



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

President:

Ernie Howard Sr N8EH

Vice-president:

Ernie Howard JR W8EH

Secretary:

Barney Taylor N8HP

Treasurer:

Ron Spaulding, N8NQF

Activities Manager:

Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

Newsletter Editor:

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF

Newsletter Printing:

Ron Spaulding, N8NQF

Newsletter Distribution:

Ruth Howard, N8OZN

Elaine Howard, KC8WOF

January 2006 Happy New Year

Minutes of the December 21, 2005 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:

N8NQF, N8EH, N8HRA, N8OZN, KC8WOF, W8EH, KB8WKL, N8DHW, K8CM, W8WLM, WB8MYT, N8THF, WA8PRA, AB8QP, NIPI, WA8DTU, W8LKU, AF8T

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Art, N8PI.

Secretary's Report:

Motion made by Ron, N8NQF, to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter. Seconded by Ernie, N8EH.

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 Motion to accept made by Ernie, N8EH and seconded by Carl.

Repeater/Station Report:

The 440 repeater is malfunctioning. The problem seems to be the main repeater transmitter.

Activity Report:

Don't forget the ARES net, Tuesday night at 7:30 on 147.330

PL118.8 and the DIAL net, Thursday nights at 9:00 on 146.600

Classes and Exams:

Tech classes are scheduled to begin Jan 11

Old Business:

The slate of officers for election is as follows:

President: Ernie Howard Sr N8EH

Vice President: Ernie Howard JR W8EH

Secretary: Barney Taylor N8HP

Treasurer: Ron Spaulding N8NQF

Activities Manager: Lorie Urschel W8LKU

New Business:

Application has been submitted for spaces and as many early entry tickets as we can get. Many thanks to Art Frasier, N8PI, for his efforts as President the last 2 years.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Ron, N8NQF, and seconded by Carl, K8CM.

Jon W. Slone, K8TNF

Newsletter Contribution

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

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.

The New Year

I would like to take this time to thank everybody for the chance and support in doing the news letter this year. I will continue to edit the news letter and try to find ways to improve it. If anybody has any suggestion please let me know. I would also like to thank last years officers and welcome the new and returning officers for the new year.

[Jon K8TNF]

20th Annual SW Ohio Digital Symposium

Reminder, the 20th Annual SW Ohio Digital Symposium will be held in Thesken Hall, Middletown Campus, Miami University, Middletown, Ohio, on January 14, 2006. Registration starts at 8 a.m., with presentations on various digital modes beginning at 9 a.m.

To date we have presentations on: 1. A new record for 802.11b 2.4 GHz spread spectrum at the Las Vegas WiFi Shootout 2. Use of WinLink 2000 for normal and emergency communications. 3. PSK-31 updates 4. EchoLink use and practice 5. APRS for public service and experimental communications 6. AMSAT updates

We have room for one or two more subjects. Please advise if you have a specific topic of interest, especially if you wish to present it.

Details of the 19th Symposium are at <http://www.swohdigi.org>

Look there for directions and last minute updates on the program.

[73 de n8xx Hg]

The Next Class Sessions

The Technician Class section of the DIAL RADIO CLUB's Winter, 2005-2006, Amateur Radio class will begin on January 11, in Middletown, 6-9 pm. Meeting in

Johnston Hall, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, classes will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in Technician Class amateur operator license.

Theory instruction will conclude March 8. Please note, Morse code proficiency is not a requirement for the Technician Class license.

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, locally, at the conclusion of instruction. Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately \$20-25) for use in class. License training manuals are expected to be available, for purchase, the first night of class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office at (513) 727-3200.

[Carl K8CM]

GERRITSEN CONVICTED ON ALL COUNTS IN RADIO JAMMING CASE

A US District Court jury has found Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, guilty on six counts that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Gerritsen, 69, who briefly held the amateur call sign KG6IRO, will face sentencing March 6, according to the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. He could receive up to 15 years in federal prison.

"The Federal Communication Commission investigated illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years," said a statement from Yang's office. "According to court documents filed in this case, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen transmitted his prerecorded messages, as well as real-time harassment and profanity, for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies." A federal grand jury indicted Gerritsen last spring.

Turning down the offer of a public defender, Gerritsen served as his own attorney. The government's case,

presented by Assistant US Attorney Lamar Baker, went to the jury December 8, and the jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning its verdict December 9. US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner revoked Gerritsen's bond, and the defendant was taken into custody following the verdict.

Gerritsen was found guilty of interfering with a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) communication last March and interfering with American Red Cross communications last January--both misdemeanors--and with interfering with US Coast Guard communications in October 2004, a felony. He also faced three misdemeanor counts of transmitting without a license. Recordings of radio transmissions attributed to Gerritsen were played for the jury.

Those familiar with this week's court proceedings said Gerritsen tended to focus on freedom of speech issues and sometimes confused those on the stand. Among those testifying at length on behalf of the government was FCC Senior Agent Steven Pierce, who discussed his use of mobile direction-finding equipment and techniques used to track the source of transmissions.

Just days before the trial began, the FCC affirmed a total of \$42,000 in additional fines it had levied on Gerritsen, releasing two \$21,000 Forfeiture Orders (NOFs). In affirming the fines, the FCC rebuffed every argument Gerritsen had offered in responding to each Notice of Apparent Liability, including his insistent "freedom of speech" claim.

"His unlicensed operation on amateur frequencies is not protected by the US Constitution as it is well established that the right to free speech does not include the right to use radio facilities without a license," the FCC said in a footnote in one of the NOFs. The federal court jury in California apparently agreed.

In late November, Klausner denied Gerritsen's motion to dismiss the three unlicensed transmitting counts, turning away Gerritsen's argument that the FCC could not set aside his Amateur Radio license without a hearing. Klausner declared that the effect of the FCC's 2001 set

aside of KG6IRO "was to treat the application as if it had never been granted." Since Gerritsen never held an Amateur Radio license, he never had the right to a hearing, the judge reasoned.

Last March, the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The government has yet to collect.

FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident last May and seized his radio equipment. Released on \$250,000 bond while awaiting trial, Gerritsen remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment.

Gerritsen's history of radio-related legal problems go back to 2000 when he was convicted for intercepting, obstructing and/or interfering with California Highway Patrol radio communications. In November 2001, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issued, then quickly rescinded, Gerritsen's Technician license, KG6IRO, because of his earlier conviction. While transmitting on various Los Angeles-area repeaters, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO, however.

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

[ARRL NEWSLETTER]

RESPONSE TO BPL COMPLAINTS AN "ILLUSION" OF RESOLUTION, ARRL SAYS

In a strongly worded letter to the FCC, the League has once again asked the Commission to shut down the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system because it's still causing harmful interference to Amateur Radio and otherwise does not comply with FCC Part 15 rules. The December 19 letter from ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was in response to a November 30 letter from Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey, who suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system. Imlay said more meetings and discussions about ongoing interference are no longer productive while "this hopelessly flawed BPL system" is allowed to continue

operating.

"These meetings have not produced any solution to the interference problem but have, instead, created the illusion that the problem is being addressed," Imlay wrote. Ham radio complaints of interference from the BPL system date back to early 2004. "This system should have been taken off the air long ago, pending reconfiguration or re-engineering of it," he added, "and the only operating that it should be doing is for purposes of interference testing."

Communication Technologies (COMTek) operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid using Main.net equipment on frequencies between 4 MHz and 30 MHz. The League said the FCC has not discharged its "most fundamental obligation" to prevent or resolve interference issues involving the Manassas system, which, the League charged, only remains operating "because the Commission, for political reasons, has consistently refused to enforce its rules with respect to BPL."

The League told Casey that the only solution at this point is to order the Manassas BPL system--an unlicensed RF emitter permitted to operate only on a non-interference basis--to cease operation except to test for interference.

The Part 15 BPL rules the FCC adopted in October 2004 require a BPL operator informed of harmful interference to "investigate the reported interference and resolve confirmed harmful interference . . . within a reasonable period," Imlay pointed out. "No reasoned examination of this case could produce a finding that this rule has been complied with in Manassas," he added.

Imlay says that at a December 13 meeting, COMTek and the City of Manassas "openly acknowledged the interference to amateur stations" but claimed that until a month or so earlier, they had been unable to "notch" amateur allocations because they didn't yet have the equipment to do so. "By the admission of COMTek, the capability of reducing interference in this system does not exist," Imlay noted.

Previous meetings between the complaining radio amateurs and the BPL operator "produced no measurable results," Imlay contended, referring to the response of Donald Blasdell, W4HJL, to Casey on December 9. At one point in the system, interference was reported at S9

plus 40 dB on typical ham gear. "That level precludes virtually all Amateur Radio communications," he asserted.

Imlay took the opportunity to again point out that the Manassas BPL system is out of compliance with §15.615(a) because its operator failed to provide full information to the public BPL database by the November 19 deadline.

"ARRL again requests that the BPL facility at Manassas, Virginia, be instructed to shut down immediately," the League's letter concluded, "and that it not resume operation unless the entire facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions; with the non-interference requirement of Section 15.5 of the Commission's rules; and not in any case until thirty days subsequent to full compliance with Section 15.615(a) of the rules."

Field tests conducted by Manassas radio amateurs established that the city's BPL system "was an interference generator at distances of hundreds of feet from the modems on overhead power lines," the ARRL told the FCC October 13.

"It was also, incidentally, determined that the system was susceptible to interference from nearby radio transmitters operating between 4 and 20 MHz," the League added.

[ARRL Newsletter]

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