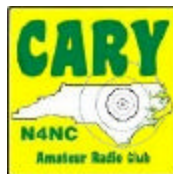


# Feedline



www.qsl.net/n4nc/  
N4NC at arrl dot net

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

July 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

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

### 2004 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

### 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

## 2004 Cary ARC SWAPFEST Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>

## Spread the Word!

This Cary ARC sponsored event provides an opportunity for local hams to congregate and to stock up on ham radio items not available at the area Wally World or Blue-Light-Special. Just surveying the wide variety radio gizmos is a lot of fun.

Pre-paid table reservations are going well, and the 2004 Swapfest will likely again be a sellout. Looking really good! Financially, we might even break even again.

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

### Cary ARC Meeting – Thursday July 15th

Regular business meeting at 7:31pm

**Program :** *Swapfest—Swapfest—Swapfest....*

### Cary Swapfest – Saturday July 17th

## Other Upcoming Events

**Contest season**—Summer NAQP CW- August 14<sup>th</sup> weekend

Summer NAQP SSB August 21<sup>st</sup> weekend

## Upcoming Hamfests

### Cary Midsummer SWAPFEST

Third Saturday in July! (That's Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 2004) COVERED

PARKING means COVERED TAILGATING! NO RAINOUTS!

AIR CONDITIONED INDOOR AREA!

<http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/swapfest.html>

**West Carolina ARS Hamfest** July 24<sup>th</sup>, Haywood County fair grounds

For details see: <http://www.wcars.org/hamfest/index.htm>

**Shelby Hamfest “Grand-daddy of them All”** --September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004

For details, see <http://shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>

## Cary ARC Minutes-June 24<sup>th</sup> 2004 Meeting

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The June meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, at the usual meeting place in the basement of the White Plains Methodist Church.

### Reports:

**Secretary Report-** Keith, W4KAZ briefly reviewed May minutes.

**Treasurer report-** Herb, W3HL, gave a brief review of the financial standing. He noted that final payment for the Swapfest mailing, and final payment to Town of Cary for rental of the Swapfest had both been disbursed.

### Old Business

#### Swapfest

Swapfest 2004 discussion began with reports from Larry, KD4HSL, and Herb, W3HL on Swapfest marketing at the Durham hamfest. Keith, W4KAZ, reported on marketing at the Winston-Salem hamfest.

Will, K4IWW noted that table sales were brisk, better than 2003(which was a sellout). Paid reservations are looking good.

Herb, W3HL, reported that food items will be limited to biscuits (ham and sausage), drinks, and snack items. The outside group doing the food vending took a loss on burgers and hotdogs in 2003.

Larry, KD4HSL, presented a proposal for purchasing new signs, based on the new traffic patterns associated with the parking deck. Herb, reported the pricing quotes he had obtained on the suggested signs, and the club agreed to this one time expense.

### New Business

**Field Day**—Herb, W3HL reported that the Bond park site had been given the okay by the Town of Cary. However, due to several members having other plans, there were not enough human resources available and committed to manning a 24-hour operation and the Cary ARC decided not to attempt to operate a station in 2004.

### Announcements

**Field Day**—No station for 2004

### Program

Will, K4IWW, delivered a presentation on the National Traffic System, explaining its structure and purpose.

## Ladder Line – Actual Impedance Measurements

Kaz, W4KAZ

This may be of some interest to you ladder line aficionados. Wes, N7WS, has published on-line his article “Balanced Lines in Current Amateur Practice” which also appears in the sixth “Antenna Compendium”. This apparently is a work still in progress for Wes, as he has additional information posted on his website relating to his techniques and including additional information. He’s done great work quantifying and tabulating the actual impedances and velocity factor of commonly available 450 and 300-ohm ladder lines.

Hopefully, the cable and wire vendors who serve the Amateur market will pick up on this information, and check with Wes that they might include it on their own websites. Until then, Wes has done the Amateur community a service by making his findings available directly.

The manuscript:

[http://users.triconet.org/wesandlinda/ladder\\_line.pdf](http://users.triconet.org/wesandlinda/ladder_line.pdf)

The addendums and discussion:

<http://users.triconet.org/wesandlinda/ladder.htm>

## FCC Sets New Vanity Fee Start Date: August 6, 2004

ARRL webpage <http://www.remote.arrl.org/>

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$20.80 for the 10-year license term will go into effect August 6. Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$16.30 fee per vanity call sign application received by FCC until the new fee goes into effect. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$162,000 from 7800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2004. See the FCC's annual Report and Order (Docket MD04-73) for details on their assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2004.

## BPL News

Kaz, W4KAZ

In a positive sign, at least one utility has recognized that the current state of the art BPL systems are not ready for deployment in the real world.

Alliant Energy, In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has decided to end its BPL tests. Their company spokesman cited “regulatory uncertainty” and other “unspecified technical issues”

So, nobody is yet admitting that current BPL systems producing 20 over 9 interference is “harmful”, but it would seem that the rosy pictures being painted by the BPL industry blowhards, fact-spinners, and advocates, are beginning to lose some of their blush when applied in real world settings.

Well—duh-uh.

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/06/28/2/?nc=1>

## Echo Launched Successfully

Kaz, W4KAZ

OSCAR 51 ("Echo") is a new microsat-class satellite launched by AMSAT-NA, June 29, 2004, and is in the process of being commissioned and will be available for amateur access shortly! AO-51 cost \$110,000 to launch, which AMSAT-NA guaranteed by borrowing money from dedicated funds.

About AMSAT: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>

About “Echo”: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/>

Echo FAQ: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/EchoFAQ.php>

Oscar 51 photos: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/photos.php>

Just in case you forgot the.....

## Cary Midsummer Swapfest

Kaz, W4KAZ

This year the Cary Midsummer Swapfest will be “new and improved”. The town of Cary has completed some of its construction on the Swapfest site (North Academy Street in Cary), and the Swapfest facilities will be enhanced with the availability of the new multi-storied parking deck. Besides providing much needed nearby parking, the new deck will make tailgating more comfortable because it will be held in a newly completed **on-site covered parking area**. So, rain or shine, the tailgate transactions can go on.

Have some Swapfest fun and an eyeball QSO or two at the 2004 Cary Swapfest!

- **Doors open at 8:00 am.**
- **Admission is \$5.00** at the door
- Exams will be given at 10am
  - Walk-in only
  - Picture id required
  - Current original license required (and any CSCEs if applicable)
  - Fee is \$12
- Swapfest **talk in on 146.28/88**
- **New improved Parking/tailgating** in a covered parking deck (8 foot height limitation)
- Outdoor flea market will be on the lowest level of the parking deck.
  - Outdoor flea market spaces are first come-first served - not available before 6am the day of the swapfest
  - Outdoor flea market spaces are \$5.00 per parking space plus the \$5.00 admission ticket.
- Indoor Flea Market
  - **Air-conditioned !!!**
  - 6 foot tables, \$10.00 each
  - Inside setup available 6:30pm -9:30pm on Friday, July 16 and 6am - 8am on Saturday, July 17.
  - Contact n4nc at arrl dot net for more information
- Refreshments available at the ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest

CARC Swapfest flyer: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/CARCflyer.gif>

CARC Swapfest map: [http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/Cary\\_Fest\\_map1.jpg](http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/Cary_Fest_map1.jpg)

