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# B.V.A.R.A. QRM

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W3SGJ

[www.qsl.net/bvara](http://www.qsl.net/bvara)

October 2003

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144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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## B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....KB3EAQ Debbie Reid  
1.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit  
2.V.PRES.....N3OJN Stan Riffle  
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid  
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

## TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

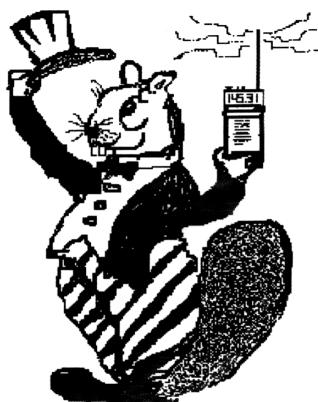
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Reid  
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit  
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle  
N3ALS.....Wes Morar  
N3SVM.....Bob Reid  
WA3GFM...Al Belardia  
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim  
KE3ED.....Tony Petrucci/Station Trustee

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petrucci

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie Reid



## THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585  
TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898  
HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910  
CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5  
WPA PHONE & TFC NET...6:00 PM DAILY...3.983  
PA TRAFFIC TRAINING NET..6:30 PM...3.610  
E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255  
EAN NET.....2:30 PM DAILY..7.243  
RIP VANWINKLE.....7:00 AM DAILY..145.31  
B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER.....8:30 PM WED....145.31  
B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER...9:00 PM WED...28.370  
WPA TRAFFIC.....8:00 PM DAILY..146.88  
QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

VISIT THE B.V.A.R.A.'s WEBSITE AT:

[www.qsl.net/bvara](http://www.qsl.net/bvara)

If you have a submission for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM you may submit it to Janet N3NBJ by any of the following means.. E-mail: [ke3ed@arrl.net](mailto:ke3ed@arrl.net), Packet: [ke3ed@k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na](mailto:ke3ed@k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na), or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

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## CLUB MEETING

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver PA. See you there.

## CLUB ELECTIONS

Nominations of Club Officers has been slated for our upcoming election, slated for November 13<sup>th</sup>. To date we have the following nominations:

President – Debbie Reid KB3EAQ  
Vice President – Joe Streit N3GZZ  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Phyllis Pander N3KUG  
                                    & Tom Merz N4KRA  
Treasurer – Wes Morar N3ALS  
Secretary – Bob Reid N3SVM

Please note that nominations are still open until the night of our October Club meeting. If you or someone you know would like to run for an office please contact a member of our nominating committee to present your nominations.

This years committee consists of Al WA3GFM, Phyllis N3KUG and Wes N3ALS.

## HAM OF THE YEAR

At the end of this newsletter you will find a ballot to submit your nomination for this years "Ham of the Year". Please take the time to fill out this ballot and mail it to Wes N3ALS at our Club address of POB 424, South Heights, PA 15081 by November 14, 2003 so that we can present the award at our upcoming Christmas Party. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tentative location plans for the 2003 B.V.A.R.A. Club Christmas party are at Maria's Restaurant in West Aliquippa. If you have a suggestion on a place that can accommodate us please let us know.

**B.V.A.R.A. SPONSORED TEST SESSION**

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday October 4th, 2003 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building located at 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA.

Testing will start promptly at 10:00 AM so please plan on arriving at least 15 - 30 minutes prior. Walk-ins are welcome. Talk-ins will be on the 145.310 (W3SGJ) repeater. Use minus offset and 100 hz pl tone. Also you can see our exact location via APRS on 144.39 Mhz. Look for W3SGJ.

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All candidates wishing to take a test should bring the following

1. Two (2) forms of identification.
2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.
3. Your original AND a photocopy of your current license (if any).
4. Your original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of \$12.00.

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered. CW tests will **NO LONGER** be multiple choice.

All Technician Plus operators licensed as such prior to March 21, 1987 should bring a copy and the original proof of this credit.

Candidates are welcome and encouraged to join us for breakfast at the Chippewa Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe at 8:00 AM. For more information contact Tony KE3ED at the following:

Packet: ke3ed @ k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na  
Repeater: 145.310 (W3SGJ) minus offset & 100 hz pl tone.  
E-mail: ke3ed@bellatlantic.net  
Phone: (724) 774-4173

## PA QSO PARTY

As we discussed at our last meeting, this year we hope to put more stations on the air in Beaver County and come up with a big club score by putting as many stations on the air as possible. For those of you not in attendance at the September meeting we are asking that everyone who would like to operate this years PA QSO Party fire up their home stations the weekend of October 11<sup>th</sup> and help the B.V.A.R.A. get a big club score. Following are the rules and all the information necessary to submit your logs.

This year each of us will operate with our own callsigns from our own stations but **please list the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association as your affiliated club.** This way each of us will be listed in the results individually however all of our scores will be tallied by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club for a combined club score. The summery sheets needed to turn in to the Nittany Amateur Radio Club will be provided at the October B.V.A.R.A. meeting.

Keep in mind that you can operate mobile, portable, or from the comfort of your own home, however you wish. Please remember you can only work portions of the bands within the privilege of your license class.

### 3

If you have any questions or need any tips regarding the contest feel free to contact Al WA3GFM of Tony KE3ED.

**OPERATING PERIODS** - 1600Z October 11 to 0500Z October 12 and 1300Z October 12 to 2200Z October 12

#### FREQUENCIES

**SSB:** 1850, 3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28310, 50.125, 146.55 (12,17,30 meter and repeater QSOs NOT permitted.)

**CW:** 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810 KHz.

**160 METERS** - Try at 0300Z Sunday. Follow 160 Band Plan, CW - 1.800-1.830, SSB - above 1.850

**HIGH BAND ACTIVITY PERIODS** - Saturday & Sunday: 10m - 1800z, 15m - 1900z, 20m - 2000z, SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour.

**MOBILE WINDOW** - 5 KHz below listed frequencies. **KEEP CLEAR FOR WEAK MOBILES.**

**EXCHANGES** - Sequential **SERIAL NUMBER** plus **COUNTY** or **ARRL** or **Radio Association of Canada (RAC)** section. Stations on county lines will give out **ONE** serial number per contact but all counties may be counted as multipliers. Work stations once per band and once per mode. Work mobiles and Rovers again as they change counties.

**SCORING** - **QSO POINTS** - CW QSOs on 160 and 80 - 2 points, Other CW QSOs - 1.5 points, SSB/FM QSOs - 1 point

**MULTIPLIERS** - Pennsylvania Stations: **ARRL** sections + **RAC** sections + **PA Counties** + 1 for **DX**. (152 total)

**Out-of-State Stations:** Pennsylvania Counties (67 total)

**FINAL SCORE** - Total Points X Total Multipliers

**QRP BONUS MULTIPLIER** - Multiply your final score by 2 if less than 5 watts output.

**NOVICE/TECH BONUS MULTIPLIER** - Multiply your final score by 3 if a novice or tech.

**PA MOBILE BONUS POINTS** - If mobile, add 500 points for each county operated from (10 QSOs Minimum).

**PA ROVERS BONUS POINTS** - Add 500 points for each location operated from (10 QSOs Minimum).

**MOBILE & ROVER DIVISIONS** - Mobile stations must be truly mobile. Rover division stations **MUST** use a portable antenna and must travel more than 5 miles between stops. 10 QSOs from each location/county worth 500 point bonus for each. Submit summary for each QTH as well as an aggregate summary. Stations should identify by using /M or /R on CW

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and by adding "ROVER" or "MOBILE" on SSB. Only single transmitter entries eligible for awards. Remember, many county lines are on tops of mountains.

**BONUS POINTS STATION** - Each year, a different Pennsylvania Club will set up and operate a special event station as part of the contest. The Steel City Amateur Radio Club (SCARC), W3KWH, is this year's special event station. W3KWH will operate on 160 through 10 meters from the SCARC clubhouse. Add 200 points to your final score for each QSO with W3KWH after all other bonuses have been taken.

**ENTRY DIVISIONS** - Single op medium power (150W), Single op QRO, QRP (5W); CW ONLY (single op, 150 watts max); Multi-single, Multi-multi, Portable (single op or multi-single only), Novice/Technician, Mobile, Rover. **NOTE:** QRP is defined as all contacts on any radio running 5 W or less. **NOTE:** Single ops and multi-single – **ONLY ONE SIGNAL** on air at one time!

**AWARDS** - Plaques to top scorers in all entry divisions plus single op out-of-state (OOS), Eastern, Central, and Western Time zones, OOS Medium Power and OOS QRP, top Canadian entry, Single op med & high power EPA, single op med & high power WPA, plus others as warranted. Plaque in "Rover", Novice/Tech if enough entries. Certificates to county and section winners. Trophy to Club winner.

**SPECIAL PLAQUE FOR TOP FIRST TIME ENTRANT** - Intended to encourage new testers, a plaque will be awarded to the top single operator entry from Pennsylvania who enters the Party for the first time. If you got your feet wet logging or operating briefly at a multi-op station you're still eligible. Attention Clubs, encourage your new members to get on and compete for this plaque. This is not intended for "Big Guns" from other Contests!

**SPECIAL PLAQUE FOR WORKING ALL 67 COUNTIES** - If you work all 67 counties during the Party, a special plaque will be awarded in recognition of that feat. QSOs will be verified by the committee from log information. To order, submit a special summary sheet (in addition to your entry summary) listing county, call of station worked, date and time of QSO and numbers sent and received. Please enclose a check for \$25.00 made payable to "NARC".

**PARTICIPATION COFFEE MUGS** - Anyone who makes 100 QSOs during the Party is eligible for a PA QSO Party Coffee Mug personalized with your call. To order, submit your log showing 100 or more QSOs and a check for \$15.00 made payable to "NARC".

**PARTICIPATION T-SHIRTS** - Anyone who sends in an entry for the Party is eligible for a PA QSO Party participant T-shirt. To order, submit a log and a check for \$10.00 made payable to "NARC". Be sure to indicate your shirt size.

## 4

ENTRY MATERIALS consist of log and dupe sheets and must be submitted with an official summary form or reasonable facsimile. One hundred points will be deducted for each dupe found. All materials can be downloaded from the web site.

ENTRY MATERIALS must be sent by Nov. 15, 2003 in one of three ways:

1 - Paper copies of all materials may be sent via US Mail to:

PA QSO Party 2003, c/o NARC, P.O. Box 614, State College, PA 16804-0614

2 - Materials on IBM formatted Computer Media (floppy disk or CD) may also be mailed to the above address.

3 - Materials may be submitted Electronically via e-mail to : [paqsolog@nittany-arc.org](mailto:paqsolog@nittany-arc.org).

PA STATIONS MUST submit a completed paper summary form via US Mail regardless of the method used to submit log and dupe sheets. All non-PA stations may submit their summary on paper or electronically.

A DONATION of \$2.00 or more with your entry will help defray the costs of mailing, printing, etc. and would be greatly appreciated.

### QSO PARTY COMPUTER LOGGING PROGRAMS -

K3CP (c/o DLARC, KA3MOU, 120 McIlhaney Ave, Bath, Pa. 18014) (E-mail: [KA3MOU@enter.net](mailto:KA3MOU@enter.net))

KM3D (Box 392, Richland, Pa. 17087) Download: <http://www.km3d.com>

KA3JWE (Windows version) Download: <http://www.enter.net/~donster/>

NA - latest version now handles the 1.5 Point QSOs.

WriteLog has template. <http://www.writelog.com>

EQF Software - <http://www.eqf-software.com> - E-mail: [n3eqf@eqfsoftware.com](mailto:n3eqf@eqfsoftware.com)

PA QSO PARTY WEB SITE - <http://www.nittany-arc.org/paqso.html> - For latest info!

THE PA QSO PARTY REFLECTOR - To subscribe, send a two word message "subscribe paqso" to [majordomo@QTH.net](mailto:majordomo@QTH.net)

Check out the Latest info on portables, mobiles and activity: Friday night, Oct. 10 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 75 Meter SSB - 3910 LSB +/-

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### ==>ARRL GETS SECOND-YEAR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING GRANT

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) <http://www.cns.gov/> has renewed funding to subsidize the cost of ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I training for another year. The federal grant of nearly \$180,000 covers the second year of a three-year award. The goal of the second-year grant--which runs September 1, 2003, through August 31, 2004--is to provide basic training for about 1700 more Amateur Radio emergency communicators.

"This is a validation of our performance during Year 1 of the grant," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. As a result of the first-year grant, ARRL was able to provide emergency communications training to 1699 volunteers. This year, CNCS will be looking not only at the course completion rate but also the "outcomes that quantify and qualify the impact Amateur Radio has on communities nationwide," Hobart added.

"The true measure of the grant's success will be in how well these volunteers serve their communities when all else fails," Hobart said. The second-year grant also places renewed emphasis on recruiting senior volunteers--those 55 and older.

"In Year 2," she said, "CNCS wants to know how certified hams have become actively involved in their communities in drills, in practices and in actual disasters--how they've aided communities when citizens, their homes and businesses are in harm's way."

Hobart called the success of the Year 1 grant "as much a testament to ARRL as to the hams who have taken the emergency communications course and who serve when called upon to do so."

A \$150,000 grant from United Technologies (UTC) in large part has gone to sponsor nationwide Level II <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec002> and Level III <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec003> "leadership-level" emergency communications training. The UTC grant is for three years.

Students who take advantage of the grant-provided emergency communications training through the ARRL will be reimbursed for the tuition cost once they have successfully completed the course. Certified volunteers then are expected to take an active role as part of their local Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) team.

To learn more about the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course

Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org, 860-594-0340.

## **==>FCC PUTS NO-CODE INTERNATIONAL'S MORSE PETITION ON PUBLIC NOTICE**

The FCC has invited public comments on another Morse code-related petition for rule making--this one from No-Code International (NCI) <<http://www.nocode.org/>>. It's designated RM-10786. When the FCC put six other Morse-related petitions in the sequence RM-10781 through RM-10787 on public notice, RM-10786 failed to show up on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. It remained missing through September 2. NCI calls on the FCC to delete Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse code exam--"totally" from the Amateur Service rules and grant "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technicians. It also wants the FCC to act on the matter as soon as possible, preferably in a separate rule making and without further ado.

"[T]he Commission clearly has the authority to modify its rules on its own initiative and without further public notice or comment," NCI asserted in its 20-page petition.

NCI notes that World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz. As a result, "the Commission is no longer bound to maintain any Morse proficiency requirement." The Morse requirement, NCI contends, is keeping newcomers away from Amateur Radio.

Comments poured in this week from members of the amateur community on all seven petitions. Clearly ahead in the comment-collection race is the petition filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10787, which had collected more than 350 comments by week's end. The other petitions each have garnered more than 100 comments apiece.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all petitions now on public notice <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf)> by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The ECFS also permits users to view all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

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To view any comments already submitted for each petition, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type in the complete RM number, including the hyphen, in the "Proceeding" field. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number.

Several countries--including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands--already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria, New Zealand and Australia are expected to do so soon.

## **==>FCC WARNS FORMER LICENSEE ABOUT ALLEGED EX PARTE VIOLATIONS**

The FCC has warned a former amateur licensee to stop contacting Commission personnel regarding the disposition of his Amateur Radio application. The FCC had granted Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, a Technician license, KG6IRO, on November 8, 2001. Acting on its own motion six days later, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside Gerritsen's license after learning that he'd been convicted the previous year in state court of interfering with Los Angeles Police Department radio transmissions. The FCC also received complaints that Gerritsen had operated without a license and caused malicious interference on amateur frequencies. Gerritsen's application reverted to a pending status, and the conviction and complaint information was referred to the Enforcement Bureau for evaluation.

"The Office of Administrative Law Judges has requested we advise you that your repeated calls to those offices are in violation of the Commission's rules against ex parte communications," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth said in an August 14 letter to Gerritsen. "Those rules place restrictions on contacts with Commission decision-making personnel and provide sanctions for violations of those rules."

Gerritsen again was arrested in January 2002 after he allegedly made death threats on Amateur Radio frequencies and violated his parole following his 2000 conviction for interfering with police transmissions. Gerritsen had served one year of a five-year term, and the FCC alleges that, once out on parole, he resumed operating and caused deliberate interference to numerous amateur repeaters in the Los Angeles area.

At the time of arrest, the FCC said, Gerritsen had more than 20 radios--eight of them capable of operating on the amateur, marine, Land Mobile and Public Safety bands. He had a marine radio hidden in a closet with batteries connected to it, and a length of antenna line running outside his residence, the FCC said.

"The terms of the parole prohibited you from possessing radio transmitting equipment," Hollingsworth noted in his August 14 letter. In May 2002, Gerritsen was sentenced to three years

in prison--with credit for good behavior, work time and time already served--but he was released early due to jail overcrowding, Hollingsworth told ARRL.

Now, Gerritsen faces a hearing to determine if he's qualified to hold a Commission license. Hollingsworth said that in due course, the FCC will issue a Hearing Designation Order setting forth the details of the proceeding, but he admonished patience on Gerritsen's part.

"Neither repeated calls to specific Commission employees nor calls to Commission employees at random will expedite this process," Hollingsworth said, adding that issues related to possible violations of FCC ex parte rules could come up at the hearing.

### **==>HAM RADIO KEPT BERMUDA CONNECTED WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED**

Amateur Radio became a primary means of contact between Bermuda and the rest of the world as Hurricane Fabian swept across the island September 5, claiming at least four lives and causing extensive property damage in some areas. Authorities in Bermuda this week were assessing its extent. A dangerous category 3 storm, Fabian took out power to some 25,000 homes--about two-thirds of the island--as well as all radio and TV stations. Additionally, generator problems took the government's emergency FM station off the air for a time. Tony Siese, VP9HK, reports the police operations center was evacuated after the 120-MPH winds took off part of its roof.

Siese said the only contact with the outside world for a couple of hours was via hams like himself relaying information on 2 meters to HF operators and getting weather reports from the National Hurricane Center via the Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org/>> on 20 meters. He said that when the government emergency station returned to the air, amateurs provided it with updated National Hurricane Center reports from the HWN.

Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, reports his net on 14.325 MHz secured operations September 6 at 0300 UTC "after a very long and busy day." Participating HWN volunteers feed ground-level weather data to forecasters via WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>> at the National Hurricane Center. WX4NHC also operates with a volunteer staff. The weather data and information help meteorologists to develop more accurate storm forecasts.

"We had excellent assistance and vital communications from five VP9 hams who, unfortunately, had to resort to makeshift antennas and back-up battery power as the storm approached their locations," Pilgrim said. WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, said that while news reporters on Bermuda found themselves uncharacteristically out of touch, "old-fashioned" ham radio HF technology got through. As he put it, "brave Bermuda hams, using car batteries, basic wire antennas and only 50 W of power, were

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able to send those valued 'surface reports' and receive vital hurricane advisories." Decent conditions on 20 meters also helped.

Also pitching in were Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) volunteers. "The SATERN Net stood by two days at full alert monitoring for information from Bermuda as Hurricane Fabian raged through the island," said National SATERN Coordinator Pat McPherson, WW9E. SATERN Territorial Coordinator Rick Shirran, VE3NUZ/VP9, said that with power and telephone service down, "the only communication that held up during the event was that of the members of the Radio Society of Bermuda via 2 meters, and HF on the Hurricane Watch Net and the SATERN Net." Shirran lost part of his own roof and the driven element to his antenna. He got back on the air using a makeshift antenna and power from a car battery.

Shirran said it could take more than two weeks to restore power to Bermuda. Telephone service "remains tentative," he said at week's end. The airport was only open to daylight flights as of September 11.

Amateur Radio reports gathered September 7 by Dick Montgomery, N3DV, on the 20-meter Bermuda Net indicated many trees down, damage to docked boats and amateur antennas blown away, but power slowly being restored.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield expressed his sincere thanks to amateurs who supplied critical information during Fabian. "We never would have known what was going on in Bermuda without your help," he said. "You are a part of the hurricane team, and it is a pleasure to work with you."

### **==>ARRL ANNOUNCES CONTEST RULE CHANGES**

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced rule changes governing ARRL-sponsored operating events. The changes become effective November 1, 2003.

In any contest that requires off-time, any claimed off-time period must be at least 30 minutes long. "Remember that listening time counts as operating time when calculating off-time," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND.

Second, the Northwest Territories (NWT) multiplier has been renamed "Northern Territories"--abbreviated NT--for contests that use ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections as part of the exchange.

"While not an official RAC section, the VE8, VY1 and VY0 (Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut) are grouped together as a multiplier in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the ARRL 160-Meter Contest," Henderson explained. "The new name and abbreviation will more accurately describe their makeup."

Henderson said use of the NWT abbreviation was inconsistent to designate a multiplier that also included Yukon and Nunavut. Awards for ARRL-sponsored contests will continue to be issued to the VE8, VY1 and VY0 together as the Northern Territories section.

Finally, in contests using geopolitical entities as multipliers--the ARRL RTTY Roundup, the ARRL International DX Contest and the ARRL 10-Meter Contest--the official abbreviation for Northwest Territories is NWT. "This change brings the multipliers for those events into a consistent form," Henderson said. ARRL encourages contest participants to update the necessary files for their logging software.

For more information, contact Henderson <n1nd@arrl.org>.

## **==>AMATEUR RADIO RESPONDS EFFECTIVELY TO HURRICANE ISABEL**

Downgraded to a tropical storm by week's end, Isabel vented much of her fury on North Carolina and Virginia after coming ashore on North Carolina's Outer Banks the afternoon of September 18. The flooding it spawned in the Washington, DC, area also meant a two-day holiday for federal workers.

Amateur Radio volunteers had been keeping an eye on the storm for several days prior to its arrival, however, and they were ready to assist in providing communication support and weather spotting. The Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org/>> secured its operation September 18 after two full days and nights of dealing with Isabel.

"Many thanks to the dozens of dedicated reporting stations in the path of the storm for their support," said HWN Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, "and most of all to all Amateur Radio operators who patiently stood on the sidelines while helping to maintain a clear frequency on 14.325 MHz during this high-priority operation." The HWN worked with WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>> at the National Hurricane Center to provide ground-level weather information for hurricane forecasters.

In North Carolina, ARES member Mike Langley, KD4MTT, spent three days at ARES station NC4EB at the North Carolina Emergency Management's Eastern Branch headquarters in Kinston--the primary emergency operation center (EOC) for Isabel.

"Ham radio has been very busy throughout the storm," Langley said. He noted that the Eastern Branch EOC operated with a staff of six, with two on duty for two days or more and the others taking turns. "It's been a pretty busy process."

NC4EB participated in the statewide Tarheel Net on 75 meters, which backed up logistical communication between the state and county and local EOCs, and sometimes provided a primary link when government communication systems

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went down. Langley said telephone and power were "spotty at best" in many areas of Eastern North Carolina.

"Right now in the after-action, we're still maintaining vigilance here passing information back and forth from the different EOCs to Emergency Management and the Red Cross," Langley said. Other communication has involved helping state agencies to deploy needed resources, such as chainsaw crews to remove downed trees. The Eastern Branch also monitored the Hurricane Watch Net as well as several VHF and one HF frequency plus e-mail and telephones, he said.

In Virginia, Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Gregory, N4NW, said he had plenty of volunteers in the early going but could have used more as the emergency wore on. "A few did a lot," he summed up.

The Virginia Beach Hamfest <<http://www.vahamfest.com/>> set for September 20-21 was among the storm's first victims. Sponsors called off the annual event September 18.

Power outages were widespread in Virginia, and Gregory himself was running an emergency generator. Ground already wet from previous rainfall caused trees to topple, too, and that included several that uprooted and landed across Gregory's driveway. He urged all involved in Amateur Radio emergency communication to install emergency power systems in their homes and on their repeaters.

The Old Dominion Emergency Net/Virginia Emergency Net Alpha activated on HF to help support communication between the state EOC and local EOCs. Gregory said the net had checkins from about half of the Commonwealth's localities. "Our role was to provide a backup for their landline or whatever communications, but very few of those lost that capability," he said of the local EOCs. Areas most drastically affected, including Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, did need Amateur Radio support and had plenty of volunteers, he said.

Amateurs also supported American Red Cross and Salvation Army relief operations in Virginia.

Virginia SM Carl Clements, W4CAC, in the Tidewater Area lost commercial power shortly after the storm struck and was powering his equipment with an emergency generator. While he also has no telephone service, his cell phone continues to operate. Clements also lost his HF antennas. Many trees were down in his area, he said, in some cases blocking access.

Tidewater Area amateurs deployed at Red Cross shelters set up in schools. "Amateur Radio is the only way for the shelters to get in touch with one another," Clements said. Hams were handling some health-and-welfare traffic for shelter clients.

"It's a true disaster," Clements said.

In West Virginia, ARRL Section Manager Hal Turley, KC8FS, said ARES/RACES support of the West Virginia EOC ended September 19. "All in all, Isabel was kind to us," he said. "As anticipated, the Eastern Panhandle sustained the brunt of the storm." Heavy rain caused some flooding, and the state also suffered power outages.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), handled health-and-welfare inquiries via its SATERN Net on 14.265 MHz and via its Web site <<http://www.satern.org>>.

ARES teams in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey also activated for Isabel. The storm made itself known as far north as Southern New England and as far west as Eastern Ohio.

### **==>ARRL REBUKES FCC COMMISSIONER'S "BROADBAND NIRVANA" REMARKS**

The ARRL has strongly objected to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's suggestion that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology will contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana." Addressing the United Powerline Council's annual conference September 22 in Arlington, Virginia, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment," as she put it. In a terse response faxed September 25 on behalf of the League's 155,000 members, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that Abernathy overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy.

"Nightmare is more like it," Sumner declared. "The technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket No. 03-104 clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. It cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to over-the-air radio services."

Sumner told Abernathy that while BPL industry groups, such as the one she addressed this week, prefer to deny the evidence, the FCC is obliged to work to a higher standard.

In its comments in response to the FCC NOI, the League characterized BPL as "a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions" and said the Commission's Part 15 rules "should be modified so as to prevent interference to users of the HF and low VHF spectrum" from the outset.

Abernathy's speech, "Reaching Broadband Nirvana," never broached the topic of BPL's potential to interfere with other radio services. Recently, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <<http://www.ntia.doc.gov>>--which regulates spectrum allocated to federal government users--expressed "broad

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concerns" about interference to government users and launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. In his letter, Sumner reminded Abernathy that the radio spectrum is a precious natural resource.

"To squander that resource simply to add a redundant, unnecessary, and relatively poorly performing 'last mile' connection for consumers, is unconscionable," he said. Sumner expressed the hope that Abernathy will give the League an early opportunity to explain its BPL concerns to her in person.

In her remarks to the UPLC gathering, Abernathy contended that it's been regulatory restraint rather than heavy-handed regulation that has allowed nascent platforms such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS) to become competitively viable. "When the Commission completes this rulemaking," she said, "I expect that we will eliminate many existing rules and substantially modify others; the central question is the degree of regulation that will remain during the transition to a more robustly competitive market."

Individuals may e-mail Abernathy via her FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/mail.html>> or directly <[kabernat@fcc.gov](mailto:kabernat@fcc.gov)>. The text of her prepared remarks also is available on the FCC Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-239079A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-239079A1.doc)>.

The League's initial 120-page package of comments and technical exhibits <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>> and its reply comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply=comments-index.htm>> are available on the ARRL Web site. Additional information and BPL video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>.

To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

To date, more than 4600 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI. They are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

### **==>AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT "THE RILEY WAY" MARKS FIVE YEARS**

Close to 1000 Amateur Radio enforcement cases have crossed his desk since Riley Hollingsworth was tapped five years ago to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement efforts. That doesn't include countless ham radio "situations" he's resolved through informal counseling on the telephone or through an exchange of e-mails. At the time he took the job in the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--whose official title is



Special Counsel for Enforcement--called it "a new day for Amateur Radio" after years of amateur enforcement neglect on the Commission's part. As he sees things today, rules compliance and on-air behavior have improved since the new sheriff rode into town, but there's still lots to do.

"I'm fairly satisfied with the progress that we've made in five years," Hollingsworth said in modest acknowledgment of the milestone, "but I think we need at least five more years of this type--of this level--of enforcement, because the bands have quite a long way to go. It's no time to rest."

Five years ago, Hollingsworth began with a "top-10" list of alleged high-profile Amateur Radio offenders. By and large, he's slowly--and most would say successfully--worked his way to the point that many of today's cases appear comparatively mundane. But they get the same level of attention.

"The biggest problem we have now, I think, stems from conduct-type problems--lack of courtesy, taking serious offense and reacting to what is perceived as deliberate interference," Hollingsworth said this week. "Ninety percent of the interference that's reported to me is not deliberate." As he regards all enforcement cases, the remaining 10 percent are "serious."

"I think a lot of the 'radio rage' has subsided, but I wish that people would be a little more aware of just how valuable Amateur Radio is and how they sound on the air," said Hollingsworth. That's a message he's repeated often on the hamfest circuit.

"Maintenance mode" is a goal he'd like to see enforcement achieve. Hollingsworth explained that's when the number of enforcement cases is perceived to be in balance with the number of licensees. "I don't think we're there yet in the Amateur Service, but I think that we can get there," he said. Hollingsworth credits the amateur community's desire for strong, even stern, enforcement for his program's success.

"Probably 99 percent of the reason it's worked is everybody wants it," he said. "In this service they plead for enforcement. In every other service, they don't want to see you coming." This attitude, he believes, stems from a sincere desire by licensees to keep Amateur Radio a self-policing service. He counts keeping the support of the amateur community among his major accomplishments.

Looking out on the Amateur Radio enforcement horizon, Hollingsworth said he'll "keep pedaling" and chipping away at the enforcement workload. He'll also continue to look to the assistance and cooperation of his fellow radio amateurs, whom he called "just good people."

Amateurs "have got to stick together and cooperate and stay away from the infighting because they've got some very serious external threats," Hollingsworth said, citing BPL as

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just one example. "To the extent that they're not rowing together, it makes those threats more dangerous."

In his many public appearances--including several at Hamvention--Hollingsworth has stayed "on message" over the five years of his amateur enforcement tenure. "I just want everyone to realize what they have," he said. "We have incredible frequencies, power, modes, and so forth." He said a realization of the value of Amateur Radio itself is deterrent to potential rule breakers, but he said Amateur Radio enforcement is "permanently ensconced" at the FCC.

While he's had some very interesting assignments and enjoyed nearly every day of his tenure with the FCC, he says the past five years have been the highlight of his 30-year FCC career.

"My greatest satisfaction is thinking that I may have paid back a debt," said Hollingsworth, who's been licensed since age 13. "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done with the Commission."

### ==>HAWAII SCHOOL CONTACT MARKS 115TH ARISS QSO

Students from second grade through high school at Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii, quizzed NASA International Space Station Science Officer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, on September 15 about how he's faring aboard the ISS. The early morning contact between NA1SS on the ISS and WH6PN in Honolulu marked the 115th Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contact. Lu told the students that living in space makes him appreciate life on Earth.

"One of the things about living in space is it makes you appreciate the things you have on the ground," Lu said, "a lot of little things that you never think about--for instance, we don't take showers up here." The other side of the coin, though is being able to see how beautiful Earth looks from space, Lu added. In response to a later question, Lu noted that living in space is not as isolating as it once was, since the crew now has access to e-mail and telephone.

Lu and Expedition 7 crew commander Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, will return to Earth in October after having been aboard the ISS since April. Malenchenko and Lu became the first primary ISS crew to travel to the ISS via a Russian Soyuz TMA-2 spacecraft instead of arriving on a US space shuttle. With NASA's shuttle fleet still grounded, the crew will return on a Soyuz vehicle as well. Astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/foale.html> > and cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR <<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/kaleri-ay.html>>--oth veterans of the Russian Mir space station--have been named as the ISS Expedition 8 crew.

In responding to another question, Lu pointed out that ISS crews are quarantined for about a week before launch, in part to make sure they are not sick or coming down with something. But the quarantine period also provides some needed quiet time, "to keep you away from all of the hullabaloo that surrounds the launch," he said. "At that point you just need to study and prepare and think about your mission and get ready." Without the quarantine period, he said, "you wouldn't have any time to yourself."

"Aloha to everybody down there!" Lu said in wrapping up the contact. He said he hoped to visit Hawaii and possibly the school within the next year.

Punahou School science center co-director Gail Peiterson said the questions asked were a representative sample chosen through a student competition.

Handling Earth station duties for the contact was Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, who operated from the Sacred Heart Academy station. ARISS School Contact Coordinator Tim Bosma, W6ISS, moderated the contact. Two-way audio for the QSO was provided by an MCI-WorldCom teleconferencing link.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>> is an international project with support from ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

#### **==>MORSE PETITIONS' COMMENT DEADLINE LOOMS**

The period for public comments on seven separate Morse code-related petitions for rule making--some of which would altogether eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97)--ends Monday, September 29. US amateurs may comment on the petitions--RM-10781 through RM-10787--using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

As of week's end, the seven petitions had attracted more than 1800 comments from the amateur community. The FCC has yet to invite comments on two other Morse-related rule making petitions. The petitions, both filed in August, have not yet been put on public notice by the FCC.

Ireland (EI) and Singapore (9V) have become the latest countries to remove the requirement for Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination for HF access. Ireland's Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) announced September 15 that it took the action in line with the outcome of World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), which removed the requirement for prospective amateur licensees to prove Morse proficiency to operate below 30 MHz. All Class B licensees now have "Full License" privileges and may operate on HF.

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Singapore's iDA informed the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society earlier this month that it would no longer require a Morse test for General class applicants, although the test reportedly will continue to be available to those wishing to take it. Restricted licensees will be given an option of upgrading to General class.

In addition, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand and Australia have moved to drop their Morse requirements or are expected to do so this year.

#### **==>DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE 2003 A HIT!**

Despite Southern New England's brush with Hurricane Isabel a day earlier, more than 100 Amateur Radio digital enthusiasts showed up in Windsor, Connecticut, September 19-21 for the 2003 TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference (DCC). Friday and Saturday forums covered a wide range of topics--from APRS to software-defined radio (SDR). The Sunday seminar by Matt Ettus, N2MJI, focused on SDR. This year's conference also included a number of beginner-oriented sessions on PSK31, APRS, WSJT and EchoLink.

ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, came away especially impressed by the SDR developments he observed at the conference. "There's something happening here that will affect ham radio in the not-so-distant future," he said.

Alex Mendelsohn, AI2Q, was the Saturday evening banquet speaker. He discussed the occasionally forgotten fact that Amateur Radio is still a source of inspiration for engineers and technicians throughout the communications industry. Many key individuals in industry today trace their technical and engineering roots to early involvement in Amateur Radio, he pointed out.

At the banquet, ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, presented the 2002 ARRL Technical Innovation Award to Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, who created the popular EchoLink Amateur Radio/Voice Over Internet Protocol network.

This year's Digital Communications Conference was represented on the air by the W1AW/1 HF-digital special event station. Despite poor band conditions, the W1AW/1 operators still managed more than 100 contacts on several digital modes.

Copies of the DCC 2003 conference Proceedings remain available from the ARRL <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>>.

#### **==>ROHN FILES FOR CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY**

Rohn Industries <<http://www.rohnnet.com/>> filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy September 16 in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The best-known manufacturer of tower and tower hardware for the Amateur Radio community, the Peoria, Illinois-based company manufactures towers, antenna support structures and "infrastructure equipment" for the telecommunications industry. In business since 1948, the firm also makes security fencing and provides design and construction services.

"Our immediate goal is to stabilize the company's financial situation and utilize the Chapter 11 process to enable the company to conduct normal business operations as the company works to complete a sale transaction," Rohn Industries President Horace Ward said in announcing the company's bankruptcy filing. Rohn says it's now in discussions with an unrelated third party regarding a proposed asset sale while it continues to conduct business as usual. Ward told ARRL there is "no truth" to a rumor circulating on some Internet newsgroups that disgruntled workers had damaged manufacturing equipment beyond repair in reprisal for consolidating fabrication facilities last January into a single plant in Frankfort, Indiana.

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The impact of Rohn's troubles on the Amateur Radio community is not clear, but at least one major antenna products supplier reported earlier this summer that it was having problems getting Rohn products, although it continues to offer them. Ward told ARRL this week that Rohn intends "to execute the orders we have and to continue to take orders in the normal course of business."

In the company's statement, Ward attributed the bankruptcy filing to a severe downturn in the telecommunications industry. In July, NASDAQ delisted Rohn Industries after it was unable to meet its minimum bid price requirement. The company remains eligible for listing on the Over the Counter (OTC) Bulletin Board (OTC-BB: ROHN). During the past 52 weeks, the company's stock has sold for as little as a penny a share.

At the same time it filed for Chapter 11 protection, Rohn has announced it's entered into a \$9.5 million debtor-in-possession credit line with its lenders. The bankruptcy court must approve that agreement.

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