

# Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

April 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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## Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

Wow, what a month.

The US government went from posturing in the United Nations, to the invasion of Iraq, a foreign country, by US military forces, to a widespread media proclamation that the "Pentagon's war plan had failed", to the total apparent evacuation of Iraq by the entire Saddam Hussein regime, then on to Iraqi civilians tearing down Saddam's statues to himself, and finally students in Iraq returning to school at the medical University.

All of that in less than 30 days, with a relatively low loss of life on all sides.

If that's a "failed plan", I sure can't wait to see the plan that succeeds!

While its certain that members of the military still have much hazardous duty still before them, hopefully the worst case scenario will not come to pass. Perhaps hope will also return to the people of Iraq, and they will now be able to build a safe and prosperous future for themselves.

Good luck to them all.

I unfortunately missed the RARSFest early this month, but I have heard at least one of the new TenTec Orions on the air. (Sure wish I could hear one in the shack!) TenTec began shipping the Orions from the first production run at the end of March, on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I see that they also have the Titan II amplifier ready to begin shipping. (<http://www.tentec.com/TT417.htm>)

With both pieces priced at about \$3300.00 USD each, I guess it will remain more likely that I buy them "used" some 20 years from today.....such is life.

Another one bytes the ether.....

## Coming Cary ARC Events

### April 2003 CARC Program

The program for the April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 meeting of the Cary ARC will be “Proper Grounding Techniques”, and Kent Hoffman of Progress Energy(AKA AD4WI) is as of this writing tentatively scheduled to be a guest presenter. Safety issues will be discussed.

## Upcoming Hamfests

**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 three short months away!

## Cary ARC Minutes-March 27th Meeting

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The March meeting consisted of the Skywarn Spotter training, given by Jeff Orrock of the National Weather Service. There were over 40 persons attending the session. Thanks to Jeff for a great program.

There was no club business conducted at the meeting.

## Adam Osborne, dead at 64

Kaz, W4KAZ

No, not the singer....This Osborne is known for the 23 pound luggable computer he introduced in 1981, Osborne died in his sleep at his sister's home in southern India. Osborne's fast growing computer company, Osborne computers, failed in 1983 when he announced the second generation product before it was ready to ship. This announcement is credited with causing customers to cancel and delay orders, which resulted in the financial collapse of Osborne Computer Corp. Both Apple Computer and Compaq Computer quickly moved to fill the void in the marketplace, and the rest is history.....

Here's to a nearly forgotten pioneer...Thanks.

[http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/03/24/HNosbourne\\_1.html?hardware](http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/03/24/HNosbourne_1.html?hardware)

## Printed circuit boards?

Kaz, W4KAZ

Well, how about printed integrated circuits? If the technique can be perfected, the manufacture of certain electronic devices will likely plummet. The basic idea is to use specially developed ink-jet printers to create electronic circuitry by “printing” the devices, one layer at a time.

I just love inventive ideas, even if they don't work out practically. This sounds like it could be feasible, certainly for simple circuitry.

<http://www.newscientist.com/hottopics/tech/article.jsp?id=99993238&sub=Gadgets%20and%20Inventions>

## Digital Radio Mondiale

Kaz, W4KAZ

Yes, there is yet another “standard” for digital radio broadcasters poised to hit the market. Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM for you acronym junkies), is the European “standard” being proposed for below 30 MHz broadcasters using AM. Domestically, the FCC has settled on the Ibiquity standard, for both AM and FM broadcast digital radio.

Much of the short wave broadcasting is done by foreign stations/countries, so DRM could well become the standard for SWL'ers in the future. Currently, DRM broadcasts can be decoded using a well-equipped computer, along with a \$60.00 Euro program available from the DRM consortium. DRM inaugural broadcasts are expected during the 2003 World Radio Conference in Geneva this June, with Duetsche Welle already committed to begin live DRM broadcasts then.

Appears to be another “standards” spitting contest, eh? That, or “I want a radio that has all of these modes: CW,USB,LSB,AM,FM,DRM,HD,DAB....oh, and I want it to be able to get the satellite broadcasts too!”.....W4KAZ

<http://www.drm.org>

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/883723.asp?0si=->

## Wait a Minute.....

Kaz, W4KAZ

Okay, not so fast on that satellite radio broadcast requirement! It seems they may not make it on the first try after all. Satellite broadcast subscriber service Sirius announced recently that it will require an influx of at least \$100 million USD before it achieves a positive cash flow on subscriptions. Competitor XM is in a better cash flow position, but I haven't found a prediction on its prospects for profitability in the near term.

<http://www.spacetoday.net/Summary/1589>

## Life On The Mote

Kaz, W4KAZ

Using data from tree rings, ice cores, and historical accounts, Harvard researchers have determined that the earth was actually warmer during part of the Middle Ages than it is today. The data show that the earth experienced a period of warming between 900 AD and 1300 AD, which gave way to what is know to researchers as the “Little Ice Age” lasting from 1350 AD to about 1850 AD.

By contrast, today's temperatures are still “mild”.

Another sharp stick in the eye of the anti cow flatulence and anti-SUV crowd. Oh, the woes of living in orbit of a four percent variable star!

<http://www.portal.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/04/06/nclim06.xml&sSheet=/news/2003/04/06/ixhome.html>

## **New Radio Stuff**

Kaz, W4KAZ

Well, this is gonna sound like a great big TenTec advertisement, but that's where the new products happen to be. The Orion is now shipping to the well heeled, and orders are still being booked for future production runs. The updated Titan III amplifier, equipped with a pair of Russian 4CX800A tubes will provide 1500 watts output. Also, the RX-320 PC receiver has been updated to receive Digital Radio Mondiale transmissions, and the updated radio has been given the model number RX-320D. (see <http://www.tentec.com/TT320.htm>). Finally, Tentec has announced a price increase for the Jupiter, which will go into effect the week after the Dayton Hamvention. It will be a 6% increase, from \$1189 to \$1269 USD.

Icom also has a new QRP product designed to compete with the Yaesu FT-817. The new Icom rig is the IC-703, and is featured in an advertisement in the May issue of QST. The radio is HF only, with a look-and-feel similar to the IC-706mkIIG, but sports a whopping 10 watts output. A version also having 6 meters is expected just in time for Dayton.

## **Stop "MESSENGER" Spambots.**

Kaz, W4KAZ

By tapping into "Messenger" a Windows XP component, a new version of spyware can cause directed advertisements to pop up on your internet connected PC. The April 22 issue of PC magazine has an excellent article on "spyware", or programs that self install on your PC as a result of surfing thru or being directed to certain internet web sites, or sometimes installed as a component of certain downloaded software(that's what happens when you don't read the mice type, and click "I accept" when installing some software.) Every single one of the music "file sharing"(aka software piracy) packages includes this sort of spyware.

These spyware packages often run as background applications, eating away at the amount of CPU cycles available to run the software you actually want to run. Most users never notice....which suits the privacy invaders just fine!

Anti spyware: [http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,7423,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,7423,00.asp)

PC Magazine spyware Editors Choice: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,978134,00.asp>

On Messenger Spam:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,55795,00.html>

<http://www.auburn.edu/oit/security/messengerService.html>

## **Throwing Stones**

Kaz, W4KAZ

In an effort to reduce "collateral damage", or the unwanted killing of civilians in a combat area, some one in the military has determined that high explosives are no longer always required to disable individual enemy vehicles. In a combination of very high tech guidance systems with very low tech "inert bombs", it's now possible for allied aviators to target individual vehicles, while creating much less havoc and mayhem in the immediate area. These "inert bombs" are simply 1000 pound lumps of concrete, cast into the shape of bombs, and equipped with precision guidance systems.

The concept is that the kinetic energy of the inert bomb (moving at what, 400 MPH?) is enough to disable a tank or other armored vehicle. Sure to ruin the day of any given tanker.

I dub thee, "Weapons of Micro Destruction" .....W4KAZ

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/2919249.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/2919249.stm)

# The April fool's page

## Schrodinger Institute Cited For Cruelty To Animals

I.B. Jokin, JOKE

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) rallied outside the Schrodinger Institute to protest the mistreatment of Schrodinger's cat.

When physicists visiting the institute were confronted by the protestors, they tried to explain that the cat was merely hypothetical, and that he had only been hypothetically placed in a hypothetical container. They were in fact, quite uncertain whether the cat had been mistreated at all. This explanation was not well received by the protestors, who wanted to see Schrodinger punished for his experimentation on "a poor innocent kitty".

The institute Staff then informed the protestors that Erwin Schrodinger had in fact been dead since 1961, and could no longer be punished for his hypothetical misdeed. This mollified the group of protestors, who on hearing this news began to disperse.

Unfortunately, at this point one of the physicists commented that he was quite unsure whether Schrodinger himself was "actually still dead". This provoked a heated argument among the physicists present, sending the remaining PETA activists running for the exits.

All in all, a real "out of the box" experience....[http://www.sciencenews.org/sn\\_arch/5\\_25\\_96/fob1.htm](http://www.sciencenews.org/sn_arch/5_25_96/fob1.htm)

What is Schrodinger's Cat? See [http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9\\_gci341236,00.html](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9_gci341236,00.html)

<http://www.esi.ac.at/about/TheESI.html>

## Dark Humor.....And In Bad Taste Too!

I.B. Jokin, JOKE

Saddam Hussein visits his barber. The latter keeps asking the dictator about Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian tyrant who was executed after a popular uprising in 1989.

An irritated Hussein asks why the barber keeps harping on the same subject.

"Because every time I do, the hair goes up on the back of your neck and it's easier to cut," comes the reply.

"Baghdad Bob" proclaims the new national bird of Iraq:.....Duck!

What do Saddam and General Custer have in common? They both want to know where the hell those Tomahawks are coming from.

How do you play Iraqi bingo? B-52, F-16, B-2, F-14. Bingo!

And my favorite.....

**"For sale:** French army rifle---Never fired..... Dropped only once."

## **WA4MOK Appointed NC SEC**

by Gary Pearce KN4AQ NC Section PIC

Bernie Nobles WA4MOK of Winterville will become the new NC ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), effective April 12th, 2003. Nobles was appointed by NC Section Manager John Covington W4CC after current SEC Dave Fleming KE4JHJ of Winston-Salem decided to step down after four years of service.

The SEC is appointed to take care of all matters pertaining to emergency communications and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in the section. The SEC generally has a statewide presence on the Tar Heel Net, nightly at 7:30 on 3923 kHz (the Tar Heel net is the official Section HF ARES net).

"I'm very pleased to be able to appoint a well-qualified person to this position," Covington said. "Bernie has served us well as the Eastern Branch Assistant SEC for four years, and served as a District EC for four years before that. He will do an outstanding job as SEC." Nobles was also Pitt County EC.

Bernie Nobles was first licensed in 1960. He is a past president of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club in Greenville (seven times), and chaired the club's Field Day effort at least 16 times, according to the club's newsletter, the Ham Chatter. Editor Dave Langley W4YDY adds that recently Nobles has been actively elmering new hams in the BARC club, running sessions on operating, setting up a station, emergency operations, antennas, demos, etc. Professionally, he is a site supervisor for the UNC Public Television system, and spends a lot of time several thousand feet in the air on towers around the state.

Outgoing SEC Dave Fleming served during two challenging disasters for ARES Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and the December 2002 ice storms, and has been involved in development of the recently completed NC RACES Guidelines. "Dave will become the Area 9 District EC, which has been a difficult position to fill. I'm glad Dave is remaining a part of the team, he has been a big contributor to ARES in many ways," Covington said.

NC Section leadership wish to thank both Dave Fleming and Bernie Nobles for their participation in ARES.

## **North Carolina Section News**

SM, John Covington, W4CC, 04/16/2003

This month I'm pleased to announce we have two new NC Section appointments. Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, of Winterville is our new Section Emergency Coordinator. Bob Lucaszewski, K4HA, of Raleigh is our new Section Traffic Manager. Bernie has served us well as the Eastern Branch Assistant SEC for four years, and served as a District EC for four years before that. He will do an outstanding job as SEC. Bob has been active on our nets as both a net control station and liaison station for quite a few years. He's well-liked and will be a fine STM.

Bernie replaces Dave Fleming, KE4JHJ of Winston-Salem. Dave is stepping down after four years of service as SEC. Dave served as SEC during two challenging disasters for ARES -- Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and the December 2002 ice storms, and has been involved in development of the recently completed NC RACES Guidelines (now available on [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org)) . Dave is now the Area 9 District EC.

Bob replaces Don Negus N0SU, of Bryson City. Don is stepping down after three years as STM and serving as Net Manager of the North Carolina Evening Net since 1998. Don also serves as Swain County Emergency Coordinator and has been very active in putting a 440 repeater on the air to cover Bryson City and Swain County.

Many thanks to the Cary ARC for sponsoring recent SKYWARN training given by Jeff Orrock of the NWS. There were 46 persons who signed the register to receive certificates later by mail. Most were hams, some

were public service folks (police, fire, rescue) and interested members of the general public. This involved some expense to the Cary ARC in securing a facility, and I commend them for taking on this responsibility to make sure that the training was available to such a large group.

The CEOs of the Coastal Carolinas Hospital Alliance (CCHA) voted recently to fund a ham radio emergency based communications system for southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina using voice and digital repeaters. This is the most geographically expansive amateur radio hospital communications system in the Americas, and the third such system undertaken in the United States. The amateur operators serving on the task force have adopted the name of CARES -- Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services. Many thanks to TC Danny Hampton, K4ITL for providing technical assistance to this project, and to Bill Morine, N2COP, chairman of the CCHA CARES Organization subcommittee, for keeping me informed. Many other hams in Wilmington, Whiteville, Clinton and other locations have been working very hard at this, and their efforts are paying off.

## **FCC Proposes To Hike Vanity Call Sign Fee**

The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 13 March 28, 2003

The FCC has proposed increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released March 26. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. The agency expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

If all goes as it has in the past, the FCC will adopt a Report and Order on the FY2003 fee schedule this summer, and the new fee will become effective sometime in early September.

The FCC NPRM also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14.50 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2003 fee schedule becomes effective. The FCC has said in the past that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes a regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Enter "03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. The FCC said it expected to have the docket available by March 28 for the posting of electronic comments.

Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov) and include the words "get form <your e-mail address>" in the message body. The ECFS will reply with a sample form and directions on filing comments.

A copy of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making is available on the FCC Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-64A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-64A1.doc)>.

## **Baghdad ham club station dismantled prior to bombing**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 14, April 4, 2003

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> relays information from Diya Sayah, YI1DZ--one of the primary operators at the Baghdad Radio Club YI1BGD station in Baghdad.

Sayah reported just prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq that he had dismantled the YI1BGD station equipment and stored it in a safe place--if there can be such a location in the besieged capital city at this point. The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, says he doubts there will be any activity in the near future from YI1BGD "much less any other YI stations." The YI1BGD club station went on the air in the 1970s. The Iraqi Association for Radio Amateurs (IARA) remains an International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society. Its president is Adnan M. Aswad, YI1DX.

## **News Story Credits Ham Radio For Aiding Maritime Rescue**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 15, April 11, 2003

According to a recent New York Times news item attributed to Agence France-Presse, unidentified ham radio operators picked up distress signals April 6 from a 114-foot missionary vessel that had experienced engine trouble during a 2000-mile journey from Kiritimati Island (also known as Christmas Island) to Kiribati in Micronesia. The ship, with 64 passengers, reportedly had run out of water and food and had begun drifting south of the equator. In response to the distress call report, a nearby US Coast Guard icebreaker, Polar Sea--which was returning from Antarctica to Arctic duty--was dispatched and succeeded in finding the drifting vessel. Coast Guard engineers reportedly repaired the engines and provided food and water for the passengers and crew. One passenger was taken off the vessel for medical treatment. The boat later proceeded under its own power to Tarawa.

## **"Enhanced SSB" Bandwidths "Extremely Inconsiderate," FCC Says**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 16, April 18, 2003

The FCC has sent advisory notices to four enthusiasts of what's become known as "enhanced SSB"--the practice of engineering transmitted single-sideband audio to approach broadcast quality. Letters went out earlier this month to amateurs in Illinois, Florida and New Jersey who are aficionados of enhanced SSB, also known as "upper wideband" and "lower wideband."

"The Commission has received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Paul Christensen, W9AC, John Anning, NU9N, Anthony Latin, W4NSG, and Sareno Salerno, W2ONV, on April 3. Hollingsworth said complaints to the FCC alleged that the bandwidths of the stations' enhanced SSB emissions were "wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"Wideband overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," Hollingsworth said. Such transmissions may violate FCC rules and may be at odds with what Hollingsworth described as "the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

Occupying more bandwidth than necessary in a heavily used amateur band, Hollingsworth wrote, not only could generate ill will among operators but lead to petitions asking the FCC to establish bandwidth limits for amateur emissions. At present, the FCC imposes no specific bandwidth limits on various amateur modes.

Hollingsworth cited §97.307(a) of the Amateur Service rules that requires the signal of an amateur station not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Some amateurs have complained that enhanced SSB signals can take up 8 kHz or more of spectrum, cause splatter and unnecessarily interfere with other stations.

"The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the Broadcast Service," Hollingsworth said, "and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound." Hollingsworth suggested the enhanced SSBers operate when the bands are less busy or on bands that are not heavily used.



The many complaints the FCC has been getting--20 or so per week--leads to the conclusion that the stations' enhanced SSB operation is having "a negative impact" on the Amateur Service, Hollingsworth said. He requested that the four amateurs "fully review the rules" and make sure their stations conform to them.