

# Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

March 2003

## CARC FEEDLINE

**Editor --** Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ  
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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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Listserv:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carc>

## Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

Best wishes to our  
military service men  
and women, their  
families, and friends, as  
they face the perils of  
war.

## Coming Cary ARC Events

### March 2003 CARC Program

The regular business meeting of the Cary ARC will be the National Weather Service Skywarn refresher. The speaker will be Jeff Orrock of the National Weather Service.

This event is open to all amateur operators, but **please see the article (page 4)** about **RSVP'ing** and the **changed location** of the meeting!

Cary ARC members should also RSVP. Members who are available should plan on arriving at 6:30 to assist with set-up.

## Other Area Events

### RARSFest 2003

The 31st annual RARSfest will be take place on Sunday April 13th, 2003 at the Jim Graham Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds - Raleigh, NC.

RARSfest is the largest hamfest in the northern piedmont area of NC with average attendance of around 2500 paid admissions. RARSfest is all indoors, held in a 100,000 sq. ft facility offering an attractive fully equipped dealer booths and vendor area as well as over 400 tables in our all indoor flea market. RARSfest attractions include:

- Major prize drawing for an ICOM 706 Mk-II-G HF/6m/2m/70cm Transceiver
- An ICOM 207-H 2m rig given away each hour from 11am through 2pm.
- A \$125 pre-registration drawing.
- VE Test Session.
- Contests for Homebrew, QLF, and QBH
- Various Forums and Meetings.
- Saturday evening social/supper
- DXCC QSL card checking by QSL Manager Bill McDowell, K4CIA. NOTE - This year Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Contest Branch Manager will be in attendance. This means that any and all DXCC cards may be checked - including deleted, 160 Meters and cards older than 10 years.
- **AND FREE PARKING!**

For full details see the RARS web page at <http://rars.org> and click on the hamfest link, or contact Hank Montgomery - K4HM@arrl.net, phone (919) 577-1254.

## Upcoming Hamfests

**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 four short months away!

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

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The February meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, February 28<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 14 members and 2 guests in attendance.

### **Reports**

Minutes were briefly recapped by Keith, W4KAZ  
Treasurers report given to club by Herb, W3HL

### **Old Business**

#### **Swapfest**

Herb, W3HL, reported that the fliers had not been printed.

### **New Business**

#### **Skywarn Meeting**

Herb, W4HL, gave a brief review of the Skywarn training meeting Cary ARC sponsored in 2002, for those visitors present.

Herb then reported that this years Skywarn session would be held in place of the normal Cary ARC business meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. He noted that the location had been changed. This years training session will be held at the new Cary Senior center in Bond Park(off High House Road in Cary). The session will begin at 7:00 pm.

Herb asks that club members able to attend come at 6:30 to assist with set up in the conference room.

### **Announcements**

Alf announced that Tri-LUG (Triangle Linux Users Group) was sponsoring a load session.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments at about 8:00pm.

### **Program**

The program for the evening was the annual auction. Auction items were scarce as hen's teeth, the auction table sporting only a computer, a very nice homebrew antenna tuner, and a power supply.

All were had at rock bottom prices.

## **Severe Weather Spotter Training--Guest Speaker Jeff Orrock, NWS**

The Cary Amateur Radio Club will hold a March 27, 2003 meeting at the Cary Senior Center at Bond Park, Maury O'Dell Drive, just off High House Road, for the purpose of regional severe weather spotting training.

The **speaker will be Jeff Orrock** of the National Weather Service (NWS). The doors will be open at 6:30 pm, for registration (for your personal certificate from the NWS). The meeting **starts at 7:00 pm**. There will be NO formal cost to attend the meeting.

**All interested Radio Amateurs** are invited to get their weather-spotting skills "updated" at the meeting.

Amateurs from Wake, Durham, Chatham, Johnston, Franklin Counties are invited to attend this very timely meeting. The hurricane and bad weather season is about to start - April 1. Radio Amateurs have a long tradition of helping the NWS and other public service agencies during times of disaster and public need. Further, local Fire Fighters, Police, and EMTs are invited, too. If **any members of the public** are interested in this very valuable information, they **are also invited to attend**.

### **RSVP Requested!!! RSVP Requested!!! RSVP Requested!!!**

Each person who is planning to attend the meeting, should send an **e-mail to: N4NC@ARRL.NET**, with a **Subject of : Spotter**, giving three things in the text: **1.** Your last name, **2.** First name, and **3.** One of the following: Amateur callsign OR the public service agency you represent (e.g., Fire, Police, EMT, etc., or "public"). Multiple persons may use the same e-mail to save time provided the information is given.

PLEASE: This e-mail is **vital** as the date approaches, since the Cary Senior Center Ballroom #2 holds only 199 persons.

For Radio Amateurs, talk-in will be available on the 146.88 MHz Repeater and 146.55 MHz simplex for local guidance. Look for the "NWS" signs for directions.

For information e-mail: **W3HL@ARRL.NET**.

## **A Great Logging Computer For Field Day?**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Itronix, in Spokane Washington offers the "GoBook MAX", which is currently in use on the front lines by US troops. Available with 700MHZ Pentium III, the GoBook is also being marketed to police/emergency response teams, utility companies, and other businesses with employees in the field daily.

Priced at \$4500.00, this product seems high in today's laptop computer market, but was not all too unusual just a few short years ago. Throw in extreme rugged construction, and moisture resistance, and this could be the perfect logging computer for Field Day. Well, for those with the resources or need for a bullet proof laptop, this sure looks like a reasonable possibility.

I've long wondered why this niche in the market had not been filled. Too low a volume? Price? (Now if they can just make the keyboards usable.....)

Story....<http://slate.msn.com/id/2080546/>

company....<http://www.gobookmax.com/>

a British review <http://www.gobookmax.com/gobookmax/images/pdf/PCPRO.PDF>

## The History of "Ham" Radio

By Glynn, K4RKI

The past month or two I have been interested in building a crystal controlled transmitter similar to the one I built as my first rig as a novice back in the late 1950's. My intentions are to try for WAS on 40 meters as I did back in 1957. Of course there were only 48 states then. My XYL says that I am reverting to my youth since I past my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday a few years back. I finally located my old 1955 ARRL handbook to see what it offered for novice transmitters and found a copy of a magazine article that was given to me back in 1956 tucked inside. The article was actually from a medical journal and was given to me by a Medical Doctor whose son was a ham friend. The relevance of this becomes clear later.

What follows is a paraphrase, with some direct quotes, from this article from 1953:

What do you know about the word HAM? In radio it is the universally accepted term to define an amateur operator. In other fields it generally is used to denote, sometimes derisively, a lay, over zealous or inexperienced performer.

"Ham" as applied to amateur today somewhat kindly refers to an ever growing fraternity of mostly non-professional builders, hobbyists and operators involved in the development of the electronic art...but it was not always so.

In actual fact HAM dates back to 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Wireless Club. They were Doctor Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Reggie Murray. At first they called their station HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for revision and they changed the name to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so the boys decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM!

Few of the licensed operators today remember those pioneer and unregulated days. Back then you picked your own frequency and your own call. Then many amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting QRM finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity.

In 1911, Harvard student Hyman, was assigned the problem of picking some controversial subject for a thesis. He chose the Wireless Regulation Bill then before Congress. Professor Barrett Wendell selected Hyman's work as an example of powerful argument but poor writing. Although he gave Hyman a high mark, he made him rewrite and rewrite the thesis until it met with his full approval.

At this point he insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill.

The Senator was so impressed that he invited Hyman to appear before the Committee. He went to Washington, met Senator Walsh, who put him on the stand and told him to read his thesis.

As the good doctor tells it: "I was so nervous, I couldn't even see words much less read them, but I knew the thesis by heart ; I put everything I had in that speech-everything that I had learned in a course on public speaking and from the debating society plus whatever I could think of at the time ...I described how our little amateur station was built and I almost cried as I told the crowded committee room that if this bill went through we would have to close it up because we could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which were set up in the bill. Then the debate started and out station HAM became the symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want us around. Finally the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about poor little Station HAM."

That's how it all started. And the rest is now history. You can find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated Station HAM with amateurs everywhere. From that day to this---and probably to the end of time---in radio an amateur operator is a HAM and vice-versa.

As a footnote: Doctor Albert S. Hyman became a well known heart specialist in New York. He served as a captain in the Navy and retired in the Naval Medical Reserve. The article I have is "The Saga of that Original Radio Ham" By Percy Greenwood, as published in the March 1953, issue of THE NEW YORK PHYSICIAN and AMERICAN MEDICINE. I also found a similar article by Athan Cosmas from THE TECHNICIAN-ENGINEER dated June 1953.

## **USA ARRL Contest Maps**

Kaz, W4KAZ

For those of you who may have an interest in contesting, or collecting a WAS certificate, the web site by Ken Harker, WM5R might be of some interest. Ken has taken information from several ARRL contests, and plotted the US stations by zip code on a map of the USA. He has the data color coded, and plotted several ways using several different contest criteria (station class, power level, etc.)

It's a great idea, and gives you a good indication of where the stations are. There are no big surprises there, but a picture is worth umpty-ump words (Lotsa New Yawka's, not many in North Dakota...). Ken's plots include only stations submitting logs, which seems to be between 25 and 50 percent of those participating in large contests, based on some of the articles I've read. That should be a large enough sample size to make the maps a good predictor.

Those of you looking for WAS might be able to use this information for finding that last "tough state" during a contest. I'm sure a SASE would insure a QSL.

Also, it looks like the "Kalifornia Kilowatt" lives.... but their high power levels are not necessarily translating into contest wins!

<http://www.wm5r.org/maps/>  
also, Ken's website: <http://www.wm5r.org>

## **Anybody Wanna Stand Here?**

Kaz, W4KAZ

This link can be got to from Ken, WM5R's website, but I rather liked this one on it's own. Seems like a bad place to stand during one of those boisterous central Texas thunderstorms....

The end of the line—a rat's nest!  
<http://www.kkn.net/~k5tr/photo/pcd2817/n5au-feedlines-two-34.3.jpg>

from the antenna farm at K5AU  
<http://www.kkn.net/~k5tr/n5au.html>

## **Life on the Mote**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Bad news for fanciers of the cow flatulence and anti-SUV "global warming" theories. Damn, those pesky facts again!

Oh, the woes of life in orbit of a 4 percent variable star....

[http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/sun\\_output\\_030320.html](http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/sun_output_030320.html)

## Blue Light Special?

Kaz, W4KAZ

The Japanese parent of Sony Electronics announced that Sony is ready to begin delivering its first DVD recorder based on blue light laser technology. It's "Blu-Ray" DVD recorder would be priced at around \$3800.00 USD when released. Availability in America was not announced.

The "Blu-ray" technology is designed to allow a single-sided, 12-centimeter disc to hold up to 27GB of storage. (Currently, most DVDs hold 4.7GB of data.) The technology uses a short-wavelength blue-violet laser--instead of the red lasers in current optical drives--to read data off discs.

Well that's great. Now when can I get a 30GB DVD-RW for my computer....for \$125.00 USD? Techno-geeks take note....

[http://news.com.com/2100-1041-990826.html?tag=cd\\_mh](http://news.com.com/2100-1041-990826.html?tag=cd_mh)

## Ka-Blewie!

Kaz, W4KAZ

In a NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory news release, scientists believe they have confirmed the first and only documented meteor impact on the lunar surface. In the early morning hours of Nov. 15, 1953, an amateur astronomer in Oklahoma photographed what he believed to be a massive, white-hot fireball of vaporized rock rising from the center of the Moon's face. If his theory was right, Dr. Leon Stuart would be the first and only human in history to witness and document the impact of an asteroid-sized body, crating a new crater on the Moon's scarred exterior.



Note: The small dot just left and below center is the explosion. Photo by Dr. Leon Stuart, 11-15-1953, from NASA JPL News release

Estimates of the size of impact, and its general location, were made based on Stuart's photograph. This led researchers to search recent Lunar photos made by the "Clementine" spacecraft in 1994. The researchers, Dr. Bonnie J. Buratti, a scientist at NASA's JPL, and Lane Johnson of Pomona College, Claremont, Calif., found a "fresh" crater based on their search of the photograph's, with the correct size, color and location, consistent with Dr. Stuart's original 1953 photograph.

The meteor was estimated to have been approximately 20 meters across, and the resulting crater identified as Stuarts is about 1.5km across, consistent with the .5 megaton impact (kinetic energy of impact). This impact equates to about 65 Hiroshima sized bombs.

Sure glad we have an atmosphere.

See:

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/releases/2003/23.cfm>

## Good Press For Amateur Radio

Link submitted by Glynn, K4RKI

Severe weather, emergency back up communications, manning relief shelters, search and rescue, and finding debris from the space shuttle Columbia wreckage.....What common thread binds these items? Amateur Radio, that's what. The following link is to a Dallas Associated Press story that was picked up by USA Today, about work done by amateur operators in the central Texas area following the Columbia explosion.

It's a very positive story....good news for the service.

[http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-03-19-ham-crisis\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-03-19-ham-crisis_x.htm)

## ARRL Expresses Concerns About Ham Radio Impact Of 70-Cm Changes

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 09, February 28, 2003

The ARRL says two FCC-proposed actions could negatively affect Amateur Radio. One would substantially expand the geographical area in the US subject to power limitations on 70 cm. The other would deploy National Weather Service wind-profiler radars in the 448-450 MHz segment.

"The Commission has proposed two actions that have a potentially substantial adverse impact on a large number of Amateur Radio operators in this proceeding," the ARRL said in comments filed this month in ET Docket 02-305. "In each case, the Commission can minimize that impact."

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) late last fall, the FCC proposed on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to--among other things--more than double the size of the geographical area in New Mexico and Texas where amateurs in the 420-450 MHz band would be limited in power to protect military radiolocation service operations. Amateur transmitters in certain geographical areas already are limited to 50 W PEP "unless expressly authorized by the FCC after mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis" between the FCC district director and the applicable military frequency coordinator--§97.313(f). The NPRM also reflects action by NTIA specifying the operation of federal government wind profilers in the band 448-450 MHz.

Acknowledging that the Amateur Service is secondary to government services in the band, the ARRL nonetheless asked the FCC to ensure that the affected zone in Texas and New Mexico "is minimized as much as possible, consistent with protection of military facilities." The ARRL also requested the FCC to create "a streamlined procedure for case-by-case exemptions" from the power restrictions.

"It is difficult for ARRL to address the contention of the Army that amateur power in excess of 50 W PEP in the additional protected areas requested by the Army would cause interference to military radiolocation facilities involved in missile tracking," the League said in its comments, "because the claim made by the Army is not substantiated by any technical information." The proposed area would include all of New Mexico and all of Texas west of 104 degrees W longitude. The ARRL said it was "not intuitively obvious" that such a large restricted area was necessary.

The ARRL concluded that a 50-W power restriction was "not a substantial burden" on many FM repeater users but that it could mean lowering the outputs of some critical repeaters used for emergency and public service work or taking them off the air altogether. It also could affect so-called weak-signal, experimental and Earth-Moon-Earth operations, the ARRL said. More than five dozen repeaters in the affected region could be affected, the League estimated.

Concerning the wind profilers, the League said it had understood that the National Weather Service--which operates the radars--would notify ARRL of their locations as selected. "Ideally," the League said, "since the amateur repeaters are incumbent in the band now, the National Weather Service should select sites that minimize the effect on those repeaters."

The complete text of the ARRL's comments, the FCC NPRM and other documents are available via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Click on "Search for Filed Comments" and enter "02-305" in the "Proceeding" field.



## Support Growing For Favorable 40-Meter Realignment Plans

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 10, March 7, 2003

With World Radio-communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) getting under way in about three months in Geneva, support is growing for two favorable proposals to create a 300-kHz worldwide 40-meter allocation. ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) seek a return to the 300-kHz allocation that existed worldwide prior to World War II but that now exists only in the Americas. Delegates to WRC-03 will attempt to address--and possibly eliminate--the overlap on 40 meters between amateurs in the Americas (Region 2) and broadcasters elsewhere (Regions 1 and 3).

"There is encouraging news," says ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, in his "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial set to appear in April QST. He reports that, thanks to the efforts of IARU volunteers and others, more than 30 countries now have gone on record to support either one or the other of two favorable 40-meter realignment formulas. Sumner said more support is needed, but he called the interim head count "a good start."

Most popular among the half dozen realignment schemes outlined by participants at last November's WRC-03 Conference Preparatory Meeting is so-called Method B. This approach calls for a three-stage transition that would begin by allowing Region 1 and 3 amateurs on 7100-7200 kHz on a secondary basis starting in 2005 and end with all ITU regions gaining access to 7000-7300 kHz by the end of 2009--with the top 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile stations in Regions 1 and 3. Broadcasters would shift upward to 7300-7550 kHz worldwide.

For US and other Region 2 stations, such a change would mean an end to deafening nighttime phone band QRM from broadcasters and the necessity to operate split-frequency to work stations in Regions 1 and 3 on SSB.

Sumner says Method B is now a European Common Proposal with initial support from 17 CEPT administrations. At least three other countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific have also expressed support for Method B, he said. The IARU team now is working to gain the support of additional administrations in Regions 1 and 3 either for Method B or for the similar Method A, Sumner reports. Otherwise identical to Method B, Method A does not include any sharing with fixed and mobile services.

In the Americas, a dozen ITU Region 2 countries last month agreed to support an Inter-American Proposal that's virtually the same as the so-called Method D. Proposed by Canada, Method D would provide 300 kHz worldwide for amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 upward by 200 kHz. Region 2's broadcasting allocation would remain unchanged. IARU Region 2 is now working to expand the list of Region 2 countries supporting that plan.

The US so far has taken no position on the 40-meter realignment issue, although it has long supported a 300-kHz worldwide, exclusive allocation for Amateur Radio. The FCC WRC-03 Advisory Committee has recommended that Method A be a US proposal, but the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has not yet agreed.

"Acting on behalf of the federal government users of the radio spectrum, the NTIA has been advocating 'no proposal' from the US, a position that the ARRL is working hard to overcome," Sumner points out. "A small number of federal agencies claim to be concerned that their backup circuits on HF would be affected by an upward shift of broadcasters."

Sumner also calls it "unfortunate" that some broadcasters persist in efforts to link the 7 MHz WRC-03 agenda item with another that deals with the adequacy of broadcasting spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz. Sumner said the broadcasting spectrum item is "a separate issue with an entirely different genesis."

## **Will Ham Radio Be Shut Down If War Is Declared?**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 11, March 14, 2003

Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down Amateur Radio in the event that war breaks out in the Middle East. The short answer is "no."

Just prior to the Gulf War, §214.4(b)(4) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations was deleted. This section had mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency. The last time Amateur Radio was shut down was during World War II, although the FCC continued to give Amateur Radio examinations.

While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the president invokes the War Powers Act, Amateur Radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use.

The FCC is directed to work in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to issue "appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users." Amateurs share most UHF allocations with the US government.

*(Ed. Note--I guess that could change...probably worth watching out for.....W4KAZ)*

## **Bill Pierpont, N0HFF, SK**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 11, March 14, 2003

William G. "Bill" Pierpont, N0HFF, of Wichita, Kansas, died February 20. He was 88. An ARRL member, Pierpont may be best known in Amateur Radio circles for having written *The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy*, now available in several languages and considered by some as the definitive guide to radiotelegraphy.

The fourth edition, published by the FISTS CW Club <<http://www.fists.org>>, will be available at Hamvention 2003 in Dayton. The third edition remains available for download from the Web site of Mike Dinelli, N9BOR, <<http://www.ql.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm>>.

Although ill with cancer, Pierpont remained active on the air until March 2002. His brother, Ken, KF4OW, says Bill Pierpont was licensed at age 15 as W9BLK in 1930, and he enjoyed CW for much of his on-air activity. His first edition of *The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy* came out on computer disk in 1992. Survivors include his wife, Enid, and a daughter.

## **Radio Commentator Paul Harvey Plugs Ham Radio's Emergency Communications Role**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 12, March 21, 2003

Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey this week offered some kind words for Amateur Radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his March 19 Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment program.

"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies--amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes," Harvey said. "After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

The entire Wednesday noon broadcast is available on Paul Harvey's Web site <<http://www.paulharvey.com/>>. Click on the Wednesday noon link under "Listen Now."