



# 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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## November 2005

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### Minutes of the October 17, 2005 Dial Radio Club Meeting

**Attendance:**

W8LKU, WA8DTU, KE8OH, TILLIE, N8LRN, EVE, KC8WOF, W8EH, N8NQF, WK8NKJ, KB8WKL, N8HP, N8GGE, W8WLM, K8CM, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN, BONNIE, N8PI, AB8QP, N8XQ, KC8KSW

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Art, N8PI.

**Secretary's Report:**

There was a mistake in the newsletter re: the date of the test session. The test session is actually Oct 19 (aside this was my fault). Motion by N8NQF to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter with the exception of the mistake, seconded by N8XQ.

**Treasurer's Report:**

110 active members representing 68 families. Motion to accept made by K8CM, seconded by N8HP.

**Repeater/Station Report:**

No change

**Activity Report:**

November Sweepstakes will be on Nov. 19-20. Ed and Sandi Thornsburg will be hosting it at their home again this year. A motion to give the Thornsburgs 75.00 to cover food was made by K8CM, seconded by N8HP

Don't forget the Thursday intercom net at 9p.m 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:**

Exams will be held Oct 19. One student from the Tech Class has already taken her exam and passed. General classes are scheduled to start Oct 26.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business

**New Business:**

Nominating committee was made. They consist of N8HP, K8CM, N8EH, and N8XQ.

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn made by W8EH, seconded by N8XQ

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF

### Newsletter Contribution

Anyone wanting to contribute to the newsletter please send it to Jon, K8TNF at [jwslone@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

### NEW ARRL PETITION SEEKS TO RESOLVE BPL STANDOFF

Not all BPL systems are created equal. Some have far

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Next Meeting: Monday, November, 21th, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

less potential to interfere with Amateur Radio than others. That's the rationale behind a petition the ARRL filed this week, asking the FCC to modify the Part 15 BPL rules it adopted a year ago and sharply reduce BPL's interference potential.

In exchange, the League said it would withdraw its still-pending Petition for Reconsideration in the BPL proceeding, ET Docket 04-37. The ARRL says its suggested rule amendments--which take into consideration recent advancements in BPL technology--will "resolve unsettled but substantial interference issues" affecting Amateur Radio and other HF users.

"It is no longer the case that all BPL systems inherently radiate high levels of RF energy on amateur allocations on overhead medium-voltage power lines," the ARRL said. "Thus, not all BPL architectures have similar potential for harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service (and to other licensed services). Some have inherently greater potential for interference, as currently configured, than others."

The problematic systems, the League said, are those that make use of the HF spectrum on unshielded overhead medium-voltage lines. BPL systems such as those using DS2 or Main.net technology that lack fixed, permanent notches in the ham bands, the ARRL noted, have been among those involved in interference cases. "As detailed in ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration in this proceeding, "this has resulted, in field tests and in deployments, in substantial, extremely difficult-to-resolve incidents of interference to fixed and mobile Amateur Radio facilities," the League said.

The ARRL said the FCC "has assisted not at all, or imperceptibly, in these cases, and the BPL system operator has either been uncooperative or unable to resolve the interference."

The League said its proposed additional regulations would permit those BPL architectures that are "benign," while discouraging "first-generation interference-causing BPL configurations, unless the latter modify their systems in certain minor aspects." A "benign" system, the ARRL noted, would not apply HF signals on overhead medium-voltage lines and would include fixed, permanent notches in the amateur bands.

Among the several BPL system designs that

implement BPL without creating harmful interference to amateur operations, the ARRL specifically cited the Motorola Powerline LV BPL system. Motorola's system doesn't use medium-voltage power lines, and it has been designed to preclude interference to ham radio and other licensed services.

For several weeks, ARRL and Motorola have cooperated in a BPL test stand at W1AW that has operated successfully without significant interference to Amateur Radio. The League also cited BPL systems by Current Technologies, IBEC and Corridor Systems as being among those that meet the additional requirements it's proposing. Current Technologies' BPL deployment in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area, for example, does not make use of medium-voltage lines for transmission of HF signals and utilizes the HomePlug notching protocol. Limited testing, the ARRL said, indicates that, as a result, the interference potential "is minimal relative to Amateur Radio facilities."

Incorporating three elements into the BPL rules adopted last year would essentially resolve all issues that the ARRL and the Amateur Service have with access BPL, the League said: Prohibiting all access BPL systems from using Amateur Radio allocations (except the five channels at 5 MHz, which the current HomePlug system architecture does not notch); prohibiting access BPL systems from using HF bands on medium-voltage power lines; and measuring signal decay from access BPL systems using a more accurate 20 dB/decade extrapolation factor rather than the 40 dB/decade factor the current rules support.

Adopting its proposals, the League said, would result in a more robust product that meets the Commission's stated goals of accommodating BPL as an additional broadband option while protecting licensed radio services. "The present BPL rules achieve the first of the goals, but they are woefully inadequate to meet the second," the ARRL said.

"It is the Commission's obligation to recognize and utilize this opportunity and to amend its rules to protect licensed radio services for the first time in this proceeding," the ARRL concluded. "It can be done without significant system redesign by any BPL provider."

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## VANITY PROCESSING COULD BE ON HIATUS UNTIL LATE DECEMBER

Thanks to Hurricane Wilma, the FCC likely will not be processing any vanity call sign applications until late December. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for licensees in certain states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita could affect the vanity program. This week, the FCC announced an additional extension--until December 22--for licensees adversely affected by Hurricane Wilma. Because all three extensions apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period," they could have an impact on vanity call sign processing. A WTB spokesperson said that the Wilma deadline extension probably would have the same effect on vanity processing as the previous two.

"It looks like it's going to be the same thing carried forward," Tracy Simmons told ARRL. He said amateur licensees can continue to file vanity call sign applications, but these will not be acted upon until the WTB resumes vanity processing. Then, all pending vanity call sign applications will be processed in the order they were received. Simmons indicated that the WTB would revise its Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page "alert" telling applicants that vanity processing has been suspended "until further notice" to reflect the latest deadline extension.

In a public notice issued October 25, the WTB made clear that the Hurricane Wilma deadline extension only applies to "affected licensees and applicants in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico." For Part 97 licensees, the extension applies primarily to license modification and renewal application deadlines. According to this week's public notice, the WTB will require affected applicants to attach a "Hurricane Relief Certification" with any filings taking advantage of the extended deadlines.

"WTB will rely on certifications by licensees and applicants at the time they submit their filings as proof that relief is due and the filings are timely," the FCC said.

The FCC halted vanity processing to avoid such potential problems as re-issuing the call sign of an

affected individual in one of the designated states whose license has expired but remains within the two-year grace period for renewal.

Under Part 97, Amateur Radio licensees have two years from the date of license expiration to renew their tickets without having to retest or risk losing their call signs to a vanity applicant. WTB has temporarily disabled the "auto-termination" feature of the ULS so that it will not automatically cancel any licenses not renewed by the end of the grace period.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between September 20 and November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita.

The FCC has not announced when vanity processing will resume, but at this point it appears unlikely that the date will be any sooner than December 23. It typically takes approximately three weeks for the FCC to process a vanity call sign application. In August, the FCC raised the vanity application fee to \$21.90.

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