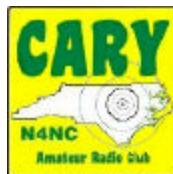


Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

February 2004

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 2004

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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
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Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

Springtime is right around the corner—trust me! Don't trust your lyn' eyes, seein' snow still lurking in the shadows!

Several fun springtime activities related to radio come to mind right away. First, the calendar is once again populated with various Hamfests/swapmeets/flea markets, both local and regional. Coming up right away are hamfests in Richmond, Va, Elkin, Charlotte, Kinston and Raleigh. What better way to spend a weekend than perusing aisles of electronic parts and schmoozing with radio vendors? Who knows, you might just find that gizmo you have been seeking.

Also, this is the best time of year for hanging wire in trees, for those who have the space, the trees, the lack of alternatives(no tower!), and the inclination. It is always easier to get support lines into a good oak, maple, hickory, or poplar after the leaves have been raked and before next year's crop gets past the bud stage. If all you have is pine—make the best of it, and put something up if you don't have anything!

Thanks to Gary Pierce, KN4AQ, for an excellent summary and presentation on BPL in January. The presentation happened to be given on the same day that area ham's had been out into the field during a local Progress Energy BPL test.

Gary has written an article that does a great job summarizing this information in the February 2004 SERA repeater Journal. I highly recommend his article for anyone who missed the January meeting.

Ain't that new Cary Community center parking garage purty? Rows and rows of COVERED Swapfest Tailgating? One can hope so.

Another one bytes the ether....

Coming Cary ARC Events

Cary ARC Meeting – February 26th

Other Upcoming Events

Contest season—CQ160 SSB, 2/28, 0000Z thru 2/29, 2359Z

Contest season—ARRL International DX(SSB) contest, 3/6, 0000z thru 3/7 2359z

Contest season—CQ WW WPX SSB contest, 3/27, 0000z thru 3/28 2359z

Upcoming Hamfests

Charlotte Hamfest, 3/13-3/14

Kinston Downeast hamfest, 3/21

ARRL Frequency Measure Test

Kaz, W4KAZ

3,585,383.7 Hz? 7,050,409.9 Hz? 14,050,075.7 Hz? 21,053,399.1 Hz?

Well, if you tuned in during last year's Frequency measuring tests, that's what you should have recorded. 213 logs were submitted, and seven people copied all four bands within +/-1ppm.

The skillful seven: **K3YZ, KG4TWQ, KR4M, N9AB, VE2IQ, VE3OAT** and **WA2IKL**.

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/PrelimfmtRsts03.pdf>

Q Signals We'd Like To See

Forwarded by Jay, NT4D, original source anonymous

Q-SIGNAL	AS A QUESTION	AS AN ANSWER OR STATEMENT
QBA	How big is your antenna?	My antenna is BIG!
QBO	Can you spare some soap?	Don't sit next to that guy!
QBS	May I tell you about my DX?	It's getting deep here.
QCW	Shall I whistle Morse Code?	Please whistle Morse Code(on SSB)
QDR	Do you have a Dead Receiver?	Damn Right the frequency is busy!
QET	Shall I phone hom?	Please phone home.
QFH	Is this frequency hogged?	This frequency is MINE!
QLF	You sending with your left foot?	I am sending with my left foot.
QPP	Do you need to take a break?	I have to go to the bathroom!
QZZ?	Are you asleep?	I am very tired, good night!

BPL-Coming To A Street Corner Near You

Kaz, W4KAZ

I noticed in today's (2/23) FCC "Notice of Public Rule Making" that the term "cumulative effect" is used a grand total of once. At least somebody at the FCC recognizes that it **might just** be an issue. Well, overall, the NPRM is probably bad news, but it will likely take several years to fully manifest itself as a bad thing. Isn't it interesting that the rollout of BPL just so happens to coincide with the decline in the sunspot cycle? Maybe we will be saved by an alternative technology before it takes hold in the marketplace.

250 milliwatts here, 250 milliwatts there—pretty soon we are talking about a bit of power. Gonna be tough when the 10 meter skip, from those heavily populated urban areas, is coming your way(say-like from California maybe?). All 'dem dere milliwatts are gonna radiate to somewhere when the sunspots are right—any QRP'er can tell you that.

The bottom line is that the FCC intends to make Part 15 emission standards apply to BPL, and their NPRM document outlines measurement guidelines as well. At least the utilities can't legally jack up the power.

I don't recall the issue of "legality" stopping truckers on 10 meters, but hey, who's counting? Read em and weep:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf

BPL-Speaking Of Interference.....

Kaz, W4KAZ

Gary Pierce, KN4AQ, made an excellent presentation to Cary ARC (and the general public) in place of the normal meeting for January. Several area hams had spent that very day getting an up-close-and-personal chance to hear the RFI at one of the Progress test sites. Progress Energy employees met with these guys and observed the interference issue first hand.

The SERA Repeater Journal has a great article by Gary which summarizes what they found. There's a shorter summary on the ARRL website at:

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/features/2004/01/20/1/?nc=1>

I Should Be So Lucky

Forwarded by Jay, NT4D

from the WPVI website: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/news/112803-bb-fall.html>

“(Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska-AP) -- You might not consider breaking a leg to be too lucky. But Ray Hull sure does. He's a cell phone worker who fell 250 feet from a transmission tower earlier this week.

The accident occurred in Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, where Hull and several other workers were putting up a Nextel tower. A crane cable snapped and the top of the tower toppled, taking Hull with it.

He fell about 220 feet before his safety harness kicked in. He was just 30 feet off the ground -- when the belt on the harness broke. He fell the rest of the way, breaking two bones in his right leg.

His brother Jimmy calls Ray's close call "a miracle."

Worked Any Pileups Lately?

Kaz, W4KAZ

No, no, not DX or contest pile-ups. I'm talking about the "work area" in your shack. I know this is not what is meant by the term "pile-up" as applied to amateur radio—but I'm forced to admit that my own area is somewhat less than organized, and I am sure that I have heard my spouse use the terms "pile" and "up" used to describe my own situation. I'm sure this idea is absolutely abhorrent to those of you who are more organized, but it seems to be more widespread a condition than I had imagined. Lots of entries for "messiest shack" at the website link. Take a look, you might find that by comparison, you are actually a "neat freak". Might be handy to show the spouse next time I start taking flak.....

<http://www.crystalradio.net/bench/>

<http://www.rmcgraphics.com/workshop.htm>

Predicted Solar Activity

Kaz, W4KAZ

Here's a nice solar activity report that contains predictions for the minimum in the current sunspot cycle to bottom out in about 3 years around January 2007. Buried on page 12 is the pertinent graph, showing the smoothed sunspot numbers graphed, with the predicted numbers extrapolated through 2008.

So hike up those inverted-L's and tune 'em up for low-band! Don't forget yer radials....Remember—low and inefficient antennas work better than NO antennas.

<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1479.pdf>

Small contest logs?

Kaz, W4KAZ

Worked a couple of contacts in a contest, but did not want to hassle with creating a cabrillo log for filing with the contest? The below website has links to several contest(with more to come), and has java based forms to allow you to key the entries and generate a cabrillo file.

This is a good idea, as it might be a great method for a casual DX'er to create cabrillo files for use with ARRL's Logbook of the Work.

<http://b4h.net/cabforms/>