

Repeater Fund Help Needed!

The tower supporting our 146.76 repeater is to be replaced soon. We want to replace out antenna system and feedline, looking at a cost of up to around \$2,000 to do this. Contributions to the fund are welcome from TCARC members and others who use the repeater. Please help! Make your check payable to TCARC and mark it for the repeater and mail it to our PO box on the return address of this newsletter. We have had contributions from \$20 to \$200 from individuals so far. Replacing the antenna system will take care of a lot of our noise problems at the repeater. Please help now! Our fund is still growing and currently is \$760. Don't miss out on your opportunity to help with this project. Send your check today.

VE Exam April 17

Our VE Exam on April 17 went well. Debbie, N9DN, our head VE, managed to hold off her new baby so she could attend and manage the session. 7 other examiners assisted. 7 took exam elements, which resulted in 4 new Technician Licenses and 2 new Extra Class Licenses. One person taking the test was visiting from Hawaii and decided to upgrade while he was here. Thanks to everyone who helped! New licenses and upgrades were issued on the following Friday, less than a week after the exams.

Auction is a Success

Our annual auction on April 16 went well. 44 bidders competed for the bargains. Total sales amounted to around \$1,200. The club net profit was just over \$450. A large portion of the profit was from items donated to the club for the auction. We thank everyone who made a donation. Also, we thank Darren, KF9Z, for the bulk of the auctioneering. John, W9WHE, and Jim, KA6A assisted him. Everyone had a good time and we are pleased to see all the equipment change ownership. Thanks to everyone attending!

Hamfests

The season is off to a cold start! At least the weather is that way. The MARK Hamfest in Arthur was April 24 in Arthur. With warm weather a few days before the hamfest, it looked like it would be a good weekend. However, rain came in and so did the cool weather. The rain stopped before Sunday, but the wind did not. Temperatures were cool, around freezing overnight Saturday. The flea market was about the same size as in the past, but attendance was down considerably, mostly due to the weather. The inside area is not heated, so it was cool there as well. Sales were down with the lower attendance. However, Bill, WB9KMD, won the Second Prize in the final drawing. It was a 25 amp power supply. Congratulations Bill!

A week later, the Decatur club held their hamfest at Richland Community College. Temperatures outside were a little cool and the inside was comfortable. The crowd was down, probably due to cool weather. 12 vendors and a food service were in the parking lot. Others set up inside, including Amateur Accessories and the Ham Station.

Dayton Hamvention

And now the countdown to Dayton is on! May 20-22 is when the annual pilgrimage to Ohio happens. The committee was well behind schedule this year. Those who ordered flea market spaces should have received them by now, but only in the past few days. Nothing has changed in the Outside Vendor area and everyone should be in the same spaces as last year, provided they ordered that way. If you have not been to Dayton, there is still time to make plans to attend. It is only about a 4-hour drive from Champaign-Urbana. Most hotels are probably filled, but you can check for last minute cancellations. A check of hotels in the Dayton area shows many rooms are still available both in Dayton and in outlying areas. The Dayton Hamvention runs all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with the final prize drawing around 2 p.m. Sunday.

Help Fight BPL

A Letter from Dick Isley, ARRL Central Division

What follows is our first call for amateur radio licensee support of a U.S. House of Representatives Resolution that could help slow the spread of BPL systems. If approved by the House, the FCC would be given good cause to look further into BPL interference issues. Of course, the FCC might choose to ignore this resolution. But it would be doing so at political risk of giving us further ammunition in our struggle against BPL.

Please contact your personal amateur radio friends, and other interested supporters in your areas and ask them to write to their congressional representatives now.

As many of you already know, a resolution in the US House of Representatives numbered **House Resolution 230** has been introduced by Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR). H. Res. 230 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission should reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems. Rep. Ross is an amateur radio licensee, and a member of the House Telecommunications Subcommittee. This effort is targeted specifically for the U.S. House of Representatives since the resolution was introduced in that chamber. We have 3 goals.

1. **Influence those members of the House, both leadership (Tier I) and the House Energy and Commerce Committee (Tier II) to support delaying the implementing of BPL.** These are the members who can "move" this resolution. If action were to be taken on this bill, each of the Tier I and Tier II members would have some type of role. If you are unsure who your Member of Congress is, refer to the search options on the following website: www.house.gov. This site includes complete contact information for every Representative.

2. **Add co-sponsors to the House Resolution.** It is especially important to have members in Tier I and Tier II become a

cosponsor for this legislation. The staff for the Energy and Commerce committee has told us that if the resolution were to get enough cosponsors that they could move the bill through without complications. The more cosponsors, the easier and quicker the resolution would move.

A great way to ask for co-sponsorship is by sending a letter. It should be noted that U.S. Mail to Congress is delayed due to security reasons. A copy of your paper letter should be emailed to your representatives and faxed to 703-684-7594 or emailed to hres230@Arrl.org for our lobbying purposes.

3. **We need for ARRL members to network with the law enforcement and public safety community in your divisions.** These groups represent associations such as the American Red Cross, The International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Emergency Managers.

It is important to get the point across that this resolution does not hinder Broadband, but, rather seeks to delay the BPL docket until further study can be made. DELAY is the key to our strategy. We need to stress the importance of how BPL is not only causing interference with Hams, but it is causing interference within the Law Enforcement and Public Safety area.

While contacting your representatives it needs to be mentioned that ARRL has filed a petition for reconsideration to the FCC.

We want to reemphasize that Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR) introduced this legislation for Amateur Radio operators with the request that the *primary interference group be the Public Safety and Law Enforcement community*, in addition to "other licensed radio services." It would be a difficult fight to secure congressional support by ourselves.

Go to our webpage, www.qsl.net/w9seh for complete details and a sample letter. Click on "Help Pass House Resolution 230"