



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.qsl.net/w8blv/>

e-mail: dial@gth.net

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September 2005

Minutes of the August 15, 2005 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:

N8XQ, K8TNF, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KF8PD, KE8OH, Tillie, KC8SKW, KC8QQH, Brenda, N8BH, N8TFH, WB8MYT, N8GGE, N8HP, KD8W, K8CM, KI8I, KB8WKL, N8NQF, N8LWM, N8OZN, N8DHW, N8PI, AF8T

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Art, N8PI. We had a guest speaker at this months meeting, he spoke at this time. Details of the topic later in this newsletter.

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made by Dave KD8W, and second by Lori W8LKU, to approve of the of the minutes as posted in the newsletter. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

We have 110 members representing 68 families.

Repeater/Station Report:

The Dial repeaters are in good working order and the mysterious tone pusher has seem to go by the wayside. As read by Ron N8NQF.

Activity Report:

Don't forget the Thursday intercom net at 9p.m., and the Saturday round table net at 9:30 p.m. Both nets meet on the 146.610 repeater.

The ARES net is on Tuesday at 7:30p.m. on 147.330+ with a 118.8 Hz PL tone.

Classes and Exams:

The Dial Radio Club Classes will start on Aug. 24th and continue for nine weeks.

Old Business:

No old business to discuss.

New Business:

Ed KF8PD has offered his home again this year for the November sweepstakes. More info to come.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Dave KD8W, and seconded by Ron N8NQF. Motion approved without dissent.

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF

Newsletter Contribution

Anyone wanting to contribute to the newsletter please send it to Jon, K8TNF at jwslone@sbcglobal.net or at 513-464-3630. Also any suggestions on how to improve or what to include in the newsletter would be welcome.

Guest Speaker

We had a guest speaker at this months meeting. The speaker was our own Kelly, N8XQ. He spoke on his

Next Meeting: Monday, September 19th, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

experience at the 2005 NASA/NFB Rocket on! science academy in which he had the opportunity to work closely with many NASA scientists and engineers. He told of his role played in the launch of a 10.5 foot rocket from Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island Virginia. Kelly worked on the circuit team and was responsible for the telemetry of the rocket, and His role on launch day was range safety officer. He was responsible to make sure that the hazard area for the launch was clear. The whole program was setup and run by the blind. The launch was mostly a success after a one day delay for technical issues. On the day of the launch the rocket climbed to an altitude of 5829 feet. After the launch the parachute failed to open and the rocket came crashing back to the ocean. Kelly really enjoyed his experience this year and hopes to return next year as a student mentor.

[K8TNF & N8XQ]

ARES Drill

On Thursday, Aug 4 Ed, KF8PD, and Lorie, W8LKU, participated in a drill put on by the Centers for Disease Control. Both Ed and Lorie were stationed at Middletown Hospital, Lorie in the 3rd floor comm center and Ed in the emergency room. Cross banding was tested and found to be successful in reaching the Butler Co. EMA Building where 2 other Butler Co ARES members were located. Lorie praised the staff of Middletown Hospital for being well coordinated during the drill.

[W8LKU]

Testing Session

Wednesday evening, October 19, 2005 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 \$14.

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 (k8cm@arrl.net).

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check (\$14) 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, October 17. *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 -

SHUTTLE DISCOVERY RETURNS SAFELY

The space shuttle Discovery touched down safely at Edwards Air Force Base in California August 9 at 1211 UTC. The picture-perfect, pre-dawn West Coast landing, necessitated by continued poor weather conditions at Kennedy Space Center--the primary landing site--brought to a close an extended STS-114 "Return to Flight" mission, the first since the February 1, 2003 shuttle

Columbia tragedy. "Congratulations on a truly spectacular test flight," Mission Control told the crew after the touchdown. "Welcome home friends." Responded Discovery Commander Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, "We're happy to be back."

Discovery, which carried a crew of seven--including six Amateur Radio licensees--into space, originally was scheduled to return to Earth on August 8. During its two weeks in space, the crew demonstrated new methods to

inspect and repair the shuttle in orbit. The shuttle crew also delivered supplies and outfitted and performed maintenance on the ISS, conducting a number of these tasks during three space walks.

Discovery crew members also installed the PCSat2 Amateur Radio package, now undergoing commissioning.

Hosting the Discovery team on the ISS were Expedition 11 Commander Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and NASA ISS Science Officer John Phillips, KE5DRY. The shuttle crew also included Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP--who did the PCSat2 installation--James Kelly, KC5ZSW; Charlie Camarda, KC5ZSY; Wendy Lawrence, KC5KII, Stephen Robinson, and Andy Thomas, KD5CHF/VK5MIR, who made some casual Amateur Radio QSOs while Discovery and the ISS passed over his native Australia.

Discovery's crew enjoyed a welcome home celebration August 10 at Houston's Ellington Field.

Due to the STS-114 Return to Flight Mission, the next Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contact will not take place any earlier than the week of August 22.

The PCSat2 ground team has asked Earth stations to refrain from transmitting on the uplink until commissioning is complete. The ground team is seeking reports of 1200 and 9600 baud telemetry on 437.975 MHz. Because of Doppler shift the UHF signal from PCSat2 at acquisition of signal (AOS) will be as much as 9 kHz high, and at loss of signal (LOS) it will be as much as 9 kHz low. But at AOS and LOS, the Doppler shift is less, and both are good times to capture telemetry files without running into serious tuning problems. Doppler shift is the greatest at mid-pass.

PCSat2 will remain affixed to the ISS for approximately one year. For more information, visit the PCSa2 Operations Web site

<<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/pec/pc2ops.html>>

[ARRL Newsletter]

Saturday Roundtable Net

As some of you have might noticed the roundtable net has not taken place lately. Mostly do to the lack of interest. If anybody has any suggestions or would like to see the net return to the air please contact K8TNF on the air or at jwslone@sbcglobal.net .

[K8TNF]

FCC MORSE CODE DECISION WOULD NOT AFFECT CW SUBBANDS, PRIVILEGES

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

"There seems to be a lot of confusion on these points, judging by the questions I've been getting," said John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch. He emphasizes that the proceeding does not put forward or recommend any changes in CW allocations or privileges.

The FCC is currently accepting comments on its Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes.

Hennessee further notes that the FCC also has not proposed to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. The Commission's NPRM&O suggests that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, such Technician licensees would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the ECFS site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>> and click on "Submit a Filing" or "Search for Filed Comments."

In either case, type "05-235" in the "Proceeding" field, being careful to include the hyphen but not the quotation marks. Directions for filing comments, which can be in the form of an attached document, are on the ECFS site. Click on "Getting Started" to learn more.

As of week's end, more than 1700 comments had already been filed. The FCC has not yet established a closing date for comments in this proceeding, and it's not likely to release a Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235 until early next year.

In a separate--and unrelated--Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140, the FCC agreed with an ARRL proposal to reallocate the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands to create additional room on certain phone subbands. If the FCC goes ahead with that proposal, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would have CW privileges in the current General class CW bands.

**THE ARRL AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM
PROTECTION ACT**

It has been introduced to the US House for the current term. This means we will soon want to ask each of our Representatives to cosponsor and vote for the act.

I've received several volunteers who are willing to meet with their Congressmen or their aides "back home." We still need a quite a number of additional volunteers. If you have not yet notified me of your willingness to help, please contact me ASAP with your name, call, address, telephone number, E-mail address, Congressional District and the name of your Congressman. You will not be requested to devote any great amount of time and effort and we will provide you with instructions on making contacts.

[Jim K8JE]

**BPL TALES OF TWO TEXAS TOWNS: ONE
SAYS NO, NPR CITES SUCCESS ELSEWHERE**

An informational and lobbying campaign by local radio amateurs has headed off a broadband over power line (BPL) technology deal with a small Texas town that owns and operates the local electric utility. The city council in Castroville--a town of about 3500 inhabitants--voted 3-2 August 8 not to go into the BPL business with Broadband Horizons. "For now, at least, BPL is a dead issue in Castroville, Texas," said ARRL member Ray Martinez, N5VRE, who credits the Amateur Radio community with researching BPL and helping inform decision makers and town residents of their concerns regarding its interference potential. Martinez says their message in letters to the editor and in contacts with city council members was that, while radio amateurs tend to support and embrace new technology, their collective opposition to the BPL proposal was "related solely to the interference issue."

But while hams in Castroville were successful, the same BPL purveyor was able to chalk up a victory in the City of Flatonia, which also owns its own utility system. The town's BPL experience was the focus of a very upbeat report August 16 on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" program. NPR had

contacted ARRL while producing the BPL segment, and the report that aired included a brief comment by ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, WIRFI, addressing BPL's interference potential.

"BPL that operates at the FCC limits can and does cause strong local interference problems on any spectrum it's using," declared Hare, who got approximately eight seconds in the approximately six-minute NPR piece.

But the BPL industry, NPR's Wade Goodwyn went on to assert, "has come up with a technological fix" to BPL interference to radio amateurs in the form of notching. Hare contends that what the network neglected to include from the much longer interview he gave NPR were his further observations that notching in and of itself is "not sufficient" to reduce interference to Amateur Radio or other HF users.

"We stressed several times and in several ways that notching helps, but it still leaves some interference to Amateur Radio," Hare recounted, "and that in system after system we have seen, international shortwave broadcast spectrum was not notched." Based on notching efforts in earlier BPL field trials, Hare says the BPL industry "is far from demonstrating that notching is a practical and effective way to address interference."

Included in the NPR report were BPL-flattering interviews with Flatonia Mayor Lori Berger, who called the \$200,000 BPL deal "critical to the town's future." Also featured was a local woman who lauded the system's ability to quickly download e-mailed photos of her great grandchildren. Located midway between Houston and San Antonio, Flatonia boasts a dozen ham radio licensees among its some 1500 residents. The BPL system has been in operation since early August.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says he was especially dismayed to hear Goodwyn's report, particularly after he and Hare had expended considerable effort communicating their concerns about the technology to Goodwyn. "I find it deeply disappointing to hear his sales pitch, in which major known flaws in BPL schemes are given one passing comment," he reacted. "NPR has a history of presenting fair, whole and balanced information on topics, but this piece lacked all of those qualities."

In its own 2003 comments to the FCC in the BPL proceeding, National Public Radio urged the FCC to "ensure that any use of BPL technology will not disrupt

existing services," and, in particular, interfere with radio receivers. NPR's comments even cited an ARRL study that concluded BPL poses "a significant threat to Amateur Radio operations (and broadcasting) in the HF and low-VHF (TV channels 2-6) region."

Meanwhile, Texas Gov Rick Perry is mulling whether to sign Senate Bill 5 (SB5), legislation that promotes and encourages BPL in the Lone Star State. The measure includes provisions to shut down interfering BPL systems.

More information is on the Web site of ARRL North Texas Section Manager Tom Blackwell, N5GAR <<http://www.n5gar.info/>>.

[ARRL Newsletter]

Calendar Of Events

I am still having problems with the calendar, this feature will return soon to the newsletter. Please understand and please be patient.

[K8TNF]

Executive, will chair a working group preparing RABC's response. Joe Parkinson, VE3JG, will serve as the working group's RAC delegate.

"RAC is not against BPL," the organization said in a statement. "It is against the interference to radio services created by BPL, and looks forward to this consultation process as an opportunity to have an input into the certification standard."

The RAC pledged to "aggressively push to ensure the concerns of the Amateur Service are addressed in the RABC response."

Canadian amateurs are invite to address all comments on questions in the consultation to Joe Parkinson, VE3JG, RAC, 720 Belfast Rd, Suite 217, Ottawa ON K1G 0Z5, ATTN: BPL Team, or via e-mail to ve3jg@rac.ca or jgparkinson@rogers.com. The working group expects to wrap up its work in early November.

RAC will update the process in the "Latest News" section of its Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/>>. The consultation paper is available on the IC Web site <<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08432e.html>>.

[ARRL Newsletter]

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA TO REPLY TO BPL CONSULTATION PAPER

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is planning to respond to an Industry Canada (IC) public consultation process that will determine how BPL will be introduced in Canada. The proceeding, spelled out in Canada Gazette Notice SMSE-005-05, dated July 19, will include the development of a new certification standard for medium-voltage power line carrier systems.

"The intent of this consultation paper is to seek comment on the deployment and regulation of BPL systems, including the specific equipment standards and operational requirements which address potential interference to radio services," IC explained. A consultation paper is roughly the equivalent of an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. RAC will reply to the consultation directly to IC and through the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC), an association of Canadian radio spectrum user associations to which RAC belongs. RAC Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Jim Dean, VE3IQ, a member of the RABC

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