

Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club
N4NC

May 2002

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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Vice Pres. Clare Owens, N2RJB
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Treasurer Susan Jones, WA4AKB

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Swapfest Czar: Alf Johnson, KQ4FP
Field Day Czar: Herb Lacey, W3HL
Listserv admin: Will Harper, K4IWW
Website admin: Susan Jones, WA4AKB

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Pheedline Phun Phacts

“Well, Gawww-LEE!”

I feel compelled to quote Gomer Pyle, because on opening the current issue of QST, I could not help but notice the advertisement for a SUBMERSIBLE HT! I just gotta wonder who’s gonna be able to key up a repeater from the shallow end of the YMCA pool.

The June QST inside back cover is a full page ad for a new HT from Yaesu, the VX-7R. “Submersible to 3 feet, for 30 minutes.” Well, that could well help somebody handle inclement weather, but I don’t know that you would want it in your swimsuit pocket.

If we are to believe the ad, it sports dual band receive, and over 900 memories, which appear to be grouped. I don’t see where it can receive SSB, but it can transmit 300 mw on 220, making it a sawed off four-bander with five watts on 50/144/440.

Sounds like the Kenwood TH-F6A still has a “feature” advantage, and the price appears comparable. Perhaps we should wait until the expert users weigh in....

I also see that the Icom-746 is being listed as “discontinued”, and selling for right at \$1000.00. Just in case anybody is considering it, now might be the time to buy.....or wait for the next generation.

Here’s a great idea....buy those rigs at the Cary Swapfest. And the coax, connectors, ground wires, switches too. Maybe pick up or unload a boat anchor, something to give your shack that “eerie blue glow”. Yep, the Swapfest is right around the corner, so take a look around the QTH. There may be somebody out there looking to acquire that pile of junk... er, “nostalgic semiconductor-challenged equipment”.

Well, you can probably give it away.....but try to give it away at the Swapfest!

2002_04_25 Minutes

Kaz, W4KAZ for Lee, N2AJF

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:42 pm by the Vice President, Clare, N2RJB.

Minutes from the prior meeting (Skywarn training) were not read and the treasurer's report was unchanged.

There was no discussion old business.

New Business:

Swapfest.

- Alf announced that the Swapfest had received ARRL approval.
- The directions have been finalized.
- There was a discussion on the door prize to be offered. Prices for dual band mobiles and HT's will be investigated, but not final decision was reached. It was generally agreed that the same amount spent in 2001 should be committed to the door prize for 2002.
- It was reported that the facilities for the Swapfest have been reserved by Will, K4IWW

Field Day

- Herb brought up a question as to whether we should attempt to find a new location for the field day event, due to the rules change introducing the new "GOTA" station. These rules changes are designed to encourage participating clubs to invite inactive hams and other interested groups to participate.
- No viable alternative to Bond Park was discussed. Herb will contact town officials about using the Bond Park location.
- A full discussion of Field Day and the rules changes for 2002 will be conducted during the May meeting.
- The Meeting adjourned for refreshments at 8:22.

Clare, N2RJB presented the evening's program, J-pole construction. Several antenna's were constructed amid much teasing of coaxial braid (nyah, nyah!).

Swapfest? What Swapfest?

CARY 30TH ANNUAL CARY MID-SUMMER
SWAPFEST
SATURDAY JULY 20, 2002 - DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 AM
TALK-IN ON 145.39 -- TICKETS \$5.00 (ADVANCE \$4.00)
DEALERS, PRIZES, EXAMINATIONS
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM (POSTMARK BY JULY 9, 2002)
Name _____ Pre-registration tickets @ \$4.00 ea \$ _____
Address _____ Tables (6') @ \$10.00 ea \$ _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
Call _____
Mail to: Cary Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 53, Cary, NC 27512
INCLUDE S.A.S.E. (No S.A.S.E - Tickets held at door)

What? The Cary ARC Summer Swapfest

When? Saturday, July 20th, 2002 -- Doors open at 8:00am

Where? Downtown Cary Community Center (The Herb C. Young Community Center) 404 North Academy Street, at the corner of North Academy and Chapel Hill Road, adjacent to the Town Hall Campus

Who?

All Amateur radio enthusiasts are cordially invited to buy, sell, shop, trade, take upgrade exams, mingle and generally have a good time.

The Amateur's Code Installment

Reprinted by permission from June 2000 BARC Ham Chatter
(<http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/hc/hc0006.html>)

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M Segal, W9EEA in 1928. Every other one of the six elements of the code will be covered. The Code is a good guide for good Amateur Radio practice and for other aspects of our life. The third element is ...

The Radio Amateur is:

Progressive... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

Amateur Radio is a technical activity. Many will use the word "hobby", but it goes much further than that. It originated with people wanting to transmit and receive radio signals more effectively - it was more of science and experimentation than just getting on the air and "talking". The progressive nature of AR is what in many professions is called continuing education. We as technicians should be aware of the progress of technology of AR and use the advances to better our operating practices and equipment.

Spark gap may be our heritage, but it would not be tolerated on the airwaves today. Just as AM gave way to SSB, the inclusion of computer technology such as DSP, digital modes, and computer-controlled radios are moving AR ahead. The BARC meeting programs are an effort to keep our members aware of advances in AR, and it is important that our members be part of that effort by giving presentations. Elmers should impart to their "Elmerees" the changes that are occurring. Professionals are expected to read the literature and so our reading of ham magazines such as: QST, CQ, 73, etc is a valuable way of keeping up even with some of the areas we don't normally participate in. Take part in the training sessions at hamfests or upgrade your license to be more aware of the more complex technology. Progress may even include boning up on what we may have learned in the past. It sounds like ARRL is attempting to come up with formalizing the continuing education concept. The opportunities are endless.

In any walk of life it is important to know what's happening and AR is no exception - be progressive, keep learning. - K4MHM

June Birthdays

CARC wishes a happy birthday to our "June kids"

June 14 K4IWW Will Harper

June 27 W4KAZ Keith Zeringue

Phield Day Phun Phact 'Phresher Course

Kaz, W4KAZ

The program for the May meeting will be the discussion of Field Day for 2002. For a preview of the ARRL rules, go to <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2002/rules-fd-2002.html> To view the entire Field day package, you can get the PDF document at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/02fdpack.pdf>

If we indeed use the same Bond Park location for field day, here are a couple of things to consider. If you become overheated, the Bond Park Community center is open Saturdays, and can give you a few blessed minutes of air conditioning, should the weather be unusually warm. The facility also has showers in the locker rooms. Saturday hours are 9:00 to 6:00pm.

Speaking of being overheated.....now there's an interesting topic....

March Madness Championship Transmitter hunt

From Charles, NZ0I and the Piedmont Trackers website
<http://www.qsl.net/nz0i/>

Some CARC members did extremely well at the March Madness Championship Transmitter hunt held March 30 in Cary. The competition was so rarefied that only three teams made it to the final four!

It was raining lightly as I put the transmitters into place an hour before the hunt. But by hunt time the rain had stopped, and it was a perfect day for a transmitter hunt. All five transmitters were hidden in the Cary vicinity, each one transmitting for one minute, sequentially, on 146.565 MHz. The transmitters were camouflaged, but not disguised. Little walking was required to get from the hunt vehicle to a transmitter. But, since mileage was a factor in determining the outcome of this hunt, the teams had motivation to do some footwork if it might cut down on total mileage.

The turnout for this hunt didn't reach six hunt teams or twelve participants that would have made the winning team the recipient of a like-new Alinco DJ-S11 2-meter transceiver. So the DJ-S11 prize will be offered at a future hunt.

You can read all about it at <<http://www.qsl.net/nz0i/results/march302002.htm>>.
 For a map showing the foxes: <http://www.qsl.net/nz0i/results/march302002/carymapfinish.gif>

Results				
Team Members	Call	Transmitters Found	Mileage	Score
Darrell Gammon Dennis Herman Tom McKee	KF4URC KA4ATK K4ZAD	1, 3, 5	11	3
David Brown Paul Folmsbee	ALØM K5PF	1, 4	30	2
Jim Heinis Gayle Heinis	WA4RCU --	--	--	Practice



Figure 1- What, no hints?



Figure 2- Body Armor!

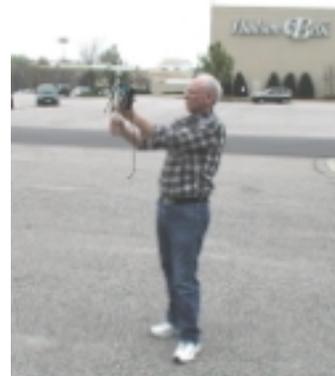


Figure 3 Testing....Testing

USA ARDF Championships, Pine Mountain GA

Happy Hunting! Charles, NZ0I

The second annual USA ARDF Championships were held as scheduled on April 20-21 in Pine Mountain, GA, and I was there to witness the event, and to participate. Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is the international version of transmitter hunting, in which transmitters are placed in the forest, and individual hunters vie to find the most transmitters in the least amount of time. Competitions are held on both the 2-meter and 80-meter bands. The championship games were run professionally by the Georgia Orienteering Club (GAOC) with help from the South Fulton (Georgia) ARES, and a band of dedicated volunteers.

I participated in the M21 (men's 21 and over) division. Competitors in M21 were required to find all five transmitters, and to reach the finish line before the 3-hour time limit. There were five other competitors in my division. I managed to find all five transmitters and crossed the finish line in 2nd place among US competitors in both the 2-meter and 80-meter events. I would like to say that I was a close 2nd, but that wouldn't be a fair assessment. Nagy Gyuri, a naturalized American who learned ARDF in his youth growing up in Hungary, beat me like a drum. I was at least 30-minutes behind him in both events.

Still, my performance was sufficient to qualify for Team USA participating in the World Championships in Slovakia this fall. And yes, I am seriously considering going. After all, how often in one's life does one get the chance to represent his country in an international championship sporting event... and a RADIO sporting event at that!

The games in Georgia were very well documented, so there is no shortage of photos and stories available on the Internet. Here are links the web sites I'm aware of:

<http://members.aol.com/homingin/>
<http://www.mindspring.com/~sam.smith/gaoc/Radio-O/Radio.htm>
<http://home.attbi.com/~izuta.h/ardf02us1.htm>
<http://photos.groups.yahoo.com/group/piedmontrackers/1st>
<http://www.ka5cvh.com/ardf2002/index.htm>

Gyuri Nagy described the 2-meter course in Georgia as the most difficult he had ever experienced. That makes me feel better about my prospects in Slovakia this fall. The Slovaks are serious about ARDF, I am told, and the competition will be much stronger than at the US championships. Already 24 countries have confirmed their intent to send teams. I don't hold out any illusions of medaling in Slovakia, but I hope to make some friends, learn what I can, and represent my country (and the Tar Heel State) as an ambassador of good will. That's what amateur radio is about, after all.

Congatulations Charles, and good luck in Slovakia!

Philo who?→TV turns 75 this September

Kaz, W4KAZ

I don't know why, but I've always been impressed much more by folks with uncommonly keen minds than by those who excel at the mechanics of making balls arrive at destinations with pinpoint accuracy. The latter sort is far more common, yet ultimately far less important. So, where better to recognize the former than a publication read by so very few? (Okay, its not RADIO, but it's related.)

Electronic television is going to turn 75 this year, so here's a couple of links to fill you in on it's inventor, Philo T. Farnsworth. He's also the first to have beaten RCA out of a patent. Thanks Philo! It's a great idea, although I would certainly be among those who would question the value of much of today's programming content. (Can't blame Philo for that!...) see: <http://philo75.com/>
<http://www.time.com/time/time100/scientist/profile/farnsworth.html>
<http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/farnsworth.htm>

ARRL Offers Members Expanded Contest Coverage On The Web

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 16, April 19, 2002

Editor's note: The November SSB Sweeps results are online now also....**W4KAZ**

ARRL has expanded its on-line coverage of ARRL-sponsored contests. A new membership service supplements contest coverage in QST and enhances what's already available via the ARRL Web site. The augmented coverage premiered April 19 with the results of the 2001 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW). Among the new features is an interactive, searchable database of contest line scores.

"Contesting has come a long way since the old paper logs, broken pencils, and hand-scored results," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The addition of expanded ARRL contest results on our Web site takes contest reporting to the next level."

Access to the new services is limited to ARRL members, who must first be logged onto the ARRL Web site with user name and password. All expanded coverage is linked from the ARRL Contest Results page <<http://www.arrl.org/contest/results/>>.

In addition to the information normally presented in QST, the new searchable database will include band-by-band QSO breakdowns for all participants, as well as hours operated and any club affiliation. The database will be searchable by call sign and entry class as well as by ARRL section, division or club. Results can be sorted by several criteria.

Another new feature is a more extensive Soapbox for each contest that will allow entrants to share their observations and photographs right after a contest.

Largely freed of the limitations of print media, the upgraded Web-based coverage will treat ARRL members to a contest narrative that includes more detailed analysis, more sidebar stories and more visual images than what typically appears in QST. Updated contest category records also will be part of the expanded coverage, with details for each entry category and ARRL division and section plus overall category records.

ARRL continues to offer members and nonmembers a downloadable Adobe PDF of the QST article for each contest as it becomes available, plus contest rules and forms, the ARRL contest calendar, and the "Contest Corral" from QST. ARRL members also may subscribe to the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/>>, the new biweekly e-mail newsletter for contesters that debuted in March.

Initially, the ARRL's expanded Web coverage will be a "work in progress," Henderson said. "Formats of the on-line portion of our contest coverage will be flexible, allowing us to improve its presentation as we try to keep it as user-friendly as possible." The Contest Branch welcomes feedback from members via e-mail, contests@arrl.org, or telephone, 860-594-0232.

ARRL Added To 2002 Combined Federal Campaign

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 17, April 26, 2002

The ARRL now is participating in the 2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a program that supports and promotes philanthropy by federal employees. The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. ARRL now appears in the listing of "National/International Organizations" published in each local CFC campaign brochure. Federal employee donors should use the CFC identification number 9872 in designating their contributions to ARRL. For more information, visit the Combined Federal Campaign Web site <<http://www.opm.gov/cfc>>.

Thor Heyerdahl Of Kon-Tiki Fame Dies At 87

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 17, April 26, 2002

Noted Norwegian explorer and ethnologist Thor Heyerdahl died April 18. He was 87. In 1947, Amateur Radio played a critical role in the success and safety of Heyerdahl's 101-day Kon-Tiki raft expedition, which used the call sign LI2B on the amateur bands. Heyerdahl was attempting to prove that it was possible for South American tribes to have crossed the Pacific from east to west to settle the Polynesian islands. Two former World War II Norwegian underground radio operators, Kurt Haugland, LA3KY, and Torstein Raaby, operated LI2B aboard the Kon-Tiki using tube gear powered mostly by dry batteries. LI2B kept a schedule with W1AW and other US stations during the historic voyage.

Amateur Extra Class Population Tops 100,000

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 18, May 3, 2002

For the first time ever, the population of Amateur Extra class operators topped 100,000 licensees. According to figures available from the FCC Amateur Radio Statistics Web site <<http://ah0a.org/FCC/index.html>> compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, there were 100,153 Extra; 85,690 Advanced; 138,980 General; 319,768 Technician (including Tech Plus); and 38,574 Novice licensees. As of the end of April, there were 683,165 total Amateur Service licensees in the FCC database. According to Speroni's statistics, 1888 new licensees came aboard during April 2002--1800 of them as Technicians.

Second National ARDF Championships A Wrap

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 18, May 3, 2002

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, reports that the second US national championship of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting near Pine Mountain, Georgia, is in the record books. Hosted by hams in the Georgia Orienteering Club, the event took place April 20-21. "About two dozen of our country's best fox-finders went into the deep woods of Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, trying to be first to find up to five transmitters and then navigate their way to the finish line," Moell said. In addition to hidden transmitters, participants were seeking medals and places on Team USA at this fall's ARDF World Championships in Slovakia. Participants competed on two courses, with hidden transmitters on 2 meters the first day and 80 meters the second. Best ARDF performance overall was by Gyuri Nagi, KF6YKN/HA3PA, who averaged 19 minutes per fox on 2 meters and an amazing 15 minutes per fox on 80 meters. Photos and complete results on the GAOC 2002 Radio-Orienteering Championships are the GAOC Web site <<http://www.gaorienting.org/Radio-O/Radio.htm>>. More information about ARDF is on Moell's Homing In Web site <<http://www.homingin.com/>>.

FCC Proposes Two New Amateur Bands!

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 19, May 10, 2002

Great news for ham radio this week! The FCC has proposed going along with ARRL's request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. The FCC also is ready to permit operation on a 136-kHz "sliver band" in the low-frequency (LF) region. And, in response to a third ARRL request, the FCC has proposed elevating Amateur Radio to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

"I'm just as tickled as I can be," ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said upon hearing the news. "This is a classic example of our ARRL at work."

The FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98. The Commission released a Public Notice May 9, and the NPRM is expected to be released soon. A comment deadline will be announced as soon as it's available.

The FCC said the new 5-MHz band would help amateurs "better match their choice of frequency to existing propagation conditions." The band, if approved, would be the first new amateur HF allocation since World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 gave amateurs 30, 17 and 12 meters--the so-called "WARC Bands." Assuming the 5-MHz band eventually is authorized, it could be a few years before it actually becomes available.

The League said its successful WA2XSY experiments demonstrated that amateurs can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths. In comparisons with 80 and

40 meters, the WA2XSY operation also showed the 60-meter band to be the most reliable of the three. The ARRL also argued that a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz could relieve periodic overcrowding on 80 and 40.

If allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with—and accept interference from—current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL asked the FCC for two LF allocations in October 1998—135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. The FCC said its action on one part of that LF request "proposes changes that would enhance the ability of amateur radio operators to conduct technical experiments, including propagation and antenna design experiments, in the 'low frequency' (LF) range of the radio spectrum."

Several countries in Europe and elsewhere already have 136-kHz amateur allocations. The first amateur transatlantic contact on the band was recorded in February 2001.

Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

The FCC said its proposal to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary "seeks to protect current amateur use of this band." Hams have shared their other 2.4 GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users.

Amateurs already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417 MHz. The ARRL has said primary status in the intervening spectrum slice was needed "to provide some assurances of future occupancy of the band segments for the next generation of amateur satellites."

The ARRL has expressed its belief that hams can continue to accommodate Part 15 and Part 18 devices at 2.4 GHz.

ARRL's Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, was among those welcoming the good news from the FCC. "This a wonderful example of the work ARRL conducts in Washington on matters important to the Amateur Radio community," Hobart said.

"Thanks to the 10,000 hams who contributed so generously to the 2002 Defense of Frequencies Fund. The success of that campaign helps to make decisions like this possible."

Log Checking Reports For ARRL Contests Now Available Online

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 20, May 17, 2002

Log Checking Reports (LCRs) now are available for selected ARRL contests. These documents provide a detailed error analysis of a contest entry. LCRs will be available for selected events commencing with the 2001 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes. ARRL members may access the available reports on the ARRL Web site <www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/lcr.html>. To access your reports, you must be registered on the ARRL Web site as a League member.

ARRL members without Internet access may request their LCR free of charge by sending a request and an SASE to LCR Request, ARRL, Contesting Branch, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Non-ARRL members may obtain LCRs by mailing a request along with \$3 and an SASE for each event (eg, the Phone and CW weekends of the ARRL November Sweepstakes count as separate events). For each request, include the name and year of the contest as well as the call sign of the entry. The style and format for each LCR may differ from contest to contest, since the various operating events are checked and processed by different software.