Has Been Hacked**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Kevin Mitnick's new Security consulting company website was recently hacked by two separate persons, one seeking a job with his firm. Mitnick was reported to be "quite amused".

## **Max John Silvers, W4HUW, SK**

Max John Silvers, age 87, passed away peacefully at his residence, on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Max was born in Albany, Indiana on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1915, son of the late T.L. and Maude Silvers of Raleigh. Max and his father owned and operated American Junk and Wreckage during the 40's and 50's. In the early 60's, Max worked for the NC State Department of Civil Defense as a Radio Engineer.

## **Limited "Logbook Of The World" Testing Is A Hit**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 04, January 24, 2003

The long-anticipated "Logbook of the World" (LoTW)--the ARRL's secure electronic contact-confirmation system--took a major leap toward public release this month with several weeks of limited--or "alpha"--testing. Dozens of Amateur Radio operators checked out a preliminary version of the LoTW software, which is still under development. Once it's ready, LoTW will provide a means for participants to qualify for awards such as DXCC or WAS without having to first collect hard-copy QSL cards.

ARRL staffer Dave Patton, NT1N, said the limited test run was extremely helpful. "One of the main things that will come out of this phase of testing is a good package that will be ready to give to logging program developers to incorporate into their software," he said.

ARRL Web and Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, explained that the League hopes that logging software vendors will choose to add value to their products by integrating LoTW client-side functions. "But the software we provide to individual amateurs will be sufficient for basic use of LoTW," he added. ARRL will not be releasing the LoTW server code, however.

Linked via e-mail, the LoTW testers spent two weeks registering their call signs, uploading logs and attempting to push the system to extremes. One tester was amazed at its robust nature after he uploaded a complete station log of about 320,000 QSOs. "I sent this blob expecting it to croak the server, but it didn't!" he said.

Logbook of the World Project Leader Wayne Mills, N7NG, says LoTW won't spell the end of QSL cards. Instead, he says, it will provide an avenue for increased speed and accuracy for hams chasing awards, as well as remove some chances for human error that can occur in the traditional process.

"This is really a system to offer credits for awards," said Mills, who is also ARRL's Membership Services manager. Mills said LoTW will minimize opportunities to "game the system" or otherwise cheat--something that's not always possible to detect even with paper QSLs. He emphasized that the League has no plans to do away with accepting traditional QSL cards as it's been doing all along. "We're not replacing the whole paper QSL scheme with Logbook of the World," he said.

Unlike electronic QSLing systems now in use, LoTW is not set up to exchange QSL "cards" via the Internet. The main idea is that ARRL will maintain a secure log database that will be constantly updated by DXers, contesters, DXpeditions and thousands of individual amateurs. Registering and uploading electronic logs cost nothing; the only time a user will incur a charge is when applying accumulated contact credits toward an award.

LoTW beta testing for the general Amateur Radio public is expected to begin soon. The ARRL has not announced a specific inauguration date for Logbook of the World.

## **Virginia Amateur Group Sets New 145 Ghz Dx Record**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 04, January 24, 2003

Four amateurs from the Lynchburg, Virginia, area celebrated the new year January 12 by breaking their own distance record on 145 GHz and by confirming a fifth grid for VUCC

<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/>> on yet another microwave band. Brian Justin, WA1ZMS; Pete Lascell, W4WWQ; Hal DeVuyst, KA4YNO; and G. P. "Geep" Howell, WA4RTS, spanned a nearly 80-km path to set a new North American and world DX record.

"This claim should be the very first VUCC for that band, and it took two years of hard work to make it happen," said Justin. Both stations exchanged contact information using FSK-CW. All participants are members of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club (K4CQ), of which Justin is president. The group already has earned the first-issued VUCC awards on the 47 and 76 GHz bands.

Justin, who designed and built all of the equipment, set up his station in grid square EM96wx in Southwest Virginia. On the other end of the circuit was the W2SZ/4 station, with Howell, Lascell and De Vuyst. W2SZ/4 was at approximately 4000 feet above sea level in Virginia's Bedford County in grid square FM07fm. Lascell said while the team was setting up, he was able to snag a 20-meter contact with KM1CC, the Marconi special event station on Cape Cod. "A neat way to tie the bottom of the spectrum and the beginning of radio to a new frontier 100 years later," he said.

Weather conditions were just right for the QSO to take place with little wind and an extremely low dew point and no haze. Both stations ran about 4 mW of power and used one-foot dish antennas, which must be precisely aimed.

Additional information is available on the Mt Greylock Expeditionary Force Web site <<http://www.mgef.org>>.

## **FCC Warns Unlicensed Ops, Rescinds Repeater's Automatic Control Authority**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 04, January 24, 2003

The FCC has sent warning notices to 10 individuals--eight of them Amateur Radio licensees--for operating without a license in the 11-meter band. All but one of the operators live in the Greater New York City area.

"Such operation will subject you to fine or imprisonment, as well as an in rem seizure of radio transmitting equipment, in cooperation with the United States Attorney for your jurisdiction," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote January 15. He cited "monitoring information before the Commission" indicating that the individuals were transmitting on 26.540 and/or 26.555 MHz, frequencies allocated for government use. Fines for unlicensed operation can run as high as \$10,000.

## **Six-Year-Old Oregon Girl Gets General Ticket**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 06, February 7, 2003

A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN--a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family--could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13.

Mattie allowed that the Element 3 test "was pretty hard" and she had to study for a long time before passing it on her third attempt. "The Element 3 test was a lot harder than the Tech test," she said. She was ambivalent about the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code exam, characterizing it as "not too hard, just a little, but kind of easy too."

Her parents, Tim and Charlotte Clauson, AC7SP and KD7QZB, say Mattie became interested in Amateur Radio when she was five. The Clausons discovered "a kid-friendly study book," Ride the Airwaves with Alpha and Zulu by John Abbott, K6YPB (no longer in print--Ed). The Clausons say Mattie, who already knew how to read, dove into it right away. Her mom and dad helped her to study, explained the "hard questions" and encouraged her to take practice tests at various Web sites. She obtained her Technician license last July and became KD7SDF.



The Clausons said Mattie learned Morse code using several different computer programs, and they helped her practice by tapping out letters--and later words--for her. In the end, she passed her code exam on the very first try. For the time being, Mattie says, she's sticking with phone operation but plans to give CW a try in the future. Mattie says she prefers HF over VHF "because I can talk to people in other countries."

Homeschooled with her sisters, Mattie loves to read, and that may contribute to her precocity. Among her favorites books are those by Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT, Encyclopedia Brown, and Nancy Drew. Her parents say ham radio has been a very useful tool in homeschooling--in terms of letter recognition, spelling, science, geography and other subjects.

The Clausons say Mattie doesn't consider herself "someone special" since passing her General test, and neither do they. "We do not feel that Mattie has any abilities above any other child," Charlotte Clauson said. For her part, Mattie says she hopes that she can be an inspiration to other youngsters her age to get involved with Amateur Radio. "I think that since I got my license, whether Tech or higher, other kids can do it also," she said. Mattie's late great grandfather, S.A. "Sam" Sullivan, was W6WXU; his daughter, Joan Brady--Mattie's grandmother--now holds his former call sign.

"The ham community has also been very supportive, especially in the Roseburg area," said Charlotte Clauson. "Their enthusiasm has made Mattie's experience with ham radio very positive." A article on Mattie Clauson appeared February 3 in the Statesman Journal of Salem, Oregon <<http://news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?i=56021>>.

Tim, Charlotte and Mattie Clauson all are ARRL members. Mattie and her mom now are working on their Amateur Extra tickets.

## **Hollingsworth Preaches Courtesy, Common Sense**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 07, February 14, 2003

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told those attending his forum at the Richmond, Virginia, Frostfest February 9 that Amateur Radio enforcement still has a long way to go, but that amateurs can do a lot through peer pressure to head off problems before they become enforcement issues.

"Enforcement is no substitute for courtesy and common sense," Hollingsworth declared. "More courtesy would go a long way. Hollingsworth again suggested that amateurs "operate so that listeners will be impressed with Amateur Radio," not offended or turned off by it. He said awareness of Amateur Radio is on the rise in the wake of media attention since September 11, 2001, and, more recently, with ham radio assistance in the search for debris from the shuttle Columbia. He pointed to 20 and 75 meters as the current enforcement hot spots as well as the bands where the least courteous operating practices are found--some of which he described as "a disgrace" to the Amateur Service.

Off-the-air peer pressure, he said, is an effective tool to provide guidance to amateurs who may be unaware of how they sound to others on the air. The reactions of some hams when they confront interference--or perceived interference--can be worse than the original interference--whether or not it's deliberate. "Don't overreact," Hollingsworth advised. "The best reaction is no reaction whatsoever."

"You have to always be aware of your image and be willing to protect it," he told those gathered in the packed forum. "You can't shoot yourself in the foot." More than 1000 attended the Richmond Frostfest, sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society <<http://www.rats.net/>>.

The use of new technology and on-the-air experimentation also sometimes brings controversy to the amateur bands, Hollingsworth said, and may prompt an occasion for the FCC to revisit its current Part 97 Amateur Service rules. Hollingsworth pointed to the use of so-called "enhanced SSB," where experimenters have been attempting to achieve full-carrier AM-like high-fidelity audio in that mode. Hollingsworth said the presence of the enhanced SSB experimenters has led to complaints to the FCC--as many as 20 per week--that these signals are taking up excessive bandwidth.

Hollingsworth told his Richmond audience that deliberately operating a wideband mode in a crowded spectrum is "shortsighted and rude," may be ignoring the "minimum bandwidth necessary" rule. If its use isn't accompanied by courtesy and common sense, he said, it will lead to pressure on the FCC to revise the Amateur Service rules.

The "Emission Standards" section of Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and (b)--requires amateur transmissions to not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice" and to "not cause splatter" on adjacent frequencies.

Hollingsworth said the bandwidth of a given signal is not easily determined by the average amateur transceiver--even one equipped with a band scope of some sort. He pointed out that the problems with apparent splatter can be aggravated by the use of a noise blanker on the receiving end. "Just because it sounds wide doesn't mean it is wide," he said, adding that he'd prefer the amateur community come up a way to accommodate such experimentation, because "a government solution will be worse than the problem."

## **Amateur Radio's Public Service Story Is Now Available On Video!**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 07, February 14, 2003

An updated Amateur Radio Today video now is available for free downloading from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>>. The MPEG-format file is 70 Mbytes.

Narrated by former CBS News anchorman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, Amateur Radio Today showcases the public service contributions made by hams throughout the country. Highlights include ham radio's response on September 11, 2001, ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to last year's wildfires in the Western US, and ham radio-in-space educational initiatives. Directed by Dave Bell, W6AQ, Amateur Radio Today was written by Alan Kaul, W6RCL. The production team included Bell and Kaul as well as Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and Bill Baker, W1BKR. The editor was Keith Glispie, WA6TFD.

Amateur Radio Today is an ideal presentation for clubs, government meetings, civic organizations and any other venue where you want to vividly illustrate what Amateur Radio has to offer the public. The video runs just six minutes and is available in several formats. The digital version of Amateur Radio Today is available in MPEG video format, which can be played by Windows Media Player, Apple QuickTime or RealPlayer software. It can be run from the CD or copied to your hard drive (not included).

This copyrighted program is not intended for broadcast use (including over-the-air, cable or Internet) and may not be reproduced or distributed without permission. You also can order Amateur Radio Today on CD-ROM and VHS tape. The CD-ROM version also requires that you have software that can play MPEG files installed on your computer.

## **ARRL to sponsor emergency communications course seminar:**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 08, February 21, 2003

The ARRL will offer a free Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (ARECC) seminar March 8, in conjunction with the 2003 Roanoke Division Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. The seminar will not include the Level I course itself. This program is designed to explain in greater detail the duties of volunteer certification mentors, instructors and examiners of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and provide additional information for those considering these volunteer positions. "With Level I emergency communications training being offered nationwide under the homeland security grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, we hope to have all ARECC team players reading from the same page to ensure success under the federal grant guidelines," said ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. The seminar will be held Saturday, March 8, at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart, Independence and Freedom Halls, 2500 E Independence Blvd. Seating may be limited. Contact Dan Miller, K3UFG, [k3ufg@arrl.org](mailto:k3ufg@arrl.org); 860-594-0340; fax 860-594-0259, at ARRL HQ if you plan to attend. For registered CMs, CIs and CEs who attend, mileage may be reimbursable up to a total of \$35. Seminar attendance does not include admission to the convention, which is March 8 and 9. For more information on the 2003 Roanoke Division Convention, visit the sponsoring Mecklenburg Amateur Radio society Web site. < <http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest2003/hamfest.html>>.