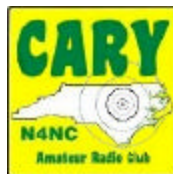


# Feedline



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

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

March 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.

The FEEDLINE newsletter is published monthly by the Cary Amateur Radio Club. Permission is granted for reproduction in whole or in part to all ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs, provided credit is given to the Cary Amateur Radio Club and to the author of the reproduced material. All other permissions for use should be obtained by contacting the editor in writing.

### CARC Officers for 2004

**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--  
**Listsrv admin:** Will Harper, K4IWW  
**Website admin:** Susan Jones, WA4AKB

### CARC Contact Information

**Mailing Address:**  
Cary ARC  
P.O. Box 53  
Cary, NC 27512  
**E-mail:** n4nc@arrl.net  
**Web site:** <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>

## Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

Well, the Charlotte hamfest had quite a good turn-out in the flea-market area this year. Lots of odds-n-ends, lots of HF gear, lots of HT's, lots of miscellaneous do-dads, and enough computer gear to nearly fill the flea market hall completely. The vendor area was comparable to last year's turnout, and there were enough hams present to make some aisles pleasantly overcrowded.

It's more fun to go to a hamfest when there's a crowd.

Hamfests coming up soon are the **RARSfest on April 4<sup>th</sup>**. **Dayton Hamvention May 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2004**.

There have also been several new "toys" put out recently from several sources. At Charlotte, I got to twiddle the knobs on the new Kenwood 480, which interestingly comes in two flavors: a 200-watt higher power version, or a 100-watt version that includes an auto-tuner. It will be interesting to see which is more popular with buyers. These versions are available in the \$1200.00 USD, "moderate" price range.

For those who might be interested in the 200 watt TS-480, but really want the convenience of an auto-tuner, MFJ has a new 300 watt auto-tuner available, the MFJ-993 "Intellituner". This tuner boasts dual cross-needle meters AND digital readout, and has a "6-1600" ohm tuning range, and both coax and balanced feeder outputs. MSRP is \$259.00USD.

Icom has received FCC type acceptance for its new IC-7800 HF rig. It is expected to be offered for purchase priced "below \$11,000.00 USD". Hmmmmmm....

Well -- I think I'll buy a real antenna first.

Another one bytes the ether.....

## Coming Cary ARC Events

### Cary ARC Meeting – Thursday March. 25th

Regular business meeting at 7:31pm

**Program** : Amateur Antenna Modeling-A basic review with examples using "EZNEC", by W4KAZ

## Other Upcoming Events

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

## Upcoming Hamfests

Kinston Downeast hamfest, 3/21 <http://www.downeasthamfest.org/>

RARSFEST, 4/4/2004 <http://rtpnet.org/~rars/hamfest/>

Dayton Hamvention 5/14-16<sup>th</sup>/2004 <http://www.hamvention.org/>

## BPL NPRM – Comment Deadlines Set For BPL Rules Changes

Kaz, W4KAZ

The *NPRM* (FCC-speak for “Notice of Public Rule Making”)text appeared March 17 in *The Federal Register*, so the deadline for comments is going to be May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, and the deadline for reply comments is going to be June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The ARRL is planning to file comments, and its probably a good idea to read the *NPRM* thoroughly if you intend to file comments.

As we have an interest at stake, its probably a good idea to read the *NPRM* whether you intend to comment or not. You will also probably find it necessary to cross reference against FCC rules Part 15 to figure out the meaning of the rules changes, to put them into context.

Quoting ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the League recommends that members read the *NPRM* and develop their own thoughtful, considered comments that specifically address the FCC's BPL proposals, reflect positively on the amateur community and, if possible, offer alternative recommendations.

"It's important to remember four things," Sumner said. "First, this is not a proceeding to 'permit' or 'authorize' BPL. BPL is already permitted under the existing Part 15 rules."

"Second, the *NPRM* reaffirms the important principle that licensed services must be protected from harmful interference and are not required to protect BPL systems; this is good, but we can't take it for granted nor can we assume that the principle will be honored in practice."

"Third," Sumner continued, "the *NPRM* proposes additional, new constraints on BPL to protect licensed services. The FCC did not go far enough, but at least the proposals aim in the right direction."

"Finally, while we continue to believe firmly that BPL is a very bad idea, arguing that the FCC should 'ban BPL' will not get us anywhere." Instead, Sumner said, amateurs must document beyond any doubt the levels of protection that must be given to over-the-air services, then leave it for others to decide whether BPL is feasible within those limits.

"We need to prove that the risk of interference is significantly greater than the BPL proponents say it is," he said. "There is far more evidence of that now than there was when the FCC opened its *Notice of Inquiry* last April."

*NPRM* document: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc)

## Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.xx

Kaz, W4KAZ

Okay, amateur radio this ain't—but I have not let that stop me before! Besides, it directly effects how you might be viewing this very document(for all three of you that actually read it). I recommend that folks consider upgrading to version 6.01 of Adobe's Acrobat reader. This version has some new features that make it worth the bloated disk space. The feature that I like best is the improved "text search" user interface. It now provides a panel of hypertext links to matches. Quite handy for searching PDF manuals.

It also has a "read out loud" feature for use by the blind. The text reader has a bit of a robotic sound, but is actually very easy to grow accustomed to.

As you might expect, there's a catch—it's a big fat program, and it requires a good bit of resources to run. Acrobat Reader 6.0(windows) requires Intel Pentium, 32mb minimum ram, 60mb of disk space, and internet explorer 5.01 for windows installations(win 98se, win200, win NT, or XP)

Link: [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

## S-9? S-5? 20 over S-9?

Kaz, W4KAZ

Ever wonder just exactly how closely your S-meter was to getting an S-9 reading at 50 microvolt levels? Well, if you really want to find out, Elecraft has been selling a small kit to do the job. At only \$39.00 USD you can get the Elecraft **XG1 Receiver Test Oscillator/S-Meter Calibrator**. This kit will produce a 50 microvolt[50  $\mu$ V (-73 dBm)] or 1 microvolt[1  $\mu$ V (-107 dBm)] test signal on 7.040Kc. The kit has a high accuracy[+/- 2dBm] reference signal into 50 ohms, and is diode protected against low powered accidental transmits. It comes with a BNC connector, so you would need to modify that or use an adapter.

Just the thing to see how closely the trusty old S-meter matches the 50  $\mu$ V "standard" for S-9. I'm surprised no one has marketed one of these before now. I've always been curious.

Any body wanna make a wager on the accuracy of their meters? I sure don't....

See: <http://www.elecraft.com/>

## Say What?

Kaz, W4KAZ

Well this will be pretty darned cool if they can pull it off. NASA has developed a computer program that can monitor "subauditory" neurological impulse via sensors below the chin and beside a persons Adam's apple. The program can monitor what a person is "speaking", even if the subject makes no sound.

Apparently when a person reads silently or talks to himself, signals are still sent down the nerve endings to the voice box. This program recognizes and monitors those signals. The hard part is translating the signals into useful data(or speech). The experimental system is very limited, but proved the technique.

Cool.

<http://amesnews.arc.nasa.gov/releases/2004/subvocal/subvocal.html>

[http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&u=/afp/20040317/sc\\_afp/us\\_space\\_health\\_science\\_040317232804&e=2&ncid=1540](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&u=/afp/20040317/sc_afp/us_space_health_science_040317232804&e=2&ncid=1540)