



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

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June 2005

Field Day 2005

June 25 - 26

Smith Park, Middletown

**Minutes of the May 16, 2005
Dial Radio Club Meeting**

Attendance

K8TNF, N8XQ, KC8TXA, WD8NKJ, N8DIG, K2RPW, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KD8W, KC8DVX, WD8DFK, AB8UJ, KE8OH, Tillie, N8LRN, Eve, W8MVN, Bonnie, KC8CYP, K4BQE, WA8PRA, WB8MYT, N8TFE, WB8DPZ, W8GNV, N8HP, N8GGE, K8CM, W8WLM, W3GP, N8TQG, KB8WKL, W8ULC, Marilyn, Shawn, N8NQF, N8HRA, N8EH, N8RYS, AF8T, N8OZN, W8EH, N8DHW, KB8VSX.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Art, N8PI, at 7:00 P.M.

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Bob, KC8DUX, second by Kelly, N8XQ, to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the April meeting as published in the *Newsletter*. Motion approved

Treasurer's Report:

110 members representing 68 families

Repeater/Station Report:

Station report by Ernie, W8EH. UHF link ordered and received waiting to install.

The Club's Kenwood TS-850 HF transceiver has been fixed and working, plans are to use it at this year's Field Day exercise.

Activity Report:

Report by Lorie, W8LKU. Don't forget the Thursday evening intercom net at 9pm, and the Saturday round table net at 9:30pm. Both are on the 146.610 repeater.

Classes and Exams:

Report by Beverly, N8GGE. We are on summer break, classes will resume sometime in August. [Fall exam August 17 and Technician class begins on August 24 - Ed.]

Old Business:

Carl would like anyone willing to receive the newsletter on e-mail rather than hard copy to contact Nicole Slone at jwslone@sbcglobal.net. Beginning next month, this *Newsletter* will be produced by Nicole Slone, spouse of Jon Slone, K8TNF.

New Business:

There will be a Field Day planning meeting following the regular

Next Meeting: Monday, June 20, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

meeting this evening.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Carl, K8CM, seconded by Kelly, N8XQ. Motion approved.

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF
Secretary

Field Day Meeting Recap May 16, 2005

We had a good Field Day meeting on May 16. The next one is on Wednesday, June 15, 6pm, at Smith Park.

For the record, I did not "accept" the Field Day chairperson nomination. I was thrown into it. I hate it when that happens..... [A good choice, though. - Ed]

We've been out of town. so the recap was delayed till now. The consensus was to have the same layout and number of stations as we did last year. *No amplifiers.*

If you are planning of camping out and are wanting to setup on Friday, please see one of the station captains before choosing your spot. We'd like to locate the stations and antennas in the same spots as last year. If you did help out with setup, PLEASE come back.

Everything went very smooth last year, with everyone having more energy left over to actually operate.

There will be **NO ALCOHOL** at the park. This is clearly stated in the guidelines provided by the City and will be posted in the club trailer in case there are any questions. We want to be able to come back next year if we choose.

We will not be networking the computers this year. N3FJP has apparently fixed the software problem we encountered last year but we'll play it safe. Looks like we have enough computers to do the job and UPS (uninterruptible power supplies) for backup power.

Dave, KD8W, is requesting those interested in working CW to get with him on their time preference.

Barney, N8HP, will be setting up the much talked about 40M LADDER VERTICAL. If you haven't tried it out yet, you're in for a big surprise. It works GREAT and gets a lot of complements on the air.

Stay tuned for more info.....

Ed Thornsburg
<kf8pd@arrl.net>

Field Day - 2005

Field Day - 2005 will be held in Smith Park, Middletown, as was done last year.

The *Butler County VHF Association* and *Butler County ARES* will again join us for both operating activities and the traditional family picnic.

Mark your calendar now for the Field Day Family Picnic at 6 pm, Saturday, June 25, at the Field Day site in Smith Park.

As in previous years, you are asked to provide a covered dish of whatever you wish to bring. The Club will provide the meats, soft drinks, and table setting. Lorie also asks that you RSVP no later than Monday, June 20, with the number of people in your party so appropriate purchases may be made. You may reach Lorie by email at dishgirl@att.net, by phone (743-9540), after the meeting, or on the

air. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

[W8LKU & K8CM]

Hamvention 2005 - May 20, 21, 22

Hamvention 2005® is now behind us. This year's activity began on Thursday afternoon, in the midst of a drenching downpour, as we set off to HARA to set up our site in the *Hamvention*® flea market area.

Then came Friday morning. Leaving Middletown at 5:30 am, we arrived at HARA at 7 after a couple of stops in Carlisle to pick up more conventioners and ice for drinks and food storage.

Friday was a wet and cool day. Fortunately the rain was nothing like the day before and we managed to keep dry throughout the day.

Saturday was great! Sunny and warm, accompanied by a mild breeze, made the day. There was a good turn out of *DIAL* folks and a lot of camaraderie.

Sunday came along with a cool, breezy, and intermittently damp day. The flea market area was noticeably sparse and there were "no crowds" inside the arena. Clearly we had a taste of "Ohio weather" during this weekend.

Business throughout the flea market was brisk but not outstanding. We saw a variety of offerings - from "antiques" to "state of the art" electronic gear - including a number of "non-ham" items.

It was quite a weekend! A lot to see and experience and an opportunity to meet and greet friends from afar as well as an opportunity to interact with local friends and acquaintances.

I'd like to express our collective thanks to all who were "on site" to help set up on Thursday and take down Sunday. It's always exciting to have people who work well together, to get the job done, and do so cooperatively. It just seemed that everyone knew what to do and when to do it to make the work go smoothly and quickly.

And let me add a special thanks to Judy Spaulding for the great lunches we had each day. Judy packed a tasty and nourishing lunch that "hit the spot" each and every day.

.... *And a great time was had by all!!*

[K8CM]

Dayton Hamvention: "Generate Some Heat" to Spur Political Action

DAYTON, OH, May 20, 2005--Amateur Radio licensees need to start taking personal responsibility for prodding politicians to pay attention to hot-button issues affecting the service, a Dayton Hamvention forum was told today. Dayton Hamvention, which is playing host to the 2005 ARRL National Convention, has been drawing a large and enthusiastic opening-day crowd despite foggy conditions, overcast skies and cool temperatures. Thunderstorms rolled through the area Thursday evening. ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, told the League's Grassroots Lobbying Forum that when it comes to Congress, individual radio amateurs can help shape their own future.

"Political lobbying is something people don't really want to hear about," Fallon conceded. "But politics controls everything we get." Fallon used the broadband over power line (BPL) proceeding as an example of how politics can overcome logical, technical argument. Fallon heads up the League's nascent grassroots lobbying initiative

with assistance from Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and Northern New Jersey ARRL Section Manager Bill Hudzik, W2UDT.

Fallon focused a lot of his remarks on a US House of Representatives resolution, HRes 230, sponsored by Arkansas Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR, and introduced earlier this year. The resolution calls on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of BPL radio interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," and--in light of that analysis--to "reconsider and review" the BPL rules it adopted last October. If approved by the full House, the non-binding resolution would express the requests as "the sense of the House of Representatives." The job at this point is to get cosponsors for the resolution and see it pass the House, and that won't happen "unless we can generate some heat," Fallon said.

"So, if we are hanging out in the basement and doing nothing but building rigs and working DX, we're going to be victims" of the political process, Fallon told his audience. He explained that ARRL, as a nonprofit IRS Section 501(c)(3) organization, must adhere to strict limitations on its lobbying activities. It cannot endorse political candidates or contribute to political campaigns, he explained. "You can," he pointed out. "We can't."

Fallon said ARRL members need to get very vocal about legislative issues of importance to Amateur Radio. One way to do that is by visiting, writing, e-mailing or faxing their US representatives or US senators. "Your letters, e-mails and visits to district offices give us entrance to legislators in Washington," he said. "It won't happen without your help." Personal visits to lawmakers at their district offices, he said, help to "put a face on ham radio" for politicians.

The grassroots lobbying effort now being going into place will work from the ARRL Division level through a Division Legislative Action Chair, then down to a State Legislative Action Coordinator, who will have help from Legislative Action Coordinator Assistants. The focus will be on measures that deal with FCC matters, because Congress oversees the Commission.

Noting that the League already spends upward of \$1 million on Amateur Radio "advocacy" in official Washington and on Capitol Hill, Fallon pointed out that membership involvement in lobbying at the grassroots level not only will be more effective but could save the League money.

Weaver told the gathering that grassroots lobbying is aimed at helping Amateur Radio to fashion its own future. Hudzik reiterated the importance of personal involvement. "No one is entitled," he said, "even though we're federally licensees. Hudzik emphasized that radio amateurs who feel strongly about an issue affecting the service, such as BPL, can't do what they want to do if they don't know how the system works.

"The more we're seen in a positive light, the easier it will be," he concluded.

In the "ARRL Goes to Washington for You" forum that followed, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, continued in the same vein. Haynie debuted the ARRL's new video, "ARRL Goes to Washington," narrated by network news legend Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD.

The video, which is not yet generally available, depicts the League's more recent efforts in official Washington and on Capitol Hill to convey the importance of Amateur Radio as a national resource. Haynie and other members of League officialdom spend several weeks a year promoting visibility for Amateur Radio and the

ARRL's views--as indicated by its membership--on pending legislation or FCC proceedings.

As did the grassroots forum that came before, the video--produced by Dave Bell, W6AQ, Alan Kaul, W6RCL, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF--also made the point that ordinary citizens must get involved and orchestrate change by getting the attention of lawmakers confronted with hundreds of constituent interests and issues.

"We've got to ratchet up our presence," Haynie said, urging more participation in the political process by individual amateurs. The ARRL can serve as the unified voice of the national association for Amateur Radio, but individual licensees also are voters, and lawmakers are quite aware that there are radio amateurs in their districts, he said.

Invitees to a reception May 19 to honor prominent League donors got a sneak preview of the "ARRL Goes to Washington" video. The showing drew a hearty round of applause and kudos to producers Bell, Kaul and Pasternak, who were on hand for the occasion.

Reception guest speaker Tony England, W0ORE--the second person to use Amateur Radio from space--told the more than 100 reception guests that the US needs to boost interest in engineering, and he sees Amateur Radio as one component in making that happen.

"It's surprising how many of my students are Amateur Radio operators," said England, who is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

[ARRL Web]

Radio Amateurs, ARES Group Among NOAA'S 2005 "Environmental Heroes"

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has recognized four Amateur Radio operators and an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group among its list of 2005 Environmental Heroes. Given in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations, Environmental Hero awards honor NOAA volunteers for their tireless efforts to preserve and protect the nation's environment.

"NOAA and the nation are fortunate to have such dedicated people volunteer so much of their time," said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr, undersecretary of Commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "They set a perfect example for others to follow in their communities. America needs more environmental heroes like them."

Established in 1996, the Environmental Hero award is presented to individuals and organizations that volunteer their time and energy to help NOAA carry out its mission.

Among this year's honorees are ARRL member Charles T. Byars, W5GPO, and the Wichita County Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Wichita Falls, Texas. Byars is an ARES District Emergency Coordinator in the ARRL North Texas Section. For more 30 years, he and Wichita County ARES members have volunteered their time, expertise and resources to help the National Weather Service (NWS) detect and track dangerous storms.

"Their tireless efforts, long hours and dedication to helping to protect the citizens of Wichita Falls and the surrounding area have led to more accurate and detailed weather information being disseminated, more timely warnings and quite possibly lives being saved," NOAA said in recognizing Byars and his ARES team.

Wichita County Emergency Coordinator Dave Gaines, N5DHG,

says the City of Wichita Falls will host an awards presentation on May 10.

Three Florida radio amateurs, all ARRL members, also were recognized for their efforts as Amateur Radio net control operators for the NWS office in Ruskin, Florida, during hurricanes Charley and Frances. NOAA says Paul Toth, NA4AR, of Seminole, Robert M. Stanhope, W3RMS, of Valrico and Sean C. Fleeman, N4SCF, of New Port Richey volunteered a total of 125 hours during the two storms last year.

"They gave up time with their families to gather real-time reports during the hurricanes to enhance NWS warnings and also provided up-to-the-minute weather information for recovery operations in west central and southwest Florida," NOAA said in commending the trio.

NOAA recognized 34 individuals and three organizations across the US as Environmental Heroes. The complete list of 2005 award recipients is on the NOAA Web site <<http://www.noaa.gov/earthday/>>.

[ARRL Letter]

Congressman Queries FCC Chair on Amateur Radio's BPL Concerns

Following the prepared testimony of FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin before the US House Appropriations Committee April 26, Rep Rodney Alexander of Louisiana raised the topic of broadband over power line (BPL) and how it was hurting the Amateur Radio community. Again acknowledging the concerns of radio amateurs regarding BPL's interference potential, Martin responded that the Commission is aware of the good work that radio amateurs do and that the FCC would attempt to strike a balance with the amateur community with respect to its BPL concerns.

When the FCC unanimously adopted new BPL rules last October, Martin also took note of Amateur Radio's concerns, said he would take them seriously, and expressed confidence that the Commission would take the necessary steps to address interference.

Martin succeeded Michael K. Powell as FCC chairman in March. His Appropriations Committee appearance--his first as FCC chairman--was to discuss the Commission's fiscal year 2006 budget request.

[ARRL Letter]

New Amateur Radio Satellite in Orbit

HAMSAT is the latest Amateur Radio satellite in orbit. Launched this week, it is India's first. Although it doesn't yet have an OSCAR designation, several stations--including W1AW--already have completed contacts through its SSB/CW transponder.

"We congratulate all who have worked for the HAMSAT and its successful launch," said AMSAT-India Treasurer Sandip Shah, VU3SXE, who was among more than a dozen radio amateurs at the control center in Bangalore, India, for the May 5 launch. With several dignitaries--including India's president--on hand to watch, the satellite went aloft from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.

Going into space along with the 42.5 kg HAMSAT was the primary payload--the 1560 kg Indian remote sensing satellite, CARTOSAT-1, intended for mapping applications. The spacecraft were placed into polar sun synchronous orbit at an altitude of 632 x

621 km with an equatorial inclination of 97.8 degrees.

The microsat will provide two new linear mode U/V transponders for SSB and CW use only. Only one transponder will be active at any given time. The uplink passband is 435.225-435.275 MHz (LSB), and the downlink is 145.875-145.925 MHz (USB). An unmodulated carrier has been reported on 145.936 MHz, and a CW telemetry beacon on 145.860 MHz.

Dutch graduate student William Leijenaar, PE1RAH, who designed one of HAMSAT's transponders, saw the PSLV-C6 vehicle carry the satellite skyward from SDSC SHAR. "It was very interesting to see how my radio finally went into space," he said afterward. "It is the best ham radio experience in my life."

There's more information on the AMSAT-India Web site <<http://www.amsatindia.com/hamsat.htm>>.

[ARRL Letter]

Butler County ARES

The Butler County ARES team has been busy this year with activation's, drills and working with local officials on several special projects.

Floods and Hazardous spills seem to be the way we have started the New Year with in both 2004 and 2005.

This year the annual Butler County floods came on the same date as last years January 4th & 5th! History did repeat itself!

Then another heavy rain added to the already flooding river and steams January 12th & 13th where flood victims found themselves running for high ground again, and again starting a new round of cleaning up just one week apart.

Many homes had now been underwater for over 14 days and many had severe structural damage. A living room floor in one home we visited had bowed in the center of the room so badly, you had to stoop down so you wouldn't put your head through the ceiling!

The 13th as we assisted Red Cross with a shelter in Trenton, the call came to evacuate Somerville due to an overturned gasoline tanker truck. That was the Hazardous Materials spill incident in January. Once done there around 2 A.M. - it was back to Trenton and the flood shelter.

One of the special projects ARES is working on regionally is assisting the Regional Medical Response System with establishing a communication plan including multiple voice and data networks to help track and distribute information and products should it ever be needed in southwest Ohio.

The planning has been on going since December 2004, with monthly meetings on the third Saturday each month. Since this project does require a certain level of security, operators agreeing to participate must undergo a police background check and acquire additional training including specialized training on the equipment they will be utilizing for a deployment.

Preliminary Standard Operating Procedures have been drafted and are currently getting some of the "bugs" ironed out via actual live drills etc.

April 13 Butler County ARES hosted the first of several joint-training exercises. Butler County, Hamilton County, Clermont County and Warren County ARES/RACES are working together and training together to learn from one another to better serve the community.

Our drill was based on a BCARES drill performed in 2003 called "Hell & High Water" a scenario about severe flooding, with over 200

messages “flooding” net control. It was a drill net control operators from the surrounding counties learned a lot from.

One operator stated, “You have to be more than just a communicator to be an Emergency Net Control Operator. Not knowing what to do, or how to handle the information your getting can cost someone their life!”

That summed up the point of the drill fairly well. ARES is not just a bunch of hams yanking on a repeater about what is happening in the field. Things field operators are reporting need to be handled the same as if THAT information was being called into a 911 operator.

Not handled properly and/or in a timely manor **COULD** cost someone a life.

That’s why we constantly train and train hard, to be proficient, to handle a large volume of “Emergency” traffic in a short period of time, and not crumble or crack under the pressure. It is not as easy as our Net Control Ops make it seem They have had practice, and lots of it!

If you like challenges, and would like to join BCARES, check our calendar and come to one of our meetings or events!

Please note; the site www.mindspring.com/~tssar will soon be moving to www.mindspring.com/~bcares .

Robert Spratt N8TVU
Butler County EC
Home - 513-825-8902
Cell - 513-266-6102

Web: www.mindspring.com/~tssar/

Weaver's Words

REGULATION BY TRANSMITTED BANDWIDTH

I have received many questions and comments about the Board of Directors' evolving plan to ask FCC to shift from regulating our bands by mode to a system of regulating by transmitted bandwidth. Not surprising is the fact that many writers clearly do not understand (1)why doing this is important, (2) exactly what details of the plan are being considered and (3) what this will mean to "us" active Amateur Radio operators. Very clearly, some folks believe they know all of this when they do not. Equally clearly, it is time to begin explaining different aspect of the draft proposal as it currently exists. Currently exists? Yes, currently. This remains a work-in-progress.

Here are a few questions I've received and answers to these questions:

I. WHY IS THE BOARD CONSIDERING CHANGING THE WAY OUR BANDS ARE REGULATED?

A. There are three basic reasons for considering a change.

These are:

- (1) To thrive and hold its own against commercial attempts to grab our frequencies, Amateur Radio needs FCC rules that can stand the test of time for at least 5 to 10 years. Current rules cannot do this.
- (2) Amateur HF operating patterns and technology are shifting. As these evolve, FCC Rules need to accommodate both the changed as well as current uses.
- (3) FCC rules and its system for modifying its rules are to slow and inflexible to meet necessary changes.

Think about these reasons for a moment. We must get the Amateur Radio Service into a position in which we can achieve changes in our operating rules fairly quickly. If we fail to do this we

will be unable to adapt to real situations we will face in the future. We will be viewed increasingly as an out-of-date group that increasingly is out-of-touch with the technical reality that surrounds us.

II. WHY IS THE BOARD DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR WINLINK?

A. We have no such proposal.

III. WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL ASPECTS OF THE BOARD PROPOSAL?

(1) As it stands at this time, the proposal would largely shift the assignment of subbands from the FCC to amateurs. The FCC currently does little, if anything, to address needs for modifying subbands as our operating practices change. Because we hams do a pretty good job of complying with band plans, shifting responsibility for developing band plans from the Fed. to us makes much more sense than leaving it to the FCC where the needs can be expected to go unattended.

(2) According to the existing band plan, automatic control of certain digital programs is allowed in certain areas. We intend to allow such operations to continue in the future, so long as there are operators who wish to use these. In short: We think it would be wrong to take anything away from anyone. However, we plan to limit areas where automatic control can operate and, thereby, minimize unintentional interference to non-digital modes.

(3) What about AM, FM, ATV, etc.? We plan to propose that any mode of operation that currently is approved for amateur use by FCC will continue to be available legally for as long as amateurs wish to use it. Again, the changes we propose will not take any form of operation away from anyone.

(4) So what is the main reason for the proposed change in regulating our bands? This is simply to make it possible to introduce advances in communications technology into our ham bands more rapidly. Essentially, we hope to have our bands open for use to modes of transmission so long as the transmitted bandwidth falls within the bandwidth permitted in the allocated band segment.

(5) Tentative proposals by frequency band:

160M - Entire band = up to 3 kHz

75/80M - Segments of up to 200 Hz, 500 Hz, and 3 kHz. A sub-segment of 3 kHz would be open to automatic control. AM and Independent SB (ISB) would be authorized by special exemption.

40M - Same as for 80/75.

30M - Same as for 80/75 except no phone (per international agreement).

20M - Same as for 80/75.

17M - Same as for 80/75 except no automatic control.

15M - Same as for 80/75.

12M - Same as for 80/75 except no automatic control.

10M - Segments of up to 20 Hz, 500 Hz, 3 kHz, and 15 kHz. A sub-segment of 3 kHz would be open to automatic control.

60m - Operation on this band is under special control by FCC and the NTIA. We cannot change

these limitations.

If you would like to see more detail about the tentative band plan as it currently exists, you may go to <http://www.arrl.org/htdig/?q=bandwidth+regulation>. You will also find a discussion of our current thinking for the UHF/VHF ham bands at this same site.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on this planning. You can be certain that "the 'fat lady' hasn't sung yet" on this proposal. As I said "at the top," this is still a work-in-progress. Nothing will be presented to the FCC without Board approval.

FINAL THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If you come to the Dayton Hamvention®, be sure to visit the ARRL EXPO area. This area is the host location for the ARRL National Convention 2005. There will be several booths, demonstrations, goodies, and more for those who drop in. In addition to the EXPO area, your League will also have its large display/sales area it has had for many years. You can expect to be able to see and talk with many ARRL staff members as well as Section Managers, Assistant Directors, Vice Directors and Directors in the EXPO area. Be sure to stop by and say hello to Dick Mondro, W8FQT, me and others.

73, Jim

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE
5065 Bethany Rd., Mason, OH 45040-9660, Tel. 513-459-0142
k8je@arrl.org

Update on BPL Cincinnati Activity

Last year in March, Cinergy Corporation announced a planned big build out of Broad Band Over Power Lines (BPL) for Southwest Ohio. Now 14 months later with the build out small and not growing, Ed Hare, W1RFI, the ARRL's leading authority on BPL came to Cincinnati to check out interference issues here. On Wednesday, April 20, Ed met with the local BPL/LIC team and Thursday went into the field with three team members to check out the situation. Ron Schuster, N9RC's report of this field report, follows this message.

The big news recently is the proposed sale of Cinergy to Duke Energy Corporation. I have received numerous questions about how Duke will effect BPL here. The only answer right now is that it will be two to three years before any one will know. Duke is in the BPL business using a system with which the ARRL finds problems. But the proposed purchase of Cinergy by Duke set off alarm bells by PUCOs of several states. And the SEC will want to have a chat with Duke and Cinergy leaders. It could be two years before this sale is finalized. And another year then to determine what the sale means as to BPL operations of both companies.

In short, no one will know for at least three years what all this Duke-Cinergy fuss is about. Sorry but that's the way it is.

Now to the visit here by the ARRL, Ed Hare, W1RFI, was happy to meet with 15 team members that Wednesday, April 20th. The next day he went on a fact finding tour with Kirk Swallow, W8QID, Ron Schuster, N9RC, and George Heideleman, K8RRH. Ron's first person account of this is below as I have said.

Ed Hare will soon be sending an action plan for continued

monitoring of the local BPL build out. Everyone's messages to me about observations of BPL activity (those Span Pro trucks, the mail messages from Cinergy about BPL, etc.) are very helpful in monitoring BPL activity as small as it is. Keep those cards and letters coming folks.

Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio SM

From: Ron Schuster, N9RC
Copy: Joe Phillips, K8QOE

I accompanied Ed Hare along with Team Leader Kirk Swallow, W8QID, and PE George Heideleman, K8RRH, on the Hyde Park BPL survey. Yes it rained but we managed to get all of Ed's survey completed. Following are my observations.

In summary at this early phase in the Cinergy roll out we did not hear any ham HF interference to mobile type operation. This is a significantly different result than other areas of the country that are employing different technology.

We did a general survey driving and monitoring several areas of Hyde Park to see what the ambient HF interference was. The "Home Plug" technology Cinergy uses notches the ham bands(except 60M) and we did not hear any interference at all in any ham band. We heard an occasional BPL pop or crackle on 10 MHZ our monitor frequency.

We spent about an hour outside a cooperative ham's BPL installation in Hyde Park and made several specific tests.

- ❶ The BPL network needs high bandwidth traffic like streaming video to produce enough consistent signal to be monitored. Web browsing and email produces minimal spectrum interference.(occasional pops)
- ❷ The 30-50 MHZ trunk on the medium voltage high lines was measured on a reference dipole and well within FCC specifications.
- ❸ Except for 60 M, the ham bands were well notched and no interference was heard down to ambient on any ham band.
- ❹ Transmitting 100 watts mobile under the power lines on several bands did not interfere with this single users BPL.
- ❺ Under the power line HF signal levels during high bandwidth use are at times S9 and above and if not notched would be a serious problem.

The above observations could change if Cinergy changes technology or significantly more users come on line. More detailed future observations are planned. I have a couple pictures that I can email(500K).

Ron Schuster, N9RC
Cincinnati, OH

ARRL Ohio Section
Section Manager: Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE
k8qoe@arrl.org

ARRL Signing Memorandum of Understanding With Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and ARRL will sign a Memorandum of Agreement during Dayton HamventionR, May 20-22, where CAP plans to field a major presence. The agreement will spell out

guidelines for CAP--the US Air Force Auxiliary, and ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, to better use and integrate their resources during communication exercises and emergencies.

"Civil Air Patrol has one of the largest unified communications networks in the nation," said CAP Lt Col Maurice Thomas, N3ADV. "Federal, state and local agencies call on CAP members every day for communication support in search-and-rescue missions and disaster relief." Thomas says CAP, which has been in existence for more than 60 years, needs "implementers" for its communication technology, and highly skilled ham radio operators are "a natural resource."

Dayton Hamvention will play host to ARRL's 2005 National Convention, featuring ARRL EXPO 2005 in Hara Arena's Ballarena. The League also will maintain a retail booth and relaxation area at its traditional North Hall location.

CAP National Commander Maj Gen Dwight Wheless, will join ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, at Hamvention to sign the formal agreement. The ceremony will take place Friday, May 20, during the "ARRL Goes to Washington for You" forum at 10:15 AM in Room 2 of Hara Arena. Wheless called radio amateurs "highly skilled and knowledgeable about the latest in communications technology."

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, points out that volunteerism is an Amateur Radio tradition. "We look forward to educating our members about CAP, and CAP members about ARRL," he said. "From Morse code to high-speed digital, a wire up in a tree to satellite communications, hams love to make it happen."

Pitts says the ham radio slogan "When all else fails . . ." is more than mere words. "They know ham radio communication works again and again when other systems fail," he said. "One way or another, hams get the message through."

Radio communication plays a major role in all of CAP's operations too--including homeland security, damage assessment, search and rescue, and disaster relief. It was key in CAP's impact assessment missions during last year's hurricanes in Florida, ice storms in Arkansas and New York, and floods in Missouri.

Pitts notes that during the course of many emergency response situations, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and other Amateur

Radio emergency groups find themselves working side by side with CAP members.

"This formal agreement between our two organizations will acknowledge that in a disaster, we all work for the common good," he said.

During Hamvention, CAP members hope to educate radio amateurs about the opportunities available to civilian volunteers through Civil Air Patrol. CAP will occupy Booth 154-155 in the Ballarena. CAP's Wisconsin Wing will display its new 35-foot state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center. The unit was custom-built for CAP by Winnebago Corporation thanks to a US Department of Homeland Security grant.

National Headquarters Chief of Communications Malcolm Kyser, KG4G, says CAP maintains a dedicated nationwide HF and VHF network on federal government frequencies. "We operate over 550 VHF repeaters spread across the country as well as HF, tactical VHF/UHF, data and commercial satellite applications," he explains. "The CAP network is a 24/7 emergency services resource, which we rely upon to support an almost unlimited variety of missions."

A nonprofit organization with some 60,000 members, the Civil

Air Patrol performs the vast majority of continental US inland search-and-rescue missions under the direction of the US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and anti-drug trafficking missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. CAP will hold its national conference August 17-20 in St Louis. Visit CAP on the Web <<http://www.cap.gov>>.

[ARRL Letter]

Kentucky Emergency Communicators Receive Donation

The Kentucky District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team (KD7ARET) <<http://www.ky7et.org>> has received a \$5000 donation from the John E. and Betty J. Meyer Family Foundation. The funds will support the group's efforts to provide emergency communication to served agencies during emergencies and disasters.

KD7ARET most typically supports police and fire departments, the National Weather Service and emergency management offices. In addition, some of the money will be go into a fund to purchase a mobile communication van with Amateur Radio capabilities that could serve to back up local police and fire departments.

KD7ARET boasts more than 100 Amateur Radio volunteers from the nine-county area comprising District 7 in Northern Kentucky. ARRL Kentucky Section Manager John Meyers, NB4K, says the team plans to participate in ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, at Mills Road Park in Independence, Kentucky. In the past year KD7ARET has bought reflective vests for its members as well as radios, antennas and coax for the Owen County Emergency Operations Center.

"We are in the process of buying radios, antennas and coax for the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky Regional Communication bus, the Campbell County Emergency Operations Center and the District Office of Emergency Management in Walton, Kentucky, as well as additional handheld radios and extra battery packs for emergency coordinators," he adds.

Since KD7ARET's incorporation in January 2004, the group has received \$10,000 in cash and more than \$2000 worth of equipment to enhance local emergency communication capabilities.

[ARRL Letter]

Federal Agents Arrest, Detain Alleged California Jammer

Reputed Los Angeles-area repeater jammer and former Amateur Radio licensee Jack Gerritsen was taken off the air and into custody this week. Acting on a criminal complaint, FBI special agents, accompanied by personnel from the FCC Los Angeles Field Office, arrested the 68-year-old Gerritsen without incident early May 5 at his home in Bell, California. Federal agents also confiscated Gerritsen's radio equipment.

"A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon charges Gerritsen with a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license," said a May 5 statement from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. "The two charges carry a potential penalty of 11 years in federal prison."

At an initial court appearance May 5, bond was set at \$250,000 "fully secured." A spokesman in the US Attorney's office explained

that Gerritsen will have to post property or cash to be released, but that it will be several days before the necessary paperwork is ready--assuming that Gerritsen is able to make bail. Once released on bond, Gerritsen would be subject to home detention and barred from possessing any radio equipment, the spokesman said, adding that Gerritsen's house would remain subject to search to make sure.

Unless Gerritsen is indicted beforehand, a preliminary hearing in the case is set for May 25, with arraignment to follow on May 31.

The criminal complaint says an FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen "transmits his prerecorded political messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies."

Gerritsen already faces a total of \$52,000 in FCC-imposed or proposed forfeitures for alleged interference. In March, the FCC denied a Petition for Reconsideration and upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. Gerritsen has yet to pay the fine.

An FBI affidavit sworn out this week in advance of obtaining a search warrant of Gerritsen's residence indicates that FCC agents have been investigating multiple instances of unlawful radio transmissions and malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen over the past four years. FCC agents on a regular basis have been monitoring radio transmissions said to be coming from Gerritsen. They've also spoken with him in person and asked to inspect his station, although earlier FCC documents say he refused that request.

In addition to Amateur Radio repeater communications, Gerritsen is alleged to have interfered with Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) transmissions. The FCC also reported that it has received complaints from other government agencies that Gerritsen interfered with local and state police and fire agencies, the American Red Cross, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and other radio services. A MARS training exercise in March had to be canceled as a result of interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Earlier this week, Gerritsen, who briefly held the call sign KG6IRO as a Technician licensee and still uses it on the air, was taken into custody by Bell, California, police officers on an unrelated contempt of court citation after violating the terms of a temporary restraining order (TRO) a local radio amateur had obtained to keep Gerritsen off a local repeater. He was released without bond after being held for a few hours and was reported back on area repeaters not long afterward.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast have been complaining for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners have taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Five years ago, Gerritsen was convicted in state court of interfering with police radio transmissions and sentenced to 38 months in prison. Following his release in July 2003, the FCC soon began receiving complaints about Gerritsen's activity on the airwaves, according to this week's criminal complaint.

Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

[ARRL Letter]

DXCC Desk Approves Operation for Credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit: T68G, Afghanistan, current operation effective April 2005. For

more information, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/>> can answer most questions about the DXCC program. ARRL DX bulletins are available on the WIAW DX Bulletins page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>>.

[ARRL Letter]

Congratulations Dr. Rogers

Congratulations to Jerry Rogers, W8LR, wh recently received the PhD degree, with a major in Christian Psychology, from Cornerstone University.

Jerry credits the inspiration given him by Mike Brown, W8DJY, (SK) and encouragement of his spouse, Barbara, in enabling him to reach this goal.

So Long

As many of you know, this will be my last *Newsletter*. Beginning with the July 2005 issue, editorship of the *DIAL* newsletter will be in the capable hands of Nicole Slone, spouse of Jon Slone, K8TNF.

I didn't expect, when my editorship began July 1998, that it would go so long. I guess, when you're having fun doing something, the time seems to be unimportant.

I wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of the *Newsletter* both by their written contributions and kind words.

My best wishes to Nicole as she embarks on her new duty. Looks like our next task will be to get Nicole in class and licensed in the Amateur Radio Service.

[K8CM]

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).

Hope to see you on Monday, June 20, 2005!!!

Expect people to better than they are; it helps them to become better. But don't be disappointed when they are not; it helps them to keep trying.

Merry Brewer



June

2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>DIAL Radio Club and Butler County VHF Assn. will combine efforts for Field Day 2005 at Smith Park. Field Day Family picnic at 6 pm Saturday evening. Please plan to come on out and join us!!</p>			1	2 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	3	4 DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
5	6	7 Butler County ARES Net 7:30 pm 147.330 - PL 118.8	8 Butler County Emergency Communication Team Meeting, 7pm Rm 229, Butler Tech	9 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	10	11 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am ARRL June VHF QSO Party DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
12 ARRL June VHF QSO Party Ham-O-Rama Edgewood, KY 147.255+	13 ARRL June VHF QSO Party	14	15	16 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	17	18 Milford Hamfest Live Oaks Campus Buckwheat Road 147.345+ DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
19	20 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	21	22	23 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	24	25 Field Day at Smith Park Family Picnic 6pm DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
26 Field Day at Smith Park	27	28	29	30 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	<p>Field Day Family Picnic 6 pm, Saturday, June 25 at the Field Day site in Smith Park, Middletown. Please let Lorie know that you are attending and the number of persons you are bringing. Also bring a covered dish to share. Reach Lorie, W8LKU, on the air (Thursday night Net), by phone (937-743-9540), or e-mail (dishgirl@worldnet.att.net).</p>	

July

2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
3	4	5	6	7 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	8	9 BCVHFA License Exams - 8:30am OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am IARU HF World Championships DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
10 IARU HF World Championships	11	12	13	14 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	15	16 DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
17	18 Dial Meeting 7pm Golden Corral Buffet & Grill Dinner at 6pm	19	20	21 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	22	23 DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
24	25	26	27	28 DIAL Radio Club Net @ 9pm W8BLV/R	29	30 DIAL Roundtable Net @ 9:30 pm W8BLV/R
31 Portage Hamfair '05 Portage ARC Randolph 144.79 -						