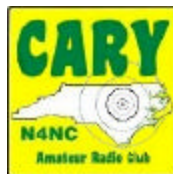


Feedline



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

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

June 2003

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 2003

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

2003 Volunteers

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

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Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

2003 Cary ARC SWAPFEST Saturday July 19th

Spread the Word!

Alf, KQ4FP, Will, K4IWW, and Herb, W3HL, have already been hard at work planning and organizing the 2003 Swapfest. Thanks guys. On the day of the fest, the rest of us club members need to be there to take on the burden.

This event will raise money for the club (maybe!), but more importantly, the Swapfest provides an opportunity for local hams to congregate and to stock up on ham radio items not available at the area Wally World.

So club members, if you are able, please plan on helping out at the Swapfest. There are always jobs that need to be done, both large and small. A contribution of even a small amount of your valuable time would be great.

Also, be sure to pass the word to any area hams that might be interested in attending or renting a table. The more the merrier.

Working together, we can make it a success.

Another one bytes the ether...

Coming Cary ARC Events

June 2003 CARC Program

Field Day- planning, commiserating, and hoping its not raining cats and dogs.

Upcoming Hamfests

July 19th, 2003 -- Cary Midsummer Swapfest—Almost here!

Cary ARC Minutes-May 22nd 2003

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The May meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, May 22nd, at the usual meeting place in the basement of the White Plains Methodist Church. The meeting was begun early with a showing of the video presentation available from the ARRL narrated by Walter Cronkite. Introductions were given, there were 14 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Reports

Treasurers report given by Herb, W3HL. The Swapfest flyer had been printed and mailed, paid in full. The deposit to the city of Cary for the Swapfest rental has been paid.

Secretaries report given by Keith, W4KAZ, minutes were reviewed.

Comments were made about the perceived success of the Durham hamfest at its new location.

Old Business

Field Day Prep—

Herb, W3HL reported that the town of Cary had granted permission for Cary ARC to use Bond Park for the 2003 Field Day event.

Will, K4IWW noted that the Satellite contact may be questionable this year, 1 satellite has been down, and he has no 440 equipment for use on other satellites.

No Tzar has yet volunteered to head the event.

NOTE: The field day prep meeting will be held at White Plains, the normal meeting place, rather than Bond Park.

Swapfest--

The idea for allowing new hams free admission was discussed. Objections were voiced.

Alf, KQ4FP, reported that ARRL has sanctioned the Swapfest, and the blurb will appear in the July QST. He also handed out additional flyers for the event.

Will, K4IWW reported that table sales were about normal, if not better, for this stage in the event planning. Also, one regular vendor has gone out of business due to illness, and will not be coming.

Parking, construction, and other items discussed.

New Business

Susan, WA4AKB, reported that QSL.NET, the site that hosts the CARC web page was seeking donations. It was moved and passed that CARC make a \$25.00 donation.

Program

The night's discussion of Broadband over power lines began after adjourning for refreshments at 8:38.

Field Day, Anyone?

Herb, W3HL

Not too much has been said about Field Day this year. We have a site - Bond Park. We have the opportunity to expose some young Radio Amateurs to what the real capabilities of what our skills can do. You know, turning an empty, sylvan park into a functioning, two-way communications center is quite a feat. It takes some work and lots of cooperation, but the satisfaction always seems to be worth it.

One thing we definitely need is a Field Day Czar. The Czar doesn't do any work. He or she merely does the planning. Everyone else falls into line and does whatever the Czar asks. Hmhmhmhmhmhm!!!

Let us see what kind of effort we can put forth for FD 2003.

The planning meeting will be at the White Plains U.M.C., 313 SE Maynard Rd., Cary, Thursday, June 26, 2003, at 7:31 p.m.

See you there. 73 Herb, W3HL

Remote Radio Tuning Dials Via PC Multimedia Controllers

Kaz, W4KAZ

Apparently the "music morphing" crowd has a PC peripheral device called a "multimedia controller", which to a radio amateur, looks like good candidate for a remote tuning dial. The devices I've found are programmable for keyboard shortcuts. Seems to me they could just as easily be programmed for Writelog as for mixing music. Well, why not use them for rig control? Ain't Ham radio just another media?

I pulled this idea from the Elecraft reflector, where it was posted by K4WTF as a question on a remote tuning knob for the Elecraft K2. It seems to me that these devices could easily be used as a remote tuning knob by anybody using any sort of windows based rig control software. I have Writelog, and it seems to me that these devices should be easy to program for use with that program. DOS based program users might be out of luck.....

The buttons and commands are programmable to send Windows keyboard shortcuts, and it seems that many of the logging programs provide such shortcuts. I'm sure the look and feel is different from the tuning dial of your own personal "bestest-ever-ham-radio", but it might work for some. TenTec currently markets a remote tuning dial for its own transceivers (mostly for Pegasus), so somebody out there must want this feature. There well may be a niche for a remote tuning dial. I've provided links to two products. One of these has lots of buttons available for programming too.

Even if the peripheral drivers are insufficient, Jay, NT4D, suggests that someone might be able to use a secondary bit of software, like Insight Software's MacroExpress to overcome these problems.

Just the thing for the search-and-pounce contester who wants to keep his itchy finger on the trigger, eh?

<http://www.contourdesign.com/shuttlepro/index.htm>

<http://www.griffintechnology.com/products/powermate/index.html>

Life on the Mote

Kaz, W4KAZ

A climatologist speaks---and woe unto the "global warming" political lobby. Oh, the trials and tribulations of living on a planet in orbit of a 4 percent variable star!

How's the reception on 160? If its good, does that mean we are experiencing "global cooling"?

http://www.co2science.org/edit/v6_edit/v6n22edit.htm

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Nextel trademarks “Push To Talk”

Kaz, W4KAZ

Yep, you read that correctly. The US Patent and Trademark office approved a trademark for Nextel for both previously widely used public domain communications terms “Push to Talk” and “PTT”. That happened today, as I write this, Friday June 20th.

Okay, so if we can't say “push to talk” anymore, lets have a contest for a good replacement. Best new term to replace “PTT” wins \$1.00 USD, payable in pennies! Count 'em, 100 pennies! Hey, you might still get five or six gumballs for that kinda dough, so put your thinking hats on for this one. Submit ideas to the CARC e-mail list for public harassment....keep it clean!

I'll take on the easy ones....Thumb to talk(TTT), prestodigitate to talk(ohno! That's PTT too!), Button and Talk(BAT), Depress and Blabber (DAB), Squeeze and Wheeze(SAW), Push, Merely Speak(PMS)ah, heck, you get the idea. How about lets just all use VOX instead?

Hey, quick, call patents and trademarks!!!!!!!!!!!!

http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/ir_site.zhtml?ticker=NXTL&script=410&layout=-6&item_id=424319

Nextel gets competition.

PTT cell phones will become more widely available. Dang, just when they finally got that trademark registered on a public domain term, here comes the danged competition, horning in on their turf... There should be a law! The nerve!

<http://www.washtimes.com/business/20030604-104126-4777r.htm>

Aluminum foil Helmut, anyone?

Kaz, W4KAZ

With cheap RFID tags ready to make a big rollout in stores nationwide, one begins to wonder if perhaps George Orwell had any idea how accurate he might have been. Clothing makers are all set to begin incorporating the tags within the clothing, giving you a chance to spout RFID signals 24/7/365. Gone are the days that the tag needs to be affixed to a label. No, today's tags are small enough to be permanently woven into the garment, so that you will be able to take it with you wherever you go. Cute, huh?

On the other hand, is carrying aluminum foil a crime? Might not a roll of aluminum foil play havoc with a retailers RFID inventory? Imagine getting a phone call from the police saying that your teenager was arrested for “wrapping store items in aluminum foil”. Will that become a “crime” and be prosecuted as vandalism? Perhaps aluminum foil can become a controlled item, to keep the paranoids from walking about wrapped in it?

Hmmmmmm. If the tags cost a quarter apiece, do I really want to pay that new “inventory tax” on small items?

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030609-122709-8176r.htm>

60 Meter FAQ

Kaz, W4KAZ

For those of you who have downloaded and installed the Orion firmware upgrade to allow your brand new Orion to operate on 60 meters, or who have the knowledge and inclination to make the mods to your rig yourselves, or can get to 60 meters via some other means, the ARRL has posted a list of frequently asked questions on 60 meter operations that may interest you.

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty>
what the FCC rules say:

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq.html#sidebar>

June 2003 -- Cary ARC Feedline

Mother of all HT's

Kaz, W4KAZ

Well, I understand you can see such every year. I've linked to what is described as the "Mother of all HT's", and by gosh, they might be right. The Dayton Hamvention had bad weather this year, and attendance dropped again slightly. Icom introduced a radio, the IC-7800, which will be priced in the \$8000.00 USD range. Maybe I'll buy five.....HA!

Anyway, here's the MOAHT:

<http://members.cox.net/n7uyc/images/Dayton03/Brads/P5160030.jpg>

and you can see more Dayton 2003 photos here:

<http://www.hamvention.org/2003.htm>

ARRL Addresses Concerns, Unveils "Logbook Of The World" At Hamvention

One day of rain failed to dampen spirits at Hamvention 2003, and the weekend was full of friendship, new products, haggling, learning and fun. An estimated 25,000 attendees inhabited the Hara Arena complex near Dayton, Ohio, for the largest gathering of hams in the Western Hemisphere.

The ARRL's concession buzzed with activity throughout the long weekend, as members took advantage of the chance to meet with League officers, field volunteers and Headquarters staff members, ask questions, buy books and other products, and, of course, to offer comments. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said many questions centered around two topics: the new 5 MHz allocation and broadband over power line (BPL).

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, addressed a large audience attending the ARRL forum May 17. Haynie fielded questions that centered on the health and future of Amateur Radio and homed in on youth recruitment in particular. Haynie gave an overview of the ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology Program <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>>, which puts ham radio resources, equipment and a curriculum into classrooms at no cost to schools. He also touched on League activities regarding BPL and spectrum defense <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html>>.

Wielding stacks of QSLs, more than 150 applicants took advantage of the on-site the ARRL DXCC card-checking booth. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, estimated that checkers reviewed more than 16,000 cards in just over two days' time. ARRL volunteers and staff also participated in a number of special-interest forums, with topics including DX, regulations, contesting, digital modes, youth education, RFI, and advanced technologies.

At the DX forum May 17, Mills formally introduced the long-awaited Logbook of the World (LOTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>> to the amateur public. The secure server system allows participating operators to upload logs and confirm contacts for ARRL operating awards such as DXCC and WAS. The system will remain open for public beta testing through July 15, Mills said.

New product announcements are a big part of the Dayton experience, with 2003 proving no exception. Among the scores of offerings, ICOM unveiled the feature-filled IC-7800, heir apparent to its high-end IC-781. The IC-7800 is expected to be available by year's end. Elsewhere, Ten-Tec showed off its new Titan III amplifier, while Elecraft introduced its new series of VHF transverters.

At the TAPR Digital Forum, Gerald Youngblood, AC5OG, peered into the future of ham transceivers when he presented a fully software-defined radio that puts out 1 W of RF from the LF range to 60 MHz. Programming defines nearly every aspect of the radio, opening up the possibility of customizing the operating experience for different combinations of bands, modes and conditions.

FCC corrects comment, reply comment dates in BPL proceeding

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 23, June 6, 2003

The FCC says comment and reply comment deadlines in its Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104) published May 23 in the Federal Register were incorrect. In a correction issued June 3, the FCC announced that comments from the public in this proceeding are due on or before July 7, 2003. Reply comments are due on or before August 6, 2003.

NorCal, NJQRP Merge To Form American QRP Club

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 23, June 6, 2003

The NorCal QRP Club and the New Jersey QRP Club have joined forces, effective June 4, to form The American QRP Club. A larger, more comprehensive single journal, The Homebrewer, will replace QRPp and QRP Homebrewer.

The new club already has begun to consolidate kitting operations as well, and a new Web site <<http://www.a-qrp.org>> is in the offing. Continuing will be the two QRP forums, Atlanticon and Pacificon, and the NJQRP and NorCal will continue to plan and execute their respective forums, funded via the American QRP Club. Detailed information is available on the American QRP Club's temporary Web site <<http://www.njqrp.org/a-qrp/index.html>>.

Well-Known Contester, DXer Dies In Fall From Tower

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 25, June 20, 2003

Well-known contester and DXer Steve Miller, N8SM (ex-WD8IXE), of Prosper, Texas, died June 15 as a result of a fall while working on his Amateur Radio tower. He was 38. An ARRL member, Miller had extensive experience in tower work and antenna installation. With the assistance of several other hams, Miller had erected a 136-foot tower on his property and installed several antennas as part of his overall effort to build a competitive contesting station.

Details of the mishap that claimed Miller's life are not available. According to unofficial accounts, Miller had been working on his tower the morning of June 15, and, after a lunch break, told his wife, Radhicar, that he had another hour's work left. Later, she heard a noise from the yard and found her husband lying on the ground. Miller's wife called 911, but the rescue squad was unable to revive him.

ARRL antenna guru Dean Straw, N6BV--who had corresponded with Miller on several topics--was among those expressing shock and sadness at his death. "Steve was always most responsive, and he always had the most intelligent comments and questions concerning whatever technical topic we were discussing," said Straw. "I will miss his innate, contagious enthusiasm."

First licensed as WD8IXE in 1977 at the age of 12, Miller--an Ohio native--enjoyed contesting and DXing. He was routinely active during the CW weekends of the CQ World Wide, ARRL International DX and ARRL November Sweepstakes events. He also operated as J68AG from St Lucia in the Caribbean and participated in a few DXpeditions, including several stints as a member of the J6DX team in the 1980s and 1990s. He was an ARRL DXCC Honor Roll member, with 332 entities confirmed (mixed).

In addition to ARRL, Miller belonged to the North Texas Contest Club <<http://www.qsl.net/ntcc/>> and 10-10 International <<http://www.ten-ten.org/>>. Besides ham radio, he enjoyed playing jazz saxophone. An Ohio State graduate, Miller worked for Texas Instruments as part of its broadband wireless access group in Dallas. Survivors include his wife and their young daughter. A memorial service was held June 19.

(Editors note.....This doesn't say what sort of accident happened, but its always worth while to keep safety as the most important goal. It would be helpful to know more details, so that others might take heed if the accident were preventable. But that's just my opinion.....W4KAZ)