



# 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](mailto:dial@gth.net)

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**President:**

Art Frasik, N8PI

**Vice-president:**

Mark Johnson, WD8DFK

**Secretary:**

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF

**Treasurer:**

Ron Spaulding, N8NQF

**Activities Manager:**

Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

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**Newsletter Distribution:**

Ruth Howard, N8OZN

Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

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## December 2005 Merry Christmas

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### Minutes of the November 21, 2005 Dial Radio Club Meeting

**Attendance:**

N8NQF, W8EH, KC8WOF, NOOZN, AF8T, N8HRA, N8EH, KB8WKL, N8DHW, N8HP, N8GGE, K8CM, W8WLM, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN, BONNIE, WB8DPZ, LOIS, WA8PRA, WD8DFK, KD8W, N8BH, AB8QP, WA8DTU, W8LKU, KE8OH, TILLIE, K2RWP, NZ8K, MARGARET, N8PI, KC8TXA

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Art, N8PI.

**Secretary's Report:**

Motion to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter made by N8EH, seconded by N8XQ

**Treasurer's Report:**

We have 110 member representing 68 families. Dues for next year are now being accepted. Forms for renewal are found either in the newsletter or on the DIAL website. Motion to accept made by K8CM, seconded by N8HP.

**Repeater/Station Report:**

No change

**Activity Report:**

There will be no Net Nov 24 due to Thanksgiving. The Sweepstakes contest held at Ed and Sandi Thornsburg on Nov 19 was a success. We got a clean sweep. Many thanks to the Thornsburg for hosting the contest.

**Classes and Exams:**

See article in the newsletter.

**Old Business:**

The Nominating Committee gave it's report. So far the candidates for office in the year 2006 are: Ernie Howard Sr, N8EH for president, Ernie Howard Jr, W8EH for vice president, Ron Spaulding, N8NQF to retain his office of treasurer, and Lorie Urschel, W8LKU to retain her office as activities manager. We still need a candidate for secretary.

**New Business:**

The Foundation for Amateur Radio is accepting applications for 54 scholarship for the academic year 2006-2007.

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn made by K8CM, seconded by KD8W

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF

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

## 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.

## General Classes

I heard from Janet that she has passed her General exam. She went to the Fort Wayne hamfest and took the exam there. She plans to start working on her code now and is not planning on coming back to the theory classes. I've checked with Mark Miller who came to one or two classes and he does not plan to return to the General class, so we will not be teaching the last two classes. I assume our room will still be available for those that want to sit around and yak. I'll be getting the schedule for the winter Tech class to you soon.

[Beverley N8GGE]

## LEAGUE SAYS BPL GROUP SHOULD EMBRACE, NOT REJECT, RECENT ARRL PROPOSALS

In a Reply to Opposition filed this week, the ARRL maintains that changes it recently proposed to the FCC's Part 15 BPL rules provide a golden opportunity for the BPL industry and the FCC. The League was responding to a November 2 United Power Line Council (UPLC) Motion opposing and seeking dismissal of the ARRL's Petition for a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, filed last month in the BPL proceeding, WT Docket 04-37.

"As a general observation, it is difficult to understand the rationale for UPLC's knee-jerk response to ARRL's Petition," the League said in its Reply to Opposition. "On its face, the Petition does no more than to state a reasonable basis for a principled accommodation for all concerned with, or about, access BPL. This would include BPL operators."

The ARRL contended that the UPLC "would better serve its members by embracing the ARRL Petition,

rather than rejecting it" and said its proposals represent "the last clear chance to prevent substantial interference from BPL deployments."

The League's October Petition suggested that incorporating three elements into the BPL rules the Commission adopted last year would essentially resolve all issues that the ARRL and the Amateur Service have with access BPL:

- \* 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.

- \* 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.

Calling UPLC's opposition to its proposals "short sighted," the League said the UPLC "cannot in good faith" argue that the present BPL rules are in any way sufficient to prevent or mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. "They are not sufficient, as has been demonstrated time and time again in BPL test deployments," the ARRL contended this week.

To punch up that point, the League called "pure sophistry" and "absurd and false" UPLC's claim in its Motion that BPL operators using HF on medium-voltage power lines "have been very effective in mitigating rare instances of interference to Amateur Radio users." In support of that assertion, UPLC cited a July 22, 2004, letter from Bruce Franca, then Deputy Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology, to Tom Brown, N4TAB. Franca's letter claimed that Progress Energy's BPL pilot project in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area complied with FCC rules.

Responding to Franca that same day, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, at the time noted the presence of ongoing interference and rebutted Franca's assertions. He specifically cautioned FCC to "not permit its conclusions to be erroneously represented as having given the Progress Energy trials a 'clean bill of health'"--precisely what UPLC is now attempting, he said. A copy of

Sumner's letter was attached to this week's League filing.

UPLC failed to mention that interference from the Raleigh system to numerous Amateur Radio operators "persisted and was not resolved until the system was shut down," the League pointed out this week.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, thinks it's ironic that UPLC chose that particular piece of FCC correspondence to buttress its case. "Mr Sumner rebutted Franca's letter in the Raleigh situation, and Franca never responded, despite repeated promises to do so," he said. "We are now a year and four months down the road."

In this week's filing, the League said its Petition seeks to create additional rules governing BPL that, with those already on the books, would "be sufficient to allow ARRL to withdraw its pending Petition for Reconsideration" in the proceeding. In addition, the ARRL reiterated its position that certain BPL systems mentioned in the October Petition "present manageable interference potential" that "can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis." Its proposals, the League said, provide the BPL industry and the FCC with the opportunity to create an RF environment that's not substantially degraded for licensed radio services and that permits BPL to develop "without the competitive handicap of fundamental incompatibility with licensed services" and removes any remaining regulatory uncertainty.

The ARRL concluded by urging the Commission to "proceed expeditiously to issue a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, adopt the proposed rules, and remove the obstacles to a responsible rollout of access BPL that were either created, or not resolved, by the [BPL] Report and Order."

[ARRL NEWSLETTER]

### **FCC LIFTS AUTOMATIC CONTROL PRIVILEGES OF BUSY LA-AREA REPEATER**

The call sign and owner have changed again, but the FCC alleges that problems persist on the Los Angeles area's 147.435 MHz repeater, now operated by Jeffrey Stieglitz, AE6NZ, of Torrance. The FCC Los Angeles District Office recently informed Stieglitz that it was

suspending automatic control privileges for the repeater. That means the licensee or a designated control operator must be at the repeater's control point whenever the machine is operational.

"Your amateur station AE6NZ is under review by the Enforcement Bureau for numerous and continued apparent violations of the Commissions rules," FCC LA Office District Director Catherine Deaton wrote Stieglitz November 18. The Commission alleges inadequate station control, deliberate interference, failure of users to identify and use by unlicensed operators.

Stieglitz told ARRL he encourages users of the busy repeater to comply with Part 97 rules and to make a reasonable effort to identify unlicensed operators. "I believe that the 147.435 repeater attracts people to the hobby and, overall, is consistent with the purposes of Amateur Radio," he said.

"Sometimes the talk on the repeater may resemble that of a boys locker room," Stieglitz conceded, "but I think we more than make up for it with charitable activities and technical sophistication."

Deaton says if AE6NZ is operated under automatic control prior to notification from her office, enforcement action up to and including a license revocation and suspension hearing, a fine or both could follow.

Deaton also asked Stieglitz to submit in advance the names and contact numbers of other licensees who serve as control operators. "During any times that no control operator is available, the repeater must be shut down," Deaton stated.

The odd-split 147.435 MHz repeater (the primary input is 146.400 MHz) has been a lightning rod for controversy. In 2001, the FCC terminated the automatic control privileges of the then-W6NUT repeater while it was reviewing its operation. Since then the repeater has changed hands a few times, and enforcement issues seem to have followed. Stieglitz believes "heat from the FCC" was behind the frequent ownership changes.

"As the Jack Gerritsen case shows, there is very little the FCC can actually do against a determined bootlegger," Stieglitz said. Gerritsen is set to appear in federal court next week. "In my opinion, shutting down a repeater because a third party breaks the rules just

penalizes the honest operators."

FCC Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth had another perspective: "The repeater has been out of control long enough, and we have been too patient too long," he told ARRL.

**[ARRL NEWSLETTER]**

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