

Minutes of June 2, 2004

The meeting was open at 6:40; the minutes were then approved.

The treasurers report the account balance to be . The club paid the phone bill for the repeater for 16 months. This totaled \$584.66

Field Day:

The club will meet at the County Park Football Field at 12 noon.

Todd will move the club trailer. The club will also have the EM trailer.

Todd will also ask Fred Siegelman to come out and also get a notice in the paper.

Fund Raiser:

There will be a free spot at Millville on the 18th of September. The Club has decided to pay for a spot at the Lions Club Fair if it is not free.

Adopt A highway:

The Club will meet at McDonald's on the 10th of July at 8:00 for Breakfast before cleaning the highway.

Website:

A motion was made not to publish the treasury report on the website.

Net Report:

6/3/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ	6/10/04 Called by: Paul IV KF4YRK	6/24/04 Called by: Paul IV KF4YRK
James H. KF4LRK	Richard KD4GNX	Paul H III KB4ENQ
Richard KD4GNX	James H. KF4LRK	Stuart KG4TNA
Lou AG4LB	Paul H III KB4ENQ	Harold K4HOD
Lou AG4LB	Jerry KC4WZO	
	Deborah KE4GNX	
	Lou AG4LB	
	Lou AG4LB	

Members Present:

Jim Hughes	Richard Jones
Stuart Butler	Mike Brannock
Todd Rose	Paul Harrington III
Steve McFadden	Paul Harrington IV

Visitors:

Michelle Knickerbocker

Drew Chandler

Paul Johnson

Stephanie Harrington

Discussion:

- The Club has been asked to give a presentation on Amateur Radio during the CERT classes on July 13th at 8:30 and on July 15th at 6:00
- Mike, Paul III, Paul IV, Jerry, and Stuart have volunteered to sell tickets at the county fair on Thursday June 17th.
- A card was sent to Pete Jones' wife who recently passed and the Club has been asked if we could help dispose of some equipment.

From the ARRL News letter:

FCC TURNING BLIND EYE IN BPL PROCEEDING, ARRL CHARGES

The ARRL says the FCC apparently has already made up its mind about broadband over power line (BPL) and "wants no bad news" about the technology. In reply comments filed June 22 on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47, the League called on the Commission to take "a fresh look" at BPL before enabling its deployment. Again asking the FCC to put the proceeding on hold for a year, the League recommended that the Commission in the meantime require BPL providers to conduct FCC-monitored interference testing with all stakeholders. The ARRL charged that while an overwhelming majority of comments oppose BPL due to interference concerns, the FCC continues to rely on what the League called "vacuous assurances that BPL would not cause harmful interference." Test data and a growing record of unresolved complaints indicate otherwise, the ARRL said.

"ARRL is of the view that this proceeding has been prejudged and will, in the end, be decided not on the technical issues that should control the outcome of this proceeding, but on the politics of the matter," the League commented. "Given the evidence on the Commission's table, it cannot now authorize BPL at the radiated emission levels proposed, and without substantial restrictions."

Among those restrictions, the League recommended keeping BPL altogether away from all Amateur Radio allocations, should the FCC decide to authorize BPL under its proposed rules. As an alternative, the FCC should guarantee that an interfering BPL system can be shut down immediately in the face of a valid complaint, "not after a BPL provider has taken months to discover that the interference cannot be resolved."

To date, the ARRL contended, the FCC has seemingly ignored the League's BPL technical studies as well as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase 1 BPL study that clearly demonstrate BPL's interference potential. Five additional technical evaluations accompanied the ARRL's reply comments.

"The Commission is obligated by the Administrative Procedure Act to look for fire where it is shown a good deal of smoke," the League said. "Here there is far more than smoke in

the record.” Any decision in the BPL proceeding “must be supported by substantial evidence,” the ARRL asserted.

The League said the results of both its studies and the NTIA’s “are entirely consistent.” Referring to the NTIA Phase 1 analysis, the ARRL said it’s “quite reasonable to assume that the interference potential of BPL systems to fixed HF Amateur Radio stations is on the order of 460 meters (approximately 1509 feet) from the nearest BPL device.” No proposals address BPL interference mitigation for mobile stations, the ARRL noted.

While commenting extensively on—and in some instances agreeing with—the NTIA’s late-filed comments, however, the League said they depict an agency that must “balance dual and, in this case, conflicting roles” as the White House telecommunications policy advocate. The League questioned the NTIA’s contention that BPL is a “win-win” situation and its deployment would lead to lower power line noise.

“Not so,” the ARRL countered. “Licensed radio services operating in the sensitive HF environment should not have foisted upon them a substantial interference risk from unlicensed devices or systems whatsoever.” The League said replacing one interference source with another in the same bands is “not in any way beneficial.”

The ARRL also faulted the FCC for neglecting to acknowledge or respond to a mounting number of interference complaints, most from amateur licensees living in BPL field trials areas. “The Commission has, as of this writing, adjudicated not a single one and has ignored repeated requests from licensed radio amateurs for even a confirmation of receipt of their complaints!” the ARRL emphasized. The League also expressed little confidence in utilities that have failed to resolve power line noise complaints to do any better with BPL complaints.

Earlier this month, the ARRL filed a well-documented and supported complaint on behalf of Jim Spencer, W0SR, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The League suggested such BPL complaints deserved careful analysis, but not the Commission’s cold shoulder.

“What ARRL is unwilling to tolerate is the continuation of the Commission’s sweeping of these complaints ‘under the rug,’ which is exactly what has happened in this proceeding,” the League commented. The Commission must put its zeal over BPL aside and “take a fair look at them before any action is taken in this proceeding.”

“The Commission has not proposed any rules which would predictably and reliably protect HF and low-band VHF radio systems from interference,” ARRL concluded. “The interference resolution mechanisms that are adopted should be real, rather than merely illusory.”

THE FCC TURNS 70

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) <<http://www.fcc.gov>>, the agency that regulates the Amateur Radio Service, turns 70 years old on Thursday, July 1--the effective date of the Communications Act of 1934. Passed by Congress on June 19 of that year, the Act established the FCC as an independent US government agency.

Although amended since, the Act—all 333 pages of it—remains in effect today and establishes the authority of the FCC to, among other things, issue license grants. It also spells out the official definition of an amateur station: “The term ‘amateur station’ means a radio station operated by a duly authorized person interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.”

Upon its creation 70 years ago, the FCC directly inherited the personnel, funds and records of the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), then just seven years old. The FRC had shared regulatory duties with the Department of Commerce and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Communications Act of 1934 put all the responsibilities under one roof. Most of the significant changes the Communications Act of 1934 introduced affected broadcasting.

Directly responsible to Congress and charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable, today’s FCC jurisdiction covers all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and US possessions.

When the FCC came into being in 1934, QST expended surprisingly little ink announcing the regime change to the Amateur Radio community.

“The radio part of the law is almost exactly the same as before, and there is no change in any amateur regulation,” said a short article in the August 1934 issue. “The League kept in close touch with this legislation as it progressed, and is assured that nothing in the new law adversely affects Amateur Radio.”

The original FCC was authorized to have seven members and up to three divisions. Today’s FCC has five members—all appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate—and six bureaus.

W1AW NOW SPORTS VINTAGE AMATEUR STATION

At least one corner of Maxim Memorial Station W1AW has taken on a “retro” look with the installation of a vintage AM-capable station—thanks to the generosity of entertainer Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and audio pro Bob Heil, K9EID. The gear, which arrived June 18, consists of a National NC-303 receiver and Johnson Viking Valiant transmitter, along with a customized Heil microphone and other accessories. Neither Walsh nor Heil were able to be on hand for the installation.

The gear, which dates from the late 1950s, began its journey in Studio City, California. It changed hands at Dayton Hamvention and then made a stop at the radio repair and restoration shop of Larry Yaw, W9AMR, who spiffed up and rigorously tested the units. Yaw, Jeff Wynegar, KA9TOC, and Jeff Benedict, AA9JC, then accompanied the vintage station on a nonstop drive from South Bend to Newington for the delivery.

The idea for the station arose during an early March visit to ARRL by Walsh and Heil. Following the delivery and installation, W9AMR, KA9TOC and AA9JC came back the next day to make some W1AW/90 contacts on 75 and 40 before heading back to Indiana.

CALIFORNIA ARES/RACES TEAM HELPS WITH REAGAN FUNERAL CORTEGE

California's Ventura County ARES/RACES group assisted June 11 in the funeral activities for former President Ronald Reagan. Due to the large number of people wanting to view the Reagan funeral procession when the former president's body was returned to California for burial, law enforcement agencies asked the Amateur Radio volunteers to serve as additional eyes and ears along the 18-mile procession route.

"Operators were stationed on freeway overpasses, road intersections and other key locations on the route," said David Gilmore, AA6VH, who's Ventura County's ARES District Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer. He says some 50 radio amateurs participated.

"We in Ventura County have always felt a connection to President Reagan," Gilmore. The county is home to the Reagan Presidential Library as well as Point Mugu Naval Air Weapons Station, where Air Force One often landed when Reagan visited his ranch in neighboring Santa Barbara County. Gilmore said the ARES/RACES members "were grateful to be able to participate in this historic occasion, and to uniquely serve and honor President Reagan for the last time."

He also noted that Ventura County ARES/RACES members had undergone law enforcement background checks during the past year. "This was fortuitous, as the United States Secret Service—responsible for overall security—felt comfortable in having our participation," he said. The ARES/RACES team members worked side by side not only with the Secret Service but the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the US Coast Guard, the California Highway Patrol and various local law enforcement agencies.

"At the end of the day we received compliments from a number of persons in various capacities to the effect that our reports of the position of the motorcade were invaluable," Gilmore concluded. One especially gratifying comment came from an FAA representative who complimented the team on its skill and professionalism.

