

Dial Radio Club

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: <http://www.gsl.net/w8blv/>

e-mail: dial@gth.net

President:

Art Frasier, N8PI

Vice-president:

Mark Johnson, WD8DFK

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Ernie Howard., W8EH

Treasurer:

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Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

November 2004

Minutes of the October 18, 2004 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:

W8EH, KC8WOF, N8NQG, N8RYS, N8ODK, W8WLM, N8OZN, KB8WKL, K8CM, N8GGE, N8HP, WA8PRA, KB8VSX, W3GP, N8TQG, KC8TXA, N8DHW, KC8ZJM, K8TNF, KF8PD, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KE8OH.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Lori, W8LKU, in the absence of both the President and Vice-president

Secretary's Report:

Motion by George, W3GP, second by Ron, N8NQG, to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in the *Newsletter*. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Carl, K8CM, presented the Treasurer's report for September. We have 109 members. Motion to approve by Ron, N8NQG, second by Barney, N8HP. Motion approved.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that all equipment is functioning normally.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, gave the activity report. November 20 at 9 am will be an ARRL Emergency Communications certification test session at the D. Russel Lee Vocational School. The next ARES net is November 9 at 7:30 pm on 147.33. The next Butler County ARES meeting is November 10, 7 pm, subject is *GO* bags.

Carl, K8CM; Dan, N8DIG; and Kelly, KC8ZJM, participated in a demonstration with a Webelos Cub Scout den.

Classes & Exams

Beverly, N8GGE, reported on classes and exams. Next exam this week [October 20]; General Class starts October 27 and runs for 6 weeks. A test will follow.

Old Business:

Kelley, KC8ZJM, reported plans are coming together for a Technician class to be conducted at the Middletown High school for the science class, in January. It will be Friday afternoon, after school. Instructors will be needed.

Ed, KF8PD, reminded us that the planned ARRL sweepstakes contest would be at his home. The contest starts Saturday, November 20, at 4 pm and runs until Sunday evening. Show up and have some fun. Motion to approve \$75 for food expenses for the contest by Ron, N8NQG, second by Jon, K8TNF. Motion approved.

Jon, K8TNF, reported that the Saturday evening Round Table net needs more check ins.

Carl, K8CM, reported that the SWR demo program that Dave, KD8W, is coordinating would be Saturday January 15 in Miami University's Thesken Hall. It will be in conjunction with the [annual] *Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium*. Watch <http://www.swohdigi.org/> for additional information.

George, W3GP, was back from the Colorado hunting trip with Dave and Mark. Dave and Mark operated some; George got an Elk.

New Business:

Jon, K8TNF; Dave, KD8W; and Barney, N8HP, were appointed to the nominating committee. Their report is due at the November 15 meeting

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth, N8RYS, and duly seconded by Erich, N8ODK. Motion approved, without dissent, by the membership.

Ernie Howard, Jr., W8EH
Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, November 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Ham License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

**Wednesday evening, December 15, 2004
at 6:30 p.m. in room 13 Johnston Hall,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH**

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of \$12.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check (\$12) made payable to the *Dial Radio Club*. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, 5766 Trenton-Franklin Road, Middletown, OH, 45042, and must arrive no later than Monday, December 13. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W (424-5819).

Talk-in on 146.610 -

November Sweepstakes - Phone November 20 - 21

Sandi and I are, again, planning to host the *November ARRL Sweepstakes* contest Saturday and Sunday (November 20-21), so let's see if we can have an even better turnout than last year.

We are planning a Saturday evening dinner and probably will have enough food and drinks for the rest of the time too.

If you are interested in coming, please let me know so we can get a planning discussion going. If you just want to come and hang out, that's "OK" too. We have bumper pool, air hockey, and ping pong to keep you busy in case you can't find something to talk about.

You may check out the *Sweepstakes* rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/novss.html>. You may reply to Ed and Sandi at kf8pd@arrl.net.

[KF8PD]

Butler County ARES

September was very busy for Butler County ARES members.

September 8th, 2004 – 23 operators participated in the Butler County Emergency Management Agency Countywide Weapons of Mass Destruction drill.

We are not trained in or with WMD! We did our normal thing – COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT - for the entire event!

We had 3 Nets active.

Our Hospital Net was used to keep the participating hospitals up-to-date on the ever changing situation and notified them as soon as the chemical agent was identified so they would know what they were dealing with.

An "ALERT" was also broadcast on the amateur radio hospital net.

A "walk in victim" in Oxford made it into the Emergency Room and to the nurse's desk, as they normally would do to get treatment.

The problem is, they were contaminated with the agent, now the hospital was closed and quarantined!

That information quickly went to the remaining hospitals that immediately locked their emergency room doors and began "screening" inbound patients.

We also had a Red Cross Net active on 145.3900 to support their function during the drill, and our normal Resource Net on 147.3300 for volunteers to assist.

Titan Corporation provided guidelines for the drill coordinators, evaluators and facilitators praised the communications we had setup for them to use.

- ☞ 49 business band radios were utilized for this drill.
- ☞ 20 came from Middletown Radio Maintenance, courtesy of Ernie, W8EH
- ☞ 12 came from Butler County EMA
- ☞ 17 came from N8TVU's trailer (we still had 12 spares)

September 18th our members took our response trailer to the Ohio Section Conference as part of the display of Emergency Communications Vehicles.

The conference covered topics such as the Best News Letter in the Section, awards for the Net Control of the OSSBN, etc.

One of the main topics was WINLINK 2000 and AIRMAIL as a means of interconnecting the internet and amateur radio to provide the missing link to the internet should the service go down in a disaster stricken area.

This would mainly provide EMAIL service to and from served agencies by connecting a WINLINK 2000 computer with an amateur radio at the agencies office or field location (shelter).

September 19th, 3 operators participated in the Oxford State to State Mini-Marathon, which has grown to well over 800 participants in the past 2 years.

September 24, BCARES was invited to take a tour of the WXIX TV studio's by Chief Meteorologist Rich Apuzzo. Tour participants visited both upper and lower control rooms, editing rooms, mixing rooms, saw the machines that "air" the commercials and sitcoms on a daily basis, and Rich's Weather Center.

An interesting tour if you ever get the chance.

September 25th 2:30 P.M. Butler County ARES was activated by Red Cross to provide support communications on Monday September 27th for the rally for President Bush in West Chester. Red Cross was told to expect between 30-35,000 people. 50,000+ showed up!

There was a rush to get the names of the available operators to Red Cross by 6 P.M. on the 25th so they could be forwarded and processed by the White House Staff and Secret Service for admission as "workers" for the rally.

BCARES utilized our trailer as the on site net control station. The trailer had to be on site Sunday 09-26 for inspection by the SS.

While transporting the trailer to the site on Sunday, the EMA

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called and wanted to know where the Sheriff's Office could get a dozen Army style liters for the event.

We knew Bill Moore, W8KVU, had connections with the National Guard, so we made contact with Bill. He gave us a phone number for the SO to call. They got their 12 liters plus extras.

Amateur Radio and ARES has come into the spotlight in Butler County with Emergency Service officials in more ways than "just being hams".

They are beginning to realize the huge asset amateur radio operators can be and what a great resource of information they are.

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC
Home - 513-825-8902
Cell - 513-266-6102
Web: www.qsl.net/n8tvu

Weaver's Words

BPL -- THE FAT LADY HASN'T SUNG, YET!

The FCC did pretty much as we expected. They put their blessing on the national roll-out of BPL. In doing this, they actually recognized (for the first time) the possibility of QRming Amateur Radio bands, and in theory established procedures that could force BPL suppliers to clean up their act. The jury is out on this, of course.

Even though FCC Commissioners forced their non-technical will on us, we are not "out," yet. With the help of our burgeoning Grassroots Action system, there is at least one more ploy we can attempt to force the Commissioners to stop the roll-out until after they have conducted scientifically-sound data that will determine the degree, if any, of interference BPL is likely to cause not only to us, but to all other users of the involved spectrum.

I thank Michigan amateurs K8CQF and N8DJP who so willingly came to the front in emphasizing public safety interests in avoiding interference. We will see fairly soon how this new effort pans out.

REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH

I thank each of you who wrote to me or ARRL HQ to share your views on this proposal. I read each of these regardless of where they were directed. I saw a number of good recommendations. Thanks for them. I also saw some misunderstandings. Thanks for these as well.

One point I wish to make is that I attempted to answer each comment very soon after I received it. This worked in most instances, but in a few my E-mail was rejected as undeliverable, apparently because of security setting some place along the line. If this is intentional, this is OK with me, but it means I will be unable to discuss issues with you.

The status of the proposal is that a summary of comments received on it have been reviewed by the Executive Committee. The EC met just this past weekend so I don't know exactly what changes were made as a result of them. I believe I can guarantee everyone that changes are being made and that the basis for these changes is input from members. Great job, folks.

One additional comment is that there is very misleading information being spread by a former member of the ARRL HF Digital Committee concerning this Committee's report and how some recommendations in it were put into the Bandwidth proposal. I don't want to make this issue of the newsletter longer than it already is certain to be, but let me attempt to assure everyone that most of the information in this individual's claims are inaccurate or are taken out

of context so that they misrepresent the facts.

GRASSROOTS PROGRAM

Little by little there seems to be growing understanding among Great Lakes Division members of the need for them to become involved in our Grassroots Lobbying program. I am able to begin putting volunteer's names on the list for the several Congressional Districts in our three states. If you are willing to consider making as many as two contacts a year with your US Representative or Senator, please notify me. The task will be to provide basic information to them and ask them to support legislation ARRL has had introduced into Congress. This legislation is on such topics as protecting our amateur bands and on Federal guarantee of the ability of amateurs to have antennas.

Background information and handout material will be provided to members of the Grassroots team. The reality of modern times is that we can no longer rely on the FCC to do the right thing. We must become involved on a non-partisan basis with Congress. Please contact me for more information.

MICHIGAN SECTION ARRL CONVENTION

The 2003 Michigan Section Convention was the first I had attended for many years. To say it was a good one is an understatement. Even saying the 2004 Convention will be better understates expectations. For one thing, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, will be the speaker at the Friday evening banquet and will hold forth at the ARRL forum on Saturday.

The Convention is Friday evening, November 5 and Saturday, November 6. The Holland ARC's hamfest is Sunday, November 7. For more information: <http://superswap.hollandarc.org/>.

KENTUCKY SECTION ARRL CONVENTION

Congratulations to the folks in the Louisville area for a fine convention. It shows promise of growing in future years.

GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

This will be the second of our bi-annual Division Conventions. It will be held on Saturday, March 19, the day before the Toledo Hamfest. Featured speaker for the Saturday evening banquet is Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. He will also hold a forum earlier in the day. Riley, of course, has been extremely active in enforcement not only of Amateur Radio rules, but of rules against QRM caused by power companies, etc. The representative from ARRL HQ for this convention will be Wayne Mills, N7NG. Wayne probably is best known for his work in the DX community, but he is more than this. He is Manager of the ARRL Membership Services department.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Now is the time to submit nominations for the George S. Wilson, W4OYI, the Amateur of the Year, the Technical achievement and the Newsletter awards. For information on the Convention and the awards, go to: <http://greatlakes.arrl.org/>.

FINAL THOUGHT

It seems that some amateurs look to ARRL to enforce FCC rules. Frankly, we don't. Moreover, we can't. The rules are established and enforced by the FCC. If one looks at the staffing level of the Commission, it is readily apparent they cannot be everywhere at any one time. Riley Hollingsworth, for example, has few people on his staff and still they must attempt to cover the US and its possessions

to enforce the Commissions' rules.

Simply put, this is an impossible task. Riley and his folks do a great job, but they cannot do it all. We, radio amateurs, can assist Riley; however, by being his eyes and ears. The ARRL Official Observer Corps is the specific group that he looks toward for help. OOs simply collect information and pass it up the line where it is reviewed for completeness and is passed on to Riley. I encourage each of you to consider becoming an OO. This is easy to do and the job required is pretty simple, also. The job done by OOs is of great help in getting at least the worst offenders off our ham bands. To learn more about becoming an OO, go to: <http://greatlakes.arrl.org/>. Click on the link to your Section's web site where the OO Coordinator for your Section is listed. He will be happy to describe the hows, whys and whats of OO work. Keep in mind that if we don't help, we will have no one but ourselves to blame for many of the operating problems on our bands.

Nuf for now. 73, GL, Jim, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division

Director: James Weaver, K8JE

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k8je@arrl.org

Draft Bandwidth Petition, BPL Focus of ARRL Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting October 16 in Dallas, Texas, the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) devoted much of its fall session to a discussion of comments received on ARRL's draft FCC petition seeking regulation of subbands by bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The EC also authorized the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration in response to the BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37, which the FCC adopted October 14. Drafting and filing the petition must await release of the actual R&O, which should happen in a few weeks. Responding to a synopsis of the bandwidth petition and proposed rule changes posted on the ARRL Web site, several hundred League members and others in the ham radio community offered comments and suggestions.

"The Executive Committee found considerable support for the concept of the petition," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, "along with constructive suggestions to reduce both the impact of the changes on current amateur operations, as well as possible unintended consequences." Sumner's "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, "Regulation by Bandwidth," in September QST addressed the bandwidth petition.

Earlier this year, the EC decided to make a synopsis and explanation of the petition available to ARRL members before filing it with the FCC. At this month's meeting, the EC agreed to submit several recommended amendments to the proposed rules changes to the ARRL Board of Directors for its consideration in January. These include:

- * Retention of rules permitting automatically controlled digital stations (packet and other digital modes) in narrow HF subbands. The draft petition had proposed dropping these provisions.
- * A rule prohibiting so-called semi-automatic digital operation (automatic control in response to a communication initiated by a live operator) on frequencies below 28 MHz where phone is

permitted. This addressed a concern that "robot" digital stations might take over the phone bands.

- * A segment for 3 kHz bandwidth (no phone) emissions at 10.135-10.150 MHz to accommodate existing and planned digital operations.
- * Deletion of the word "continuous" from the description of test transmissions authorized on most frequencies above 51 MHz.
- * Simplification of proposed changes to 97.309 to clarify that FCC-licensed amateur stations may use any published digital code as long as other rules are observed.

"These recommendations are not intended to be the final word on the draft petition, but are intended to address the major issues raised to date," Sumner emphasized.

The draft bandwidth proposals take into account the ARRL's prior "Novice reformatting" petition to expand some HF phone bands, included in the "omnibus" FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket 04-140.

The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Acknowledges Interference Potential of BPL As It Okays Rules to Deploy It

As expected, the FCC has approved revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate the deployment of broadband over power line (BPL) technology. The Commission adopted a *Report and Order* in ET Docket 04-37 when it met in open session today (October 14). At the same time, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael K. Powell, specifically mentioned the concerns of Amateur Radio operators at the open meeting and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin addressed Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in his written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission's shift from the early days of the BPL proceeding, when it followed the lead of the BPL industry in largely ignoring interference to amateurs as a real issue in the proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints.

"Those were things that we brought to the table," he said. "I think we scored some pretty good points." Haynie concedes, however, that the devil is in the details of the *R&O*, which likely will not be made public for at least a few weeks. The FCC issued a Public Notice reporting its action.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), who outlined the draft *R&O*, acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride went on to

say, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

Copps Comments on Amateur Radio Concerns

In his remarks before the FCC vote, Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said he remains concerned about interference to Amateur Radio users. "I take the concerns of this community very seriously and believe that the FCC has an obligation to work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action, where appropriate, to resolve harmful interference." Seemingly the least enthusiastic about BPL among his FCC colleagues, Copps called it a promising technology and new broadband pipe "if everything goes really, really well."

Copps said if interference occurs, "we must have a system in place to resolve it immediately." He expressed the hope that the new rules will have some "rapid turnaround procedures" in place to handle interference complaints. Haynie said he was pleased at Copps' remarks on behalf of Amateur Radio and hopes that the Commission follows through.

Copps, who dissented in part with the *R&O*, again raised the question of whether utility ratepayers should have to "subsidize an electric power company's foray into broadband."

Some BPL Systems Can Co-Exist, Some Don't Fare as Well

As did his colleagues, the Commission's other Democrat, Jonathan S. Adelstein, asserted that BPL would spur competition in the broadband marketplace, but he said the question of interference has made the proceeding a challenging one because it had to accommodate concerns raised by Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators.

"These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said, "and I'm glad we made every effort to do so in this [agenda] item." At the same time, Adelstein continued, the Commission has an obligation to encourage new technology.

Adelstein said recent BPL tests have been "very useful" in developing techniques to mitigate interference. "It's clear that some of these systems can co-exist very well with existing licensees," he said. "Other systems, though, are not as effective and haven't fared so well," he said, adding that such systems shouldn't be deployed commercially until it's assured that they won't cause harmful interference. He issued a public statement following the meeting.

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a Republican, said the FCC had to "make some hard compromises" to deal with questions about interference. But she expressed confidence in "technical solutions." Abernathy and Powell released a joint statement.

"A Banner Day"

Powell, who did not recuse himself from speaking and voting on the BPL proceeding as ARRL had requested (see "ARRL Asks FCC Chairman to Recuse Himself from BPL Vote"), called it "a banner day" for communications in the US because, he said, BPL promises "ubiquitous service to all Americans at affordable rates."

The chairman, a Republican, conceded that BPL will affect some spectrum users--including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there." Powell said the FCC has "taken that seriously from the very beginning" and has taken great care to ensure that protections are in place "to allow that service to continue." At the

same time, Powell implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

"But let me underscore the potential for the American economy is too great, too enormous, too potentially groundbreaking to sit idly by and allow any claim or any possible speculative fear keep us from driving this technology and drive America into the broadband future."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Powell was overstating the necessity of yet another broadband pipeline. "It's astonishing to me that the chairman of the FCC can talk about needing a 'third way' to provide broadband to consumers when multiple technologies *already* are available, including wireless broadband," he said.

Post-Meeting Press Conference

In a press conference following the meeting, OET Deputy Chief Bruce Franca said some of the BPL equipment now in place may not meet the tighter guidelines in the rules the FCC approved. "Some of the technologies that are being deployed today do not have all of the capabilities that we are requiring for BPL systems," he said, "so there'll have to be some adjustments to current deployments."

Franca also emphasized that "life and safety" radio systems would receive priority protection from BPL interference through frequency notching and exclusion zones. Other licensed users would be protected on a complaint basis, "when and if interference occurs."

OET Chief Ed Thomas said the *R&O* contains "an administrative procedure, step by step" to address interference complaints. He characterized the procedure as "a bit of a refinement" to current Part 15 requirements. He also said the FCC determines "black and white" what constitutes "harmful interference" under the rules.

"It's our belief that the notching provides the protection that's reasonable and in the public interest," Thomas continued, "and we don't think that's a major problem. There's been a lot of rhetoric surrounding this as well."

For more information on BPL, visit the "*Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio*" page on the ARRL Web site.

[ARRL Web]

UK Amateurs Poised to Get Bigger 40-meter Band

Amateur Radio operators in the United Kingdom hope to soon have a bigger 40 meter band. UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has announced plans to extend 40 meters by an additional 100 kHz to 7000-7200 kHz for Foundation, Intermediate and Full Amateur Radio licensees in the UK.

Ofcom says the band extension would be a secondary allocation to the Amateur Service on the basis that amateurs not cause interference to other services within or outside the UK.

Allowable modes would include CW, phone, RTTY, data, facsimile and SSTV. Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) Spectrum Forum Chairman and HF Manager Colin Thomas, G3PSM, says that barring the unlikely event of an objection, the additional 100 kHz should become available to UK amateurs Sunday, October 31.

Ofcom has invited comments on the proposal until October 23.--The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>; RSGB

[ARRL Letter]

No News is . . . No News

There have been no changes to the Amateur Radio Part 97 rules

nor any news to report regarding FCC action on proposals that address the number of license classes, the 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to obtain a General or Extra license, or other amateur licensing qualifications or privileges.

The FCC continues to review the thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including a petition from the ARRL--that, in general, address various facets of license restructuring and the Morse code requirement. Prompting most of these petitions were changes to the international *Radio Regulations* approved during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

The FCC first must issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* and assign it a docket number, then invite comments on what it decides to propose, based on the petitions it has before it. The ARRL estimates that the FCC is only about one-third of the way through its review of the petitions, however, and the League does not anticipate any final FCC action--in the form of a *Report and Order*--until sometime in 2006. The *ARRL* has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring initiative on its Web site; <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>.

[ARRL Web]

FCC Adopts New BPL Rules, Acknowledges Its Interference Potential

As expected, the FCC this week adopted revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate broadband over power line (BPL) systems. Meeting October 14 in open session, the Commission adopted a Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37. In comments before voting, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael Powell, specifically cited the concerns of Amateur Radio operators and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin mentioned Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in a written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission acknowledge interference to amateurs as a genuine issue in the proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said Thursday. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. Haynie conceded, however, that the devil is in the details of the R&O, which likely will not be made public for at least a few weeks.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride continued, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said he remains concerned about interference to Amateur Radio users. "I take the concerns of this community very seriously and believe that the FCC has an obligation to work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action, where appropriate, to resolve harmful interference."

Copps said if interference occurs, "we must have a system in

place to resolve it immediately," and he expressed the hope that the new rules would include such "rapid turnaround" provisions. Copps, who dissented in part with the R&O, raised the question of whether utility ratepayers should have to "subsidize an electric power company's foray into broadband."

The Commission's other Democrat, Jonathan Adelstein, said the interference question made the proceeding a challenging one because it had to accommodate concerns raised by Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators. "These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said.

Adelstein also said that while it's clear that some BPL systems can co-exist with existing licensees, others "haven't fared so well." He said those systems shouldn't be deployed commercially until it's assured that they won't cause harmful interference.

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy, a Republican, said the FCC had to "make some hard compromises" to deal with questions about interference. But she expressed confidence in "technical solutions."

Chairman Powell called it "a banner day" for communications in the US because, he said, BPL promises "ubiquitous service to all Americans at affordable rates." The chairman, a Republican, conceded that BPL will affect some spectrum users--including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there." Powell said the FCC has taken Amateur Radio interference concerns seriously from the start and has put protections in place "to allow that service to continue." At the same time, Powell implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell said BPL's potential for the US economy "is too great, too enormous, too potentially groundbreaking to sit idly by and allow any claim or any possible speculative fear" keep the Commission from promoting adoption of BPL technology.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Powell was overstating the necessity of yet another broadband pipeline. "It's astonishing to me that the chairman of the FCC can talk about needing a 'third way' to provide broadband to consumers when multiple technologies already are available, including wireless broadband," he said.

The United Power Line Council (UPLC) applauded the FCC's action, saying the new rules should encourage BPL deployment while protecting licensed services from harmful interference. "We didn't get everything we wanted," said UPLC President and CEO William R. Moroney, who called the R&O "the result of close cooperation and compromise" with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to address its concerns about potential interference.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

[ARRL Letter]

Australian Amateurs Seek to Stake a Claim at 500 KHz

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) has announced plans to request the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) to establish an experimental amateur allocation at 500 Khz.

"The best way to do this is to establish a small slice of spectrum around 500 Khz--probably 495 to 510 Khz--as an Amateur Radio

band," said WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU. "The band would also provide a unique opportunity for experimentation with antennas, propagation, advanced narrowband modulation techniques and receiver digital signal processing."

A former shipboard radio officer, Dunstan noted that 500 Khz was the international maritime Morse code distress frequency for most of the 20th century. Following the introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) in 1999, 500 Khz use has declined rapidly, Dunstan said. China, the last official user of the frequency, plans to discontinue operation there next year.

Dunstan concedes that since 500 Khz remains allocated to the Maritime Service, gaining a permanent amateur foothold there is "some way off," but the WIA is hoping that Australian authorities will grant access to some spectrum there in the meantime for experimental use.

The ARRL and the RSGB have expressed some interest in a 500 Khz Amateur Radio allocation. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 and various US amateur long-wave groups also are actively pursuing experimental use of 500 Khz. Additionally, the IARU favors a worldwide Amateur Radio band at 135.7 to 137.8 Khz and is seeking support for such an allocation at World Radiocommunication Conference 2007.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRISS Logs Two "Firsts" in Australian School Contact

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRISS) program marked two "firsts" during a September 23 school group contact with students from an elementary school in Australia. The QSO with youngsters from Kilburn Primary School was the first using the ARISS Phase 2 radio gear aboard the ISS and the first in which an attempt was made to provide contact audio worldwide via IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) nodes. NASA ISS Science Officer Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, took the controls of the NA1SS Kenwood TS-D700 transceiver in the crew quarters for the occasion. Responding to one youngster's question, Fincke described an ultrasound experiment that he and Expedition 9 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, have been running during their tour of duty.

"Ultrasound uses sound waves to look inside people's bodies," he explained, "and we can see how our bodies have changed because we've been exposed to this weightlessness--this microgravity--for a long time." Fincke said he and Padalka already have noted some changes. "By being able to tell how our bodies change in microgravity, we can figure out how to keep us healthy and strong, so that when we go to the moon and Mars, we'll be ready for it."

Fincke also fielded questions about how the ISS gets its electrical power, sleeping in space, the ISS' onboard environment, space walks, how Earth and the moon look from space and--of course--space food.

The Kilburn students were guests of the Investigator Science and Technology Centre in Adelaide for the occasion, and 13 of them got to ask Fincke questions about life in space before the ISS went out of range. Serving as the Earth station for the contact was Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Honolulu. An MCI-donated teleconferencing circuit provided two-way audio to the students. ARISS veteran Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, assisted at the Investigator Centre.

Members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club in Nova Scotia undertook the IRLP experiment, which had limited success. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said he'd like the program to explore future opportunities to make ARISS school group contacts available to other schools and the general ham radio population. One major issue this time was the presence of timers on IRLP systems.

ISS crews have used the Phase 1 Ericsson handheld VHF radio for the 146 previous ARISS school group contacts. The Phase 2 station was not expected to be used for a school group contact until the Expedition 10 crew arrives later this month.

ARRISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Digital Communications Study Under Way

The ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee on Amateur Radio Emergency Service--ARES--Communications (ARESCOM) is seeking the assistance of the amateur community in documenting what digital communications systems now are in use today on the VHF and UHF bands. While the majority of digital communication is via packet, there are many different packet systems in use, and they are interconnected using a variety of methods.

The ARRL Board of Directors resolved at its July 2004 meeting to encourage the deployment of e-mail via Amateur Radio--"as exemplified by Winlink 2000"--to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications.

ARESCOM now wants to gather input on systems already in place. "We are seeking input from packet System Administrators, not individual users, as we need information on how the packet nodes are linked and what connectivity methods the packet systems use with systems outside their coverage area," said ARRL Ad-hoc ARESCOM Committee Chair Dick Mondro, W8FQT. The committee plans to wrap up data collection December 31.

The study seeks detailed information on current packet infrastructure, and one person may respond on behalf of several system operators if they all approve. "We simply ask that the names and call signs of all involved be listed," Mondro said.

To participate download the on-line form <<http://www.arrl.org/digtest/TestSurvey.pdf>> or <<http://www.arrl.org/digtest/testSurvey.doc>>. After providing all applicable information, submit the survey form via e-mail <dcti@arrl.org> or via surface mail to ARRL, DCTI Study, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Those interested in sharing comments and ideas are invited to subscribe to the DCTI Reflector <DCTI-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>. For more information, visit the ARRL Digital Communications Study Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/digtest>>.

[ARRL Letter]

New World Record Set on 47 GHz

On September 19 during the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Cumulative Contest, Frank Bauregger, W6QI, and Gary Lauterbach, AD6FP, claimed a new world distance record on 47 GHz after they completed a contact over a distance of 290 km.

W6QI operated from Shuteye Peak (DM07gi) just south of Yosemite, while AD6FP operated from Frazier Mountain (DM04ms) north of Los Angeles. Although it was officially still summer, W6QI had to brave 30-degree temperatures and snow while modifying the

radio in order to complete the contact. Signal margins were 40 dB on the W6QI end and about 8 dB on the AD6FP end.

The contact was completed using a combination of narrowband FM and CW. The two reported weather conditions were quite unusual for September with scattered rain showers in the central California Valley between Shuteye and Frazier.

[ARRL Letter]

DXCC Desk Accredits DX Operations

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: 9U6PM, Burundi, effective August 20, 2004; ZS8MI, Prince Edward & Marion Island, April 1-May 9, 2004. A new feature, "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/>>, can answer most questions about the DXCC program. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>. Current ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins for 2004 page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>>.

[ARRL Letter]

November Meeting Program

Our program for the November meeting will be presented by Mr. Donald L. Corbet, representing D. L. Corbet & Associates, LLC. He will be speaking on the application of the *Linux* operating system.

You've heard about it. You've read about it. Perhaps you've seen it on a desktop or laptop computer. Or maybe you've even tried it.

Governments, major industries, small businesses and even the military are now coming to *Linux* in droves. The trickle from other operating systems to *Linux* is quickly becoming a torrent. The reasons vary from financial to security, but the mass migration has begun.

Glad you asked! *Linux* is commonly known as a server operating system or an operating system for advanced users. Can a non-pro use it, and why should he or she do so?

While *Linux* did begin its life as a server operating system and an operating system for advanced users, *Linux* has made significant progress in a most key area: its graphical user interface.

Linux now has a very easy to use interface for both the Windows and Mac crowd. The desktop looks, acts and feels incredibly familiar, as do applications such word processors, spreadsheets and photo editors.

Donald L. Corbet, a.k.a. *TheLinuxGuy*®, is an accomplished corporate senior executive, technical expert on *Linux*, *Unix*, *Windows* and other platforms, trainer, educator and public speaker. Mr. Corbet represents the ideal combination of "suit" and "tech". He is a member of the Board of the *Linux Professional Institute* and is a certified *Linux* cyber forensics specialist. He has received numerous corporate awards for his ground breaking work in customer satisfaction. He is a recognized presence and speaker at global *Linux* events, has hosted technical radio talk shows and was a columnist for a midwest computer publications. Mr. Corbet is a member of *Who's Who in America*. He founded D. L. Corbet & Associates, LLC in late 2002.

Additional information available at <http://www.dlcorbet.com/linux.htm>.

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill at 3350 Village Drive, Franklin, OH (Towne Mall area).

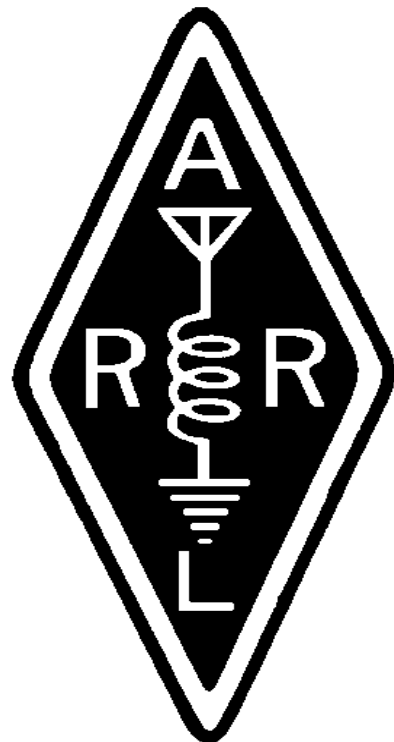
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Hope to see you on Monday, November 15, 2004!!

Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart.

Henry Clay

Demonstrate your support for amateur radio by joining the ARRL today !!



November

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	4 <i>DIAL</i> Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	5	6 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
7 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW	8	9 Butler County <i>ARES</i> Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	10 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	11 <i>DIAL</i> Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	12	13 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
14	15 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	16	17 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	18 <i>DIAL</i> Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	19	20 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
21 ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone	22	23	24 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	25 <i>DIAL</i> Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	26	27 <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
28	29	30	31 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	November 10 Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7 - 9 pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS November 20-21: ARRL November Sweepstakes at home of Ed (KF8PD) and Sandi (AB8LA) in Camden, OH		

December

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
December 8: Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 6:30pm Rm 229, D. Russel Lee JVS			1 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	2 Net Tonight 9pm W8BLV/R	3 ARRL 160 Meter Contest	4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R ARRL International EME Competition
5 ARRL 160 Meter Contest ARRL International EME Competition	6	7 Butler County <i>ARES</i> Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	8 General Ham Class Johnston Hall MU-Middletown 6 - 9 pm	9 Net Tonight 9pm W8BLV/R	10	11 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am ARRL 10 Meter Contest <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
12 ARRL 10 Meter Contest	13	14	15 Ham Exams Johnston Hall MU-Middletown Registration Opens @ 6 pm	16 Net Tonight 9pm W8BLV/R	17	18 <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
19	20 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	21	22	23 Net Tonight 9pm W8BLV/R	24	25 <i>DIAL</i> Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
26	27	28 ARES Net 9pm 147.330 +	29	30	31	