

Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

June 2002

CARC FEEDLINE

Editor -- Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ
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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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President Ed Stephenson, AB4S
Vice Pres. Clare Owens, N2RJB
Secretary Lee Swanson, N4AJF
Treasurer Susan Jones, WA4AKB

Other 2002 Volunteers

N4NC Trustee: Will Harper, K4IWW
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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Listserv:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carc>

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Kaz, W4KAZ

I understand that pre-registered table sales for the CARC Swapfest have been quite brisk this year. This is great news. Perhaps we will be sold out by the pre-registration deadline! Excellent news. We had a decent turnout last year, so perhaps we may see a bit of an upswing this year. An increasing interest in Amateur radio would also be great news.

For those who like me missed the Durham hamfest, it's only one short month before we host our very own CARC Swapfest. Dig through those closets and drag out the goodies! Mark everything with unreasonable prices, and see what draws attention. I'm looking for a CW keyer, and maybe an antenna tuner....but I'm a skin-flinty cheapskate.

The Swapfest is open to the public, for a very reasonable admission fee of \$5.00. And yes we have cold, cold Air-Conditioning for our indoor area! Amateur Radio exams will be given at 10:00 am.

Exams will be given starting promptly at 10:00am. Have the original license and CSCE's, a photocopy of each, your identification, and cash or check in the amount of \$10 (exact change or checks/money orders made to "cash"). Pencils too. And study up!

I can hear you thinking...."but wait, we haven't done Field Day yet!" True enough.

GOTA. South America. Central America. The Caribbean. Bond Park. Cary High. What do these things have in common? All are **changes** for CARC Field Day 2002.

The Cary ARC cordially invites any interested parties to visit our **NEW 2002 Field Day site**. Any unaffiliated hams are welcome. No license? No problem! You can still come out and participate, and learn more about Amateur radio. That's part of what Field Day is about. Visitors are welcome.

The Field Day planning meeting will be held at the **NEW Field Day site**, Cary High School on Thursday, June 20th at 6:31 pm. Okay, so it's not a completely new site, but **it is a change**, so be aware. We will meet in the Cary High parking lot nearest to the intersection of Walnut and Maynard (entrance is on Maynard). More details inside!

New 2002 Field Day Site Chosen—June Meeting Program Is Field Day

By Kaz, W4KAZ

Herb, W3HL, this year has confirmed that we will be able to conduct the 2002 Field Day on the grounds of Cary High School. The site he has selected is adjacent to the parking lot nearest the intersection of Walnut and Maynard. Possible station locations in the nearby triangle of trees should provide good daytime shade, and give good visibility to the general public.

The Cary Amateur Radio club would like to invite all interested persons to participate. Persons curious about Amateur radio are especially encouraged to attend, as you will be given a chance to “try things out”. Field Day 2001 was a joint effort with members from the NCSU “StARS” club, W4ATC, and was a great success.

The June Cary ARC meeting will be held at the field day site on Thursday June 20th, at 6:31pm. The meeting will be a planning meeting for Field day set-up and site/station planning. Please join in.

Oh, THAT Swapfest!!!!

CARY 30TH ANNUAL CARY MID-SUMMER
SWAPFEST

SATURDAY JULY 20, 2002 - DOORS OPEN AT 8:00AM
TALK-IN ON 145.39 -- TICKETS \$5.00 (ADVANCE \$4.00)
DEALERS, PRIZES, EXAMINATIONS

Weapons and pornographic materials may NOT be displayed or sold at the SwapFest site.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM (POSTMARK BY JULY 9, 2002)

Name _____ Pre-registration tickets @ \$4.00 ea S _____
Address _____ Tables (6') @ \$10.00 ea S _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED S _____
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)

11/15/00
C

What? The Cary ARC Mid-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.

Air Conditioned Indoor Area! Air Conditioned Indoor Area!

Recap: Dayton Hamvention for 2002

Kaz, W4KAZ

While on the hamfest subject...Let me throw in a few items about the Dayton Hamvention. I was lucky enough to attend that grand-daddy of swapfests this year. I was scouting for antenna tuners. I found only one over priced Dentron Supertuner. The flea market seemed to me to be teeming with dead HT's. I've just never seen so many dead HT's in one place. Other items I was hoping to find were air-variable caps and some large inductor stock, or maybe a decent roller inductor. (Still thinking "tuner"..) No luck there either. Okay, how about a dead HF amp? Nope. Shopping for vintage boat anchors to cast that warm glow about the shack? Too bad! Heathkits? Gone. Okay, granted, I didn't get there until Saturday, but reports are that Friday's flea market saw a constant light rain, though I didn't see evidence of anyone having pulled out.



Figure 1-Door Prizes!



Figure 2-Hara Arena

In a perfect world, sellers would give local area hams first crack on their at hamfests, but, well, this isn't a perfect world, is it? I'm of the opinion that E-bay is helping to strangle even the best of the Hamfests. While the flea market area was well filled, I got the impression that the variety of flea items was less than my first Dayton trip only two years ago. That's probably not a long enough interval for a good comparison, but I didn't feel like I was alone in that opinion.

The good news was that the interior areas were heavily attended by vendors, with all of the major manufacturers in prominent attendance. Icom had two areas. The store vendors seemed to be doing brisk business. Discounts were available on many products. All of the interior space appeared to be occupied, which includes three large rooms in addition to the main floor of the Hara Arena.

The new Ten Tec Orion prototype looks to be an interesting step in the advancement of Ham Radio. It will be the first high end 'software defined' radio for the amateur market. Just like the Pegasus and Jupiter, an Orion owner will be able to upgrade his rig via software upgrades. A new 60 meter band? Just load the software upgrade, and your rig is ready(still gotta put up that dipole though!). The Orion will be a step forward for the Omni by adding a second receiver, and will incorporate what TenTec is calling "Panoramic Stereo". I'll try to get the okay to reprint TenTec's article on that subject in an upcoming issue.

Also available now from TenTec is the Argonaut V. This is a 20 watt QRP rig, with DSP filtering, and is also a software defined radio. It is also ready-to-go for PSK31, just plug the audio connections from the computer to the Argonaut, no external boxes required. See <http://www.tentec.com/TT516.htm> for more on the Argonaut V.



Figure 3-Dayton Special Event station - sporting a Hexbeam

(editor's note: It will be interesting to see how long it takes "software defined radio" to show up in other manufacturers ham products, and then mainstream consumer products. Anybody remember the introduction of PLL frequency synthesis, and its rather slow crawl into the consumer market? W4KAZ (hmmm, maybe it just seemed slow because I was young, broke, and impatient...)

Yaesu had three of their new products on display, the VX-7R, FT-897 and FT-8900R. The FT-8900R is a quad band mobile with 29/50/144/430 MHz Fm bands. It's going to feature dual band receive and cross-band repeater operation, 800 memories, and all of the other bells and whistles common on today's mobile rigs.



Figure 4 The new Yaesu FT-897

The FT-897 is an "all in one portable base station". Physically, it's about the size of my FT-840, but it packs in multi-bands and all modes. It has all HF bands plus 6m(100 watts), 2m(50 watts) and 70 cm(20 watts), CW/SSB/AM/FMN/FMW (Tone and automatic repeater shift included too). Full power is available when run from the internal AC power supply or 13.8VDC external supply, but there are optional NiMH batteries for portable operation for 20 watt operation. No specifications were available on the receiver section, but hopefully ARRL labs will take a look at this rig soon.

Looks like just the sort of thing to take along for field day.

The Amateur's Code

(reprinted by permission from BARC Ham Chatter, August 2000.
<http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/hc/hc0008.html>)

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M Segal, W9EEA in 1928. Every month 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 fourth element is ...

The Radio Amateur is:

Friendly... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

We, as amateur radio operators, have a common bond - the love of wireless communication. The operative word is bond. Our similar interests have drawn us together - in our clubs, the ARRL or on the air. This bonding is a natural phenomenon. With this bonding comes interaction in one form or another. That's where the "friendly" comes in. Amateur Radio has all levels of competency new to old timer - not every one is on our level of proficiency. Quite often we come across those less experienced and giving them a helping hand, taking time to explain or slowing down the code speed is a friendly thing to do. On the other hand, coming in contact with a more experienced person we need to be respectful of their advice and perspective.

We are individuals with our own thoughts and opinions, but our friendliness and our eagerness to be inclusive and helpful will profit Amateur Radio and ultimately ourselves. - K4MHM

July Birthdays

Happy birthday to our July babies:

- Jim Weathers, N4RSE- July 9
- Herb Lacy, W3HL – July 30

And in June, we missed:

- Alf Johnson, KQ4FP – June 16

CARC Minutes - 23 May 2002

Lee H. Swanson, N4AJF

The May meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on 23 May, 2002. The meeting was opened at 7:31 P.M. by the president, Ed, AB4S. Introductions by the attendees were done, there were 13 in attendance, 9 members and 4 guests. The program for this meeting being the planning of Field Day, Ed, AB4S, announced that it would be a shortened meeting, so as to get on with the field day planning.

The treasurer's report, given to the secretary by Susan, WA4AKB, was as follows: Checking - \$1499.17

- Savings - \$1260.19
- Cash - \$ 40.00
- Total - \$2799.36

The secretary's report was referred to the May issue of the "Feedline" for the April minutes.

Business:

- Cary Swapfest:

Alf, KQ4FP, gave the Swapfest report. He gave the official name of the building where the Swapfest is to be held: Herb Young Community Center - Cary Town Hall Complex. He also requested help for handing out flyers at the DurHamFest, as was done at the RARSfest. He reported that that had worked out well. We still need a "Cap and Badge" man, he will scope out the DurHamFest for possibilities. There will be an ad for the Swapfest in the July "73 Magazine".

Herb, W3HL, announced that the Swapfest Flyers were ready to mail. We decided to have the printer "tab" and mail them for us.

- Announcement of Deaths:

Lee, N4AJF, announced a death in the ham community within the last month. It was:
Ray Greenwood, W4NOS, who had lived at 428 Ann St., Cary.

- CARC Meeting Night Shift:

It was brought up that the meeting of CARC will be moved up one week, for the next two months, so as to get it ahead of Field Day, next month, and the Swapfest, in July.

The meeting was adjourned, and refreshments were enjoyed.

After the break, Ed, AB4S, announced that Keith, W4KAZ, had volunteered to give a report on the Dayton Hamfest. Keith did that, it sounded like he had a good time.

The program this month was held by Herb, W3HL, and was devoted to Field Day. This year it will be on June 22nd and 23rd, with the club meeting on June 20. Herb is looking into a different place this year, on the corner of Maynard Rd. and Walnut St., in front of Cary High School. This is near to where we used to have Field Day, and has much more public visibility. (The old site is available to us, if necessary.) Comment was solicited. With the changes to the rules this year, he recommended that we look more into the Public Service and Publicity aspect of Field Day, instead of the Contest aspect. This was generally agreeable to the club. The number of stations has not been firmed up yet. More news of Field Day will be coming out during the month, before the next meeting. As Czar, Herb asked that we all prepare to bring out the usual equipment, and to let him know what is available.

Lee H. Swanson, N4AJF
Secretary, CARC

A Win In Kinderhook: ARRL, PRB-1 Credited In Antenna Battle

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 22, May 31 , 2002

A New York amateur is crediting the limited federal preemption PRB-1 and ARRL with helping him win approval for an antenna support structure on his property. Fred Fitte, WA2MMX, spent the better part of a year trying to gain the necessary approvals from the Town of Kinderhook. He finally got a building permit earlier this month.

"It's been a really ugly battle for about eight months," Fitte said. "I can't say enough good things about the League."

The Town of Kinderhook would not allow a ham radio antenna support structure in excess of 35 feet without a variance. "PRB-1 is what saved my bacon," said Fitte, who finally won approval of his request to erect a 50-foot tower on a 3-1 vote of the town's zoning board of appeals. PRB-1, which is spelled out in the FCC Amateur Service rules under §97.15(b), requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication. Fitte said that by the time he had presented his case, "it was real clear that the zoning board of appeals knew what they had to do."

Fitte singled out ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF--who attended every hearing--and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI--who attended several--for special mention. A required trip to the town's planning board for a "site review" was routine and uneventful, he said.

Fitte called Fallon "a crusader in the effort to keep ham radio active and moving forward," and said he became an ARRL Life Member because of his efforts. He also credited his legal counsel, Al Millus, WB2EQR, and Dr George Wilner, K2ONP, head of the Hematology Department at Albany Medical Center, whose expert testimony addressed concerns about possible RF exposure.

Fitte said the zoning board "acknowledged that PRB-1 was a major factor in the decision" and that if his application had been considered based solely on a request for a variance, it would not have been granted.

Despite its earlier opposition, Fitte said, the ZBA eventually came to conclude that his application did not significantly alter the character of the neighborhood, did not affect property values and did not have a negative environmental impact. In addition, he said, the board agreed that no negative health impact based on RF exposure was proven. More pertinent, however, was a conclusion that a 35-foot structure would not be conducive to effective communications and that 50 feet--his request--was the bare minimum. Fitte said the ZBA also accepted Hare's assertions before the board that 75 feet was the accepted height for optimum communications.

The zoning board's approval did not come without some restrictions, however. Fitte's tower was approved for the left side of the house. Fitte had hoped to erect it on the right side of the structure, nearest to his ham shack. The ZBA okayed a total height of 75 feet--50 feet of tower and 25 feet of antenna, an outcome he called "a pleasant surprise." He also agreed to install an anti-climbing device and to remove the structure when he moved. He also must provide proof of license renewal every 10 years.

With a building permit now in hand, Fitte says he intends to get his town's zoning code changed to provide an exemption for Amateur Radio antenna support structures. But that will have to wait for a tower-raising party, he said.

CC&R Bill "The Right And Fair Thing," Sponsor Says

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 23, June 7, 2002

The sponsor of a bill aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs in erecting antennas--says he introduced the measure because "it's the right and fair thing to do." Freshman Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" on May 14. The measure--H.R. 4720--would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

H.R. 4720 has been assigned to the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Israel, whose father, Howard, is K2JCC, told amateurs in his home district recently that he's already hearing from Commerce Committee members who have been contacted by their Amateur Radio constituents regarding H.R. 4720. His remarks May 29 during a special meeting of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club in Long Island, New York, marked his first public effort to drum up support for the measure within the amateur community. Members of other Long Island clubs also were on hand for Israel's visit.

Israel says the FCC currently does not apply the PRB-1 limited federal preemption policy consistently, a situation he called "patently unfair" to those living in developments, where they face antenna restrictions or even outright prohibitions. H.R. 4720, Israel explained, would require entities imposing private land-use restrictions--such as homeowners' associations--to enter into good faith negotiations with amateurs in an effort to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication--just as they do now with public land-use regulators."

"In America, we are fair and consistent," Israel said.

Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--the only Amateur Radio operator in Congress--and Rep Pete Sessions (R-TX) have signed on as original cosponsors of H.R. 4720. Since its introduction, the bill also has attracted two additional cosponsors--Rep J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ) and Rep Patrick Tiberi (R-OH).

The measure, which ARRL assisted in drafting, contains a single sentence: "For purposes of the Federal Communications Commission's regulation relating to station antenna structures in the Amateur Radio Service (47 CFR 97.15), any private land use rules applicable to such structures shall be treated as a state or local regulation and shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations as a state or local regulation."

The ARRL encourages its members to contact their congressional representatives and urge them to sign on as co-sponsors and to support H.R. 4720. Visit the US House of Representatives "Write Your Representative Service" Web page <<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>> for information on how to contact your representative.

The League requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, H.R. 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

QPC Releases Technician Syllabus, Invites Candidate Questions

"In Brief", The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 23, June 7, 2002

The Question Pool Committee of the National Committee of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the newest Technician (Element 2) syllabus into the public domain. The syllabus will be used to develop the new question pool for Technician examinations that become effective July 1, 2003.

The QPC is encouraging all amateurs to submit candidate questions by September 15. Candidate questions should be e-mailed to qpc@arrl.org.

All questions must be no more than 210 characters (including spaces and punctuation) in length. All answers and distracters must be no more than 140 characters (including spaces and punctuation) in length. Those submitting questions should identify the syllabus area (eg, T4B) and the correct answer. If the question is rule-based, identify the specific Part 97 citation. For technical questions, a reference is highly recommended.

Examples of the question format may be found in any license manual. The new syllabus has been posted on the Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pool.html>>.

Host Selected For Third USA Direction-Finding Competition

"In Brief", The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 23, June 7, 2002

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, has announced that the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society has been selected to host the third USA national championships of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting competition next summer. The event will take place July 30 until August 2, 2003, near Cincinnati, Ohio. "Event venues are being mapped, the official jury is being selected, and the registration period will begin soon," Moell says, who says the long lead time will help ARDF enthusiasts from all over the world to make advance plans for this important event.

The championships are open to anyone, at any ARDF skill level, from any country with an IARU member-society. Co-chairing the planning are Bob Frey, WA6EZV, and Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, of the OH-KY-IN ARS. "Both have a wealth of experience in the sport, having competed at the first two USA national Championships, the 1999 IARU Region 2 Championships, and the 2000 World Championships," Moell said. Additional support will be provided by the Cincinnati Orienteering Group (OCIN). Group housing and local transportation will be available. Additional information and updates are available at the 2003 USA ARDF Championships Web site <<http://w3.one.net/~bfrey>>.

Information on the sport of ARDF (radio-orienteeing) and results of the 2002 USA ARDF Championships near Atlanta are available on Moell's "Homing In" Web site <<http://www.homingin.com>>.