



The Amplifier

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

March 2005

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WEB SITE: www.tarriverarc.org

Next Meeting

The March meeting of the Tar River Amateur Radio Club will be held Monday, March 7, at BODDIE NOELL ENTERPRISES, located at 1021 Noell Lane in Rocky Mount. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Please enter the building through the main entrance. Parking is available in front of the building or in the parking lot. Adam, WT4S, will present a program on computers.

2005 VE Exam Schedule

Bill, N2BT

The Tar River Amateur Radio Club, Rocky Mount, NC, will hold ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio Exams in 2005 as follows:

February 5	August 6
April 2	October 1
June 4	December 3

Exams will start at 9 a.m. and will be held at:
The Braswell Memorial Library
727 N. Grace Street (corner of Grace and Peachtree Streets)
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Please bring the following items when attending a testing session:

- Photo identification (drivers license)
- Social Security Number
- Original amateur radio license
- Copy of amateur radio license
- Original certificate(s) of successful completion
- Copy of certificate(s) of successful completion
- Test fee of \$14 payable to ARRL/VEC (checks preferred)

For further information visit our club web site at www.TarRiverARC.org or contact:

Bill Thomas N2BT
VE Team Coordinator
Rocky Mount, NC
(252)-442-6131

Email: N2BT@arrl.net

President's Corner

Robin, WA4WPD

Here we are. It's March. Time to get ready for spring. The warmer weather, longer days, THUNDER storms.

Let's don't lose any radios. If you're no using it, disconnect it.

Since the February meeting Fred (K4FMD) and Wicky (W4LW) have been to St. Martin. Some of us were fortunate enough to work them. Maybe we can get a report from them. Eh?

February is a good for HF contesting. Several of us worked the 160 CW contest. I worked the ARRL International DX contest. I tried for DXCC in one weekend. Didn't quite do it. I did do ninety three countries. Not too bad. I only worked it for 10 of the 48 hours. Maybe I can do better in upcoming phone contests. We'll see.

The ARRL has introduced a new ARRL numbered radiogram. Seems to support those auto-bot "standard" messages that have infected NTS. Oh well. Some of ya'll know my opinions on this. It will be interesting to see where this goes. Anyone what to help me create a re-cursive loop in NTS? Might be fun. More on this at the meeting.

Hamfest season has started up again. Frostfest is past, Raleigh is just around the corner. Does anyone know if there will be a new equipment dealer there? The loss of Communications Headquarters seems to have put several hamfest into "used" only affairs. Just a few years ago there were always two dealers from NC, sometimes three at each hamfest. All three of them are no longer in business. Just something to think about.

OK. That's it for now. This is the last meeting for general Ham Radio stuff. April, May and June are all Field Day prep. July is Field Day debrief. Get your computer questions ready.

See ya'll at the next meeting.

Weekly ARES Net

The Northern Coastal Plain ARES net, covering Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, and Wilson counties, meets Tuesday nights at 8:30 p.m. on 145.290 MHz, 146.805 MHz, 146.745 MHz, 224.220 MHz, 444.500 MHz, 444.700 MHz, 442.125 MHz and 443.700 MHz repeaters. Check into the net, participate in ARES training, and enjoy the informal rag-chew afterwards.

Upcoming Hamfests

Feb. 26 – Elkin, NC

Mar. 6 – Kinston, NC

Mar, 12-13 – Charlotte, NC

Apr. 9 – Chesapeake, VA

Apr. 16 – Morganton, NC

Apr. 17 – Raleigh, NC

Apr. 29-30 – SE VHF Conference, Charlotte

May 14 – Rockingham County, NC

May 20-22 – HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH

May 21 – Williamston, NC

May 21 – Greenville, NC

May 28 – Durham, NC

June 11 – Winston Salem, NC

June 11 – Franklin, VA

Contests

Mar. 5-8

ARRL International DX Contest - Phone

DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship

Spartan Sprint - CW

Mar. 12-14

RSGB Commonwealth - CW

Wisconsin QSO Party

Oklahoma QSO Party

North American RTTY Sprint

AGCW QRP Contest - CW

Mar. 19-21

Russian DX Contest

Virginia QSO Party

10-10 Mobile Contest

CLARA and Family HF Contest

9KCC Contest

BARTG Spring RTTY Contest

Mar. 26-28

CQ WW WPX Contest - SSB

Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint - CW/PSK31

Low Power Spring Sprint - CW

2005 Club Dues/ARRL Dues

This is just a reminder to everyone that the TRARC dues are now due... \$15 per yr for individuals and \$21 for family's. Most have already paid and we thank you !

If you are interested in becoming a 'new' ARRL member, we now have a special form that you can completely fill out, pay thru the club, and the club keeps \$15. If you are RENEWING your membership in ARRL, you may now pay thru the club, and it keeps \$2. ARRL dues are \$39 for regular and \$36 for SENIORS per year. There are others options also.

Help support your club.

Pay your dues at the meeting or send your check to: Fred Winner KE4LXW, 8972 Lancaster Store Rd., Castalia, NC 27816.

Breakfast Get-Together

There is an informal Breakfast Get-together on VE Exam Saturdays (first Saturday of even months) at the Highway Diner on Winstead Avenue at 7:00 AM. Club members and other Amateurs are invited to attend.

New Hamfest

The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club Inc/N4IV is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our first annual Hamfest on May 14, 2005. We would like for your Club to please make a note about this in your Club Newsletters, Websites, and Club Nets. We are looking for a large turn out and will have both a tailgate area as well as indoor spaces. We will be located in the gym building of the Liberty Baptist Church on Hwy 14 between Eden and Reidsville, NC.

We do now have a webpage posted about the Hamfest which will be updated as new information comes in. Please feel free to pass the page around to all that are 'Hamfest Hounds!' The direct link to the Hamfest webpage is <http://www.rcarc.com/hamfest2005.html> and may also be found on our main Web Page at <http://www.rcarc.com>

Thanks for helping us get the word out and we will be looking forward to seeing you at the Fest!

73

Dal Williams W4YQY

Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club Inc/N4IV

<http://www.rcarc.com>

1st International IRLP Contest

Ray, WA4WGA

The Bass IRLP Group (Melbourne, Australia) www.qsl.net/vk3irlp in conjunction with the Chesapeake AR Club (USA) <http://kg4zxx.com/index.php> have organized the world's first IRLP Contest to commence on March 18, 2005 and run through until the April 17, 2005. The prize is a very nice trophy, donated by Marine Computer Technology, Queensland.

The competition, whilst titled the "1st Annual Aussie-American International IRLP Contest" it is open to any amateur in any country, so long as you can access an IRLP node to participate.

Contest Rules can be found at the foot of this article.

Graham, VK3JBO & Kevin KG4ZXX needs permission from as many IRLP node owners as possible to OK the use of their nodes during this competition. Many have already responded. Please call him Node # 6391 (email vk3irlp@bigpond.com) or call Kevin in the USA on Node # 4865. They need permission

from as many node owners as possible for this to work well.

I am not associated with the contest organizers, or the Bass IRLP Group. I just thought (a) it's a great idea, especially for newcomers who may not yet have HF gear etc. IRLP is an easy mode to access. (A \$250 h/t and you can participate!-that for a cheap new one!) and (b) VK3JBO, VK3KXW and many others have put in a lot of hard work to make this a success and I'm sure they may have missed informing someone, somewhere of the contest, not to mention the amount of work that must be involved in setting this up. (I hear VK3JBO almost 24/7 calling up nodes around the world all through the day and nite seeking permission..the man who doesn't sleep!) Let's make his, and the other organizers efforts worthwhile.

Contest Rules

THE CONTEST IS FOR IRLP MODE ONLY
RULES:

The contest will be held starting MARCH 18 at 0001 GMT and ending APRIL 17 2359 GMT

POINTS WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS-

1. 1 point for a contact with someone not in the contest in your own country
2. 2 points for a contact with someone in the contest in your own country
3. 2 points for a contact with someone in another country who is not in the contest
4. 3 points for contact with someone in the contest in another country
5. 5 points for contact with single node countries and special event stations such as the International Space Station etc
6. The following information must be included in your log:
NAME
QTH
NODE #
CONTACT NUMBER-I.E.- You are number 001
Any contacts without this information will be counted as a single point contact.
7. At present the logging program that will be used will be DXKEEPER, which is available free, on line from here: <http://www.qsl.net/dxkeeper/>
8. For those without computers, paper logs will be sent to
BRUCE DEHN
306 CRIPPLE CREEK CT.
V.A. BEACH, V.A. USA
Logs should be sent in within 30 days of the end of the contest.
9. No duplicates allowed. One contact per callsign.

10. All nodes and reflectors may be used as long as the node/reflectors allow. Persons who abuse this privilege will be disallowed from the prizes.

11. Only voice communications allowed. (Maybe next year we will allow other modes)

12. Electronic logs are to be emailed to apostle465@netscape.net for disposition. (keep a copy of your logs for your own records)

13 Please include as much information as possible in your logs if you want an accurate count. Again, please note with each entry, what you think the point count should be for that contact.

14. All amateur radio rules and regulations apply especially any involved with nodes/reflectors.

TRY AND KEEP TO THE RULES AND DON'T ABUSE THE NODES/REFLECTORS. HAVE FUN AND HELP PROMOTE IRLP 'KEEPING THE RADIO IN AMATEUR RADIO' AS A VIABLE METHOD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Official Rules are posted At the FAQ section of site. Home - K G 4 Z X K . C O M <http://kg4zxc.com/index.php> And The Bass Amateur Radio IRLP Group <http://www.qsl.net/vk3irl>

ARRL NC Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC:K4ITL. BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W. ACC: N4JCK.

I've talked before about the online Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level 1, and have encouraged hams across the state to take it in addition to any local training that is available. For over two years tuition reimbursement has been available to those who successfully complete the course, courtesy of a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This grant expires later this year, so if you are interested in taking this course and receiving reimbursement, I suggest you take the course as soon as possible. Only a limited number of students can take the course and if you wait until later this year, you will probably miss tuition reimbursement. For more information about the course, you can go to the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education web site: <http://www.arrl.org/ccc>

ARECC Levels 2 and 3 have a tuition reimbursement program courtesy of United Technologies Corporation. I am not sure when this expires.

Training is important for any ham involved in public service communications. We can't just wait until a disaster happens and then make up procedures as we go along. Training, and regular PRACTICE through drills and nets, will make sure that you are an effective operator. I know this seems repetitive, but if you look at any provider of disaster services you will see they do the same thing. Why? Because we (fortunately) don't have disasters every day, and the only way to keep skills sharp is to practice. Repeat training is

necessary because there are some skills that just will never be used often enough to become second nature to you. For example, CPR certification is only valid for one year, and First Aid for three years because you can't afford to struggle with recalling distant memories of your training when you are providing those services. For hams, we need to repeat SKYWARN and ARES training from time to time to refresh us on whatever we have not used recently. It does not take that many hours of the year, and is well worth it. Think about how much athletes have to practice EVERY DAY just to keep up, and you will see that we have it easy compared to them.

If you haven't trained or practiced with your local group in a while, do so soon. You can always tell who has practiced whenever we are activated. It will also help you find out where you "fit in" - each of us has different talents and capabilities, and therefore something different to offer when disaster strikes. Some of us are good operators, others have good organization skills, and others have good technical skills. We need some of each.

Upcoming hamfests: Elkin Saturday February 26th, Down East/Kinston Sunday March 6th, Charlotte Saturday-Sunday March 12th-13th. Hamfests are not just for shopping, they are for meeting people too. I always have a great time at them even if all I do is socialize. I hope to see you at one of these.

After not having many for a while I've received a number of Silent Key reports in the last couple of months: Bob Corns, K4MC of Raleigh; Ernest Gardner, WA4NDV of Burlington; Fred Slipsager, WA4ZZ of Charlotte; Hank Nissen, W4VUP of Cary; Grady White, WB4YBC of Winston-Salem; and Ray Huff, NC4RH of High Point.

January Traffic: W4DAC 2373 (BPL), W4EAT 1008 (BPL), K4IWW 300, W0UCE 256, AA4YW 172, AD4XV 142, KF4OCU 124, W4DNA 110, KE4JHJ 94, W3HL 68, WA4OBR 66, KG4YNM 56, K7UGT 55, W4LN 43, KE4AHC 42, AG4ZB 37, KI4YV 35, W4NCD 33, KG4OQA 33, W4TTO 31, W4EHF 25, KE4YHR 23, W4IRE 17, KC4ZVY 12.

January PSHR: W4DAC 150, AG4ZB 143, W4DNA 140, W4NCD 138, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, AD4XV 120, KE4JHJ 110, W0UCE 110, W4LN 90, KG4OQA 82, KG4YNM 80, KF4OCU 80, AA4YW 80, K7UGT 78.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: John M. C Covington, W4CC

w4cc@arrl.org

Ham Radio Newsline

Ray, WA4WGA

THE BPL FIGHT: SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC JUMPS ON THE BPL BANDWAGON

Broadband Over Powerline may be coming to San Diego, California. This, as the utility announces that it is exploring the possibility of offering high speed Internet access to all of its 1 point 3 million customers. Amateur Radio Newsline's Tuck Miller, NZ6T, is in San Diego

with more:

San Diego Gas & Electric appears to be coming a lot closer to deploying a pilot project that would let its electrical lines deliver its customers high-speed Internet access using BPL Technology. According to a story appearing in the February 10th issue of the San Diego Union Tribune, the power provider says that it has a team at work defining the elements of a pilot project to provide high-speed access in the form of broadband over its power distribution system.

San Diego Gas & Electric says that it does not yet have a start date or even a target date for submitting its proposal to the California Public Utilities Commission. Their permission is required before the utility could proceed with any BPL project using the regional power grid.

Previously the company had said only that it was studying the technology but has been non-committal until now. If it proceeds, the utility's broadband service would compete with offerings from SBC and local cable companies.

Right now there are hand full of utilities nation wide that are involved in pilot projects or testing of BPL, but the San Diego Gas & Electric project would be the first in California. Pacific Gas & Electric Company, which serves the San Francisco Bay Area, was exploring the possibility of a pilot project until its partner A-T & T bowed out last year. Southern California Edison, the state's other major utility, says that because of technical challenges, it has no current plans to invest in BPL.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Tuck Miller, NZ6T, in San Diego, reporting

As we go to air Newsline has learned that local and national officials of the ARRL are aware of the proposed San Diego Gas & Electric BPL project and that they are monitoring developments very closely. More on this story in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (CGC Communicator, ARNewsline™ from published news reports)

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THE BPL FIGHT: ARRL FILES PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Meantime, the ARRL says that it has asked the FCC to take its broadband over power line Report and Order back to the drawing board. In a Petition for Reconsideration filed February 7th, the League called on the Commission to "reconsider, rescind and restudy" its October 14, 2004, adoption of new Part 15 rules spelling out how BPL providers may deploy the technology on H-F and low-VHF frequencies.

Asserting that the Report and Order fails to adequately take into account the technology's potential to interfere with Amateur Radio and other licensed services, the League called the FCC's action to permit BPL a gross policy mistake. The ARRL also presented its view that the Report and Order represents a classic case of prejudgment by an FCC that should have known better but ignored evidence already at its disposal. (ARRL)

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THE BPL FIGHT: AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT FIRM SAYS BPL A BAD IDEA

Some bad news for those pushing BPL down-under. One of Australia's leading market research firms is saying that Broadband Over Powerline technology may not be a good place for investors to hedge their money. John Williams, VK2BUI, is in Coffs Harbor with the rest of the story:

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A leading Australian Internet research, analysis and strategies consultancy, Caslon Analytics Pty Ltd has reviewed the state of play with BPL and drawn a number of conclusions and makes several observations.

In its review, aimed at industry and the investment sector, Caslon Analytics finds that some observers have characterized BPL as a marketing phenomenon, and not a technology that will gain global acceptance.

The Canberra-based Caslon Analytics says the theoretical claims for BPL to provide every home with a fast Internet connection have not been tested on a large scale in a commercial environment. BPL industry media releases, it says, promote major benefits for consumers and power companies, but contain no substantive mention of technological or regulatory concerns. A lack of balance is occurring with little or no reporting of criticism of BPL or the failures of the industry when commercial backers withdraw from projects.

Caslon Analytics refers to BPL in New Zealand as having followed the same trajectory as overseas, with initial hoopla, small-scale trials and little follow-up. The trial in Auckland by United Networks and Vector ceased after it "failed to produce commercial results", with Vector commenting that "we haven't been able to get anything commercially viable ... We can't get enough distance and the equipment is a bit expensive".

The review is extensive, discusses the radio pollution concerns surrounding BPL, and can be read on the Internet at www.caslon.com.au

I am John Williams, VK2BUI. If Coffs Harbor.

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Again the text version is on-line at

<http://www.caslon.com.au/powerlinenote.htm>

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RADIO RULES: DX'ERS DENIED DESECHEO ISLAND LANDING PERMIT

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has again said "no" to a group of Ohio radio amateurs seeking to visit Desecheo Island. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, reports:

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Desecheo Island is a prized DX location. So much a prize that for years it has been in the top-ten of the most-needed list for D-X-C-C.

According to the ARRL Letter, the denial came in a letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service to United States Representative Mike Turner of Dayton, Ohio. Turner had acted on behalf of well-known DXer and contester Harry Flasher, A-C-8-G. He and three other members of the South

West Ohio DX Association want to operate from the island. Flasher was last on Desecheo in the 1980s.

In denying access to the island, the Fish and Wildlife Service told Representative Turner that the Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge is closed to all public entry for safety reasons. This, due to unexploded artillery shells in the area. The agency also cited problems with drug traffickers in the region as yet another reason to deny.

It turns out that Desecheo Island was at one time a military training ground and the site of war games. The Fish and Wildlife Service has not issued Amateur Radio landing permits since 1993. For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, in New Orleans.

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Not only is Desecheo off limits to ham radio operations. It appears that Navassa Island is as well. The Fish and Wildlife Service continues to deny access to Navassa Island over which it also has jurisdiction. Navassa is on the most-needed list for DXCC as well. (ARRL)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC ASKS FRITO-LAY TO KEEP DRIVERS OFF 10 METERS

The FCC has written to the Frito-Lay food products company seeking assistance in keeping its delivery drivers from operating illegally in the 10 meter Amateur service band. In a late January letter to Terrell Woods of the Frito-Lay Fleet Safety Office in Plano, Texas, the FCC details instances where on December 8th, 2004, drivers have been alleged to be operating on 28.085 MHz. The FCC goes on to note that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of the Communications Act and could subject drivers caught operating radio gear without licenses to fine or imprisonment, as well as seizure of any non-certified radio transmitting equipment. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: NO EAS BRINGS \$10,000 FINE

The Halifax Christian Community Church, Inc. in Flagler Beach, Florida which operates low power F-M radio station W-F-B-O has been hit with a ten thousand dollars monetary forfeiture notice. The FCC says that W-F-B-O willfully and repeatedly violated rules requiring installation and operation of E-A-S equipment and overpower operation with a non-certified transmitter from an unauthorized location. Halifax Christian Community Church was given the customary time to respond or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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RADIO MYSTERY: THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING TWO-WAYS

The California state. Department of Justice is helping to coordinate the investigation into a string of two-way radio thefts in that San Joaquin Valley. This, according to the Modesto Bee which says that more than 300 radios have been stolen recently, mostly from school buses parked for the night. And so far none have been found. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW has more:

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Its a real mystery as to where the radios are going, but more on that in a moment.

The last victim is the Turlock Unified School District with 34 radios stolen last month. Thieves also have struck the Modesto City Schools District, along with school bus yards in Madera, Clovis and Fresno. There are also reports that the thefts might have reached as far South as San Diego county.

Modesto Police Department spokesman Rick Applegate says that the Department of Justice is coordinating all of the cases, but not taking over the investigations.

Thefts reported so far have involved only Kenwood two-way radios. In each case, the thieves carefully unscrewed the radios from connectors and mounting brackets. In several instances, older radios were left untouched.

Investigators do have one lead. They are trying to identify images that showed up in surveillance video taken during the Turlock thefts. The videos provided images even though the thieves cut power to lights in the bus yard.

Along with the who-done-it, the big mystery is why. Investigators say that have no information as to what the destination of the radios might be. They say that so far, none have shown up on public auction sites or electronics swap meets anywhere in the state, and they are baffled as to how so many two-way radios could just simply disappear of the face of the Earth. For the Amateur Radio Newline. I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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While police say that they are mystified as to where the radios are going at least one two-way dealer has an idea where they might be. The Bee quotes Jim Vincent of Vincent Communications in Fresno. Vincent believes that the thieves are transporting the stolen radios to Mexico and selling them down there. (Published news reports)

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RADIO LAW: SEN. MC CAIN PROPOSES CUTTING BROADCAST LICENSE TERM

Senator John McCain of Arizona has unveiled legislation aimed at shortening the license terms of broadcasters from eight years to three. Mc Cain says that the proposed rules change is intended to let the public and Federal Communications Commission keep closer tabs on the industry's public interest programming. Under the measure, broadcasters would also be required to cite on station Web sites the programming they have aired to meet their public interest obligations. In announcing his legislative proposal McCain said that he thinks that citizens deserve more than they're getting from their local news. (Information Daily)

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NEW TECHNOLOGY: RADIO FOR KIDS

The Hasbro company will soon be targeting children ages 11 to 14 with a new consumer electronics item that bridges the gap between toys and communication devices. The company's new Chatnow Two-Way Radio Communicator includes an integrated digital camera and text-messaging functions and sells in both clamshell-style and slide-style mobile-phone designs.

The device does not provide wireless wide area network support. Rather, it reportedly relies on direct point to point two-way radio with a claimed range of about 2 miles.

This will allow youngsters to send and receive text messages and take up to 30 digital pictures. It also includes predictive text input software similar to that supplied with most standard mobile phones.

What spectrum the Chatnow will use was not specified in the product announcement nor did it say what radio service the device will operate under. None the less, it could be a very useful tool to nudge kids away from the World Wide Web and introduce some of them to our world of hobby radio.

Retail price for either case style is expected to be in the \$75 range. (Hasboro via Tech OnLine)

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

==>ARRL STAFFER TESTIFIES ON BPL AT CALIFORNIA HEARING

ARRL staff member Dean Straw, N6BV, testified February 8 in San Francisco at a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) public hearing on broadband deployment--including BPL. In his nearly six-minute testimony on the draft policy decision crafted by CPUC member Susan P. Kennedy, "Broadband Deployment in California," Straw--an electrical engineer and an ARRL technical editor--decried the fact that the section of the document dealing with BPL--broadband over power line--neglected to mention the technology's disadvantages.

"I feel there is further work necessary on the sections dealing with broadband over power line--BPL," Straw testified. "There is not a single mention made of the three most significant disadvantages of BPL." These, he continued, include interference from BPL to radio receivers, interference to BPL from radio transmitters and a lack of bandwidth for expansion, especially in instances where BPL interference must be mitigated in some fashion.

"We are not opposed to Internet broadband services," Straw maintained on behalf of the Amateur Radio community at large. "We're not categorically opposed to Access BPL, but we are opposed categorically to interference."

Kennedy, who chaired the hearing, stopped Straw from reading into the record the CPUC's own cautious reply comments on the BPL proceeding, although she did say he could submit them in writing. While generally supportive of encouraging more competition within the broadband industry, the CPUC's reply comments recommended the FCC "ensure that adequate testing is performed and industry standards are developed before any deployment takes place." The CPUC also noted "significant disagreement in the industry over the level of interference."

"The statements made by the CPUC in June of 2004 in reply comments to the FCC are now being--rather incautiously, I'd say--thrown to the wind," Straw declared. The attitude toward BPL in Kennedy's broadband deployment policy document, if adopted by the full commission in its present form, would represent a 180-degree shift from its position of less than a year earlier, he said.

The broadband policy Kennedy drafted calls for California to "encourage deployment of BPL by its electric utilities by providing regulatory certainty in the areas of its affiliate transaction rules, in the treatment of BPL program expenses and revenues, and exemption from Section 851 requirements for the use of utility assets." And it says the CPUC "should adopt this policy framework proactively without waiting for an application to be filed by an electric utility for a BPL project."

Straw said the broadband policy appears to represent "a wholesale embracing" of BPL. "I urge caution in that," he said. "There is still a great deal of science that has not been done on BPL in terms of interference and interference mitigation."

In December, the ARRL suggested that Kennedy temper the "excessively optimistic" view of BPL she'd expressed in an interview. "It has yet to be demonstrated that BPL systems can be deployed without polluting the radio spectrum," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote Kennedy December 10. "Until this issue is resolved, we respectfully suggest that public statements that paint an excessively optimistic picture of BPL are inadvisable."

FCC Affirms \$4000 Fine for Missouri Amateur

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 16, 2005--The FCC has affirmed a \$4000 fine for Paul D. Westcott, KC0OAB, of Purdy, Missouri, for "willful and repeated failure to respond to Commission requests for information about his station." The Commission released a Forfeiture Order in the case on February 16. The FCC reports it has received "numerous complaints" alleging that KC0OAB for several months now has been transmitting CW "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" on 7.030 MHz. While complainants assert the transmissions constitute broadcasting, the FCC contends they interfere with other amateur communications "due to an apparent lack of station control." The FCC proposed the forfeiture November 30 in a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture

"A licensee cannot ignore the directives in a Bureau inquiry letter," the FCC said in the November NAL. "We, therefore, conclude that Paul D. Westcott apparently willfully and repeatedly failed to respond to Commission correspondence."

While Westcott did reply to an initial FCC Enforcement Bureau inquiry last June, the Commission says he failed to respond to a subsequent Warning Notice and Request for Further Information in early September, a Warning Notice--Failure to Reply in mid-October or to the November NAL, issued by the Commission's Kansas City field office.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told ARRL that Westcott assured him "some time ago" in an earlier informal conversation that the transmissions were for Morse code practice, but neither he nor the FCC's Kansas City field office have received any formal responses from Westcott.

A June 21, 2004, letter from Hollingsworth requested information from Westcott regarding an attached complaint about the KC0OAB Morse code transmissions. In his response Westcott reiterated the code practice claim. The

June FCC letter also asked Westcott when he had had begun the CW transmissions and for evidence that the transmissions--consisting largely of biblical text--were actually being used for that purpose. Hollingsworth further asked Westcott to address the complaint "as it related to allegations of religious broadcasting."

Hollingsworth says his office continues to receive complaints about the ongoing KC0OAB transmissions on 40 meters.

The Commission gave Westcott 30 days to pay the fine or risk facing collection proceedings through the US Department of Justice.

New ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Wants Bright Future for Amateur Radio

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 17, 2005--New ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold R. Kramer, WJ1B, says he is looking forward to having an active role in confronting and resolving issues that may cloud Amateur Radio's future. The 56-year-old Cheshire, Connecticut, resident officially joined the ARRL Headquarters staff February 15, replacing Mark Wilson, K1RO, who stepped down last September. In his new role, Kramer says, he wants very much to be a part of the solution to keeping Amateur Radio vibrant.

"I not only want to ensure a future for Amateur Radio, I'd like to see it thrive," he said, taking a few moments from settling into his new surroundings and getting up to speed on his priorities as COO. Kramer says he'd like to see the ARRL augment efforts advocating Amateur Radio as a great leisure-time activity that also offers lifelong opportunities for both learning and public service.

But he also concedes that there's no single answer to assuring a bright future for Amateur Radio. "A lot of things have to happen," he said. "These include an ongoing emphasis on public service. That's something we need to continue doing."

As the Emergency Coordinator for Cheshire and an alumnus of the ARRL Amateur Radio Level I emergency communications course (he's working on Level II), Kramer's clearly willing to walk the walk. Besides public service work, he's a CW enthusiast.

A radio amateur since he was a teenager (he became KN1ZCK in 1962 and held WA1JLY for a number of years) and possessing an education that spans the arts and the sciences, Kramer may be in an ideal position to foster his vision for ham radio's future. He holds an associate degree in electronic technology from the University of Hartford's Ward Technical College, where he still teaches an introductory course in electricity and electronics as an adjunct faculty member. He also holds a bachelor of arts in English and master of arts in education (Instructional Media and Technology) from the University of Connecticut.

Kramer comes to ARRL after serving as vice president for strategic planning, business development, and education at Connecticut Public Broadcasting. Prior to that, he was employed in the cable television industry.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, noted that Kramer's selection culminated an intensive search process. "Harold brings to the ARRL staff an outlook

and relevant skills developed in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors," he said. "That, coupled with a lifelong love of Amateur Radio, makes him a strong addition to the ARRL management team."

Kramer says he'd like to see the ARRL firm up its position as an educational resource that enjoys a complementary role in turning out a better-trained technical workforce that's aware of current wireless technology and techniques.

"I'm convinced that ham radio gave a lot of people a career kick start, and that needs to continue," he said. Additionally, he'd like to promote Amateur Radio as an avocation that can adopt and integrate the Internet and other modern telecommunication technologies--and even developments still beyond the horizon.

At the same time, Kramer doesn't want to lose sight of the League's primary commitment. "I want ARRL to continue its tradition of excellent service to its members," he said.

Although he did not officially assume his new post until this week, Kramer sat in on the January meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors, which formally approved his appointment. ARRL staff members had the opportunity--most for the first time--to greet and chat with Kramer at an informal reception February 16 at ARRL Headquarters. He also taking time during his first couple of days on the job to meet informally with staff members in their departments.

Anticipated Peter I Island DXpedition postponed until 2006:

The anticipated Peter I Island (Antarctica) 3Y0X DXpedition <<http://www.peterone.com/main.htm>> has been called off at the eleventh hour. The DXpedition team announced February 17 that its charter vessel, the Cavendish Sea, has been delayed until February 20 instead of the hoped-for February 18. With a projected February 21 departure, the DXpedition ran out of time. "This latest delay, on top of numerous previous delays, simply makes it impossible for us to spend a sufficient amount of time on Peter I to justify the DXpedition this year," said the announcement from Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Ralph Fedor, K0IR. "So, we have no choice but to postpone the DXpedition until 2006." The DXpedition's first vessel and helicopter backed out at the last minute, forcing the team to quickly regroup with a new vessel and helicopter earlier this week.--The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com/>>

==>FCC UPHOLDS FINE FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION ON AMATEUR FREQUENCY

The FCC has affirmed a \$10,000 fine against a now-closed New Jersey restaurant and its owner for alleged unlicensed operation of a radio transmitter on 2 meters. The Commission's action strongly defended amateur spectrum against unlicensed intruders. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released February 9, the Commission denied a Petition for Reconsideration from Pang Cheng, doing business as Best Wok restaurant in Westville. In 2004, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) in the case, which involved operation of a so-called long-range cordless

telephone on 145.8376 MHz. Best Wok, the FCC says, failed to respond to the NAL. But it did reply to the subsequent Forfeiture Order (NoF), arguing that its unlicensed operation was unintentional and minor and caused minimal interference. The FCC disagreed, noting that the unlicensed operation generated a number of complaints from amateur licensees.

"Any use of Amateur Service frequencies for business communications creates a great potential for harmful interference to authorized Amateur Service communications," the FCC said in the MO&O, signed by FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon. "We must take strong action against such use because failure to do so would only encourage others to engage in the same conduct."

The FCC also denied Best Wok's claim that its unlicensed operation was unintentional. The FCC had warned the restaurant in 2001 and again in 2003 that operation of transmitting equipment without a license violated the Communications Act and could lead to penalties. In 2003, FCC agents from Philadelphia tracked the 2-meter signal to the restaurant and inspected the radiotelephone equipment, used to communicate between the restaurant and a vehicle. The eatery's manager said Best Wok had stopped using the long-range cordless telephone after the FCC's 2001 Warning Notice. But, the FCC says, the manager admitted that the restaurant resumed using the long-range cordless telephone after another communication system proved inadequate.

==>TWO AMATEURS RECEIVE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Two radio amateurs have received the President's Volunteer Service Award. President George W. Bush personally presented the award to Thomas J. "T. J." Powell, N8UIR, of Northfield, Ohio. Powell, is an active volunteer with the Northeast Ohio Medical Reserve Corps, a partner program of Citizen Corps, which provides medical support services for public events and emergency situations.

As chief of NEOMRC and a certified emergency medical technician, Powell volunteers 800 to 1000 hours per year, helping with logistics, planning, Amateur Radio operations and first-aid for charitable fund raising events throughout Northeast Ohio. In addition, he assists local fire departments and emergency medical service agencies during incidents that impact public health. Bush made the presentation during a January 27 visit to Cleveland.

The White House also honored ARRL member John H. Bauer, W4AWM, of Burke, Virginia, with a President's Volunteer Service Award. Bauer received the award January 29 in recognition of more than 500 hours of volunteer work in the Volunteer In Police Service (VIPS) program. Bauer is assigned to the Crime Prevention Office of the West Springfield District Station, Fairfax County Police.

"My assignment consists of many public relations and administrative duties as well as participating in various training drills for SWAT teams and other police activities," he explained. Presenting Bauer's award during a ceremony for himself and other recipients was the Fairfax County Chief of Police. Bauer also received a certificate of appreciation from the Fairfax County

Police Department.

Bauer says he always wears his call sign belt buckle when on duty, and that's resulted in his meeting two police officers who also are hams. The buckle also invites questions from people who want to know what it represents. "This is a great door opener to talk about my favorite hobby," Bauer said.