

Ham Chatter



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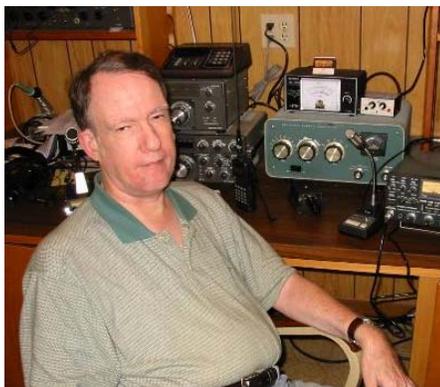
Editor, Dave Langley, W4YDY - Email: w4amc@qsl.net Contributing Editor: Murray Merner, K4MHM

Meet the Member Bill Overton, WB4PAC

Born in Spartanburg, SC, Bill found Greenville around 1970 when he came here as a youngster with his family. His uncle, Otha A. Barnhill, W4HDE, who was a doctor in Elizabeth Town, got him interested in radios by giving him a receiver around 1972 or '73. Otha, now about 79, is still active in ham radio. The radio that Bill got was a Hallicrafters Sky Champion S-20R which he still has. They lived on Library Street and he had his antenna on the roof.

He got his Novice license in 1972 around the age of 15 and was WN4TWA. He let that license lapse and got another Novice license in 1976 and was given the call sign WN4PAC. His transmitter was a Hallicrafters HT 40 Mark I with a crystal control. Later he passed the 5 WPM code test to get a Technician license. Murray Adams, WA4DAN, pushed him to get the General license which he passed in Wilmington, NC. While it took two tries, he did

(Continued on page 6)



Bill Overton, WB4PAC

Welcome new members

Two more have joined the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club after passing the exams for new licenses. They are Elizabeth Ballenger, **KI4BYU**, Winterville, and Jarrod Jicha, **KI4BYT**, both with brand new call signs.

All club members introduce yourself to them and welcome them to the club.

BARC welcomes the new members and look forward to their participation in the club activities.

Nominating Committee appointed

The Nominating committee for the 2004 BARC officer elections Members are Dave Langley, W4YDY, Mike Langley, KD4MTT, John McCoy, K4KBB, and Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK.

Nominations will be presented at the September meeting. Anyone interested in a club officer position, please inform the committee. Nominations will also be held from the floor at the September meeting. Now is the time to volunteer for a position and be active in the club!

KG4CCX new president of NCSU club

BARC Member Tod LeMoine, KG4CCX, is the new North Carolina State University **W4ATC Student Amateur Radio Club (StARS)** club president. Tod recently moved up to Raleigh to attend NCSU. Tod had been very active in BARC and he will give the club in Raleigh a boost.

Next Meeting September 9

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next regular meeting on September 9 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 at 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will presented by Bill All, N3KKM. He will talk about coax cable and connectors. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting is set for August 26 at 7:30. The meeting is open to all members.

FREE!

Amateur Radio Technician
License Course
in only 5 sessions!

Orientation: September 13

Class 1: Sep 20 Class 2: Oct 4
Class 3: Oct 18 Class 4: Nov 1
Class 5: Nov 15 Exam: Nov 22

Contact: Murray Merner,
K4MHM
757-3429 or k4mhm@arrl.net

The course book is *Now You're Talking* (5th Edition) which will have to be purchased. The Morse Code is not required for this license. Tell your friends.

President's Corner

Dave, KV4CN

Continuing a theme from last month's message (and probably other months too), I would like to issue a challenge to all members to learn or expand their knowledge of amateur radio. Try a different mode, enter a contest, take an on-line course, support the ARRL store and buy & read a book. Regain some of the challenge and spark of the hobby as when you first obtained your license. That regained excitement will rub-off on others and the hobby will strengthen. Give it a try.

September starts our new license class thanks to Murray's, K4MHM, leadership. Spread the word about the class. Get someone interested and have them attend. It's not too late. Contact Murray for details.

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will likely be in October. North Carolina and Pitt County needs your participation. More information will be provided in the near future, but for now plan to participate.

There is a new slate of officers being planned for next year. If you have an interest in serving the club, please contact John McCoy, Bernie Nobles, Mike Langley, or Dave Langley.

Club membership and attendance

(Continued on page 4)



Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays in **September**.

1	KC4ROR	Rose Wainwright
2	N2USB	Bob Moore
5	KQ2V	Bro. Simon Jaworski
6	KD4MTT	Mike Langley
7	KG4ZVM	Brad Brechtelsbauer
8	KD8NRB	Harold Bailey
14	WA7HVX	Ken Slough
18	KI4BYT	Jarrold Jicha
20	W4FA	John Schultz
24	N4BSI	Hassell Bailey
29	KC3X	Hollis Thigpen

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - W4YDY

BPL places FCC at regulatory crossroad, AMRAD suggests

Encouraging Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <<http://www.amrad.org>> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.

"The FCC is facing some serious decisions on whether to continue with past rules and historical enforcement or to dispense with their historical role and substitute rules which give the unlicensed Part 15 systems priority over the licensed systems such as the amateur radio service," AMRAD said. "Such changes to Part 15 rules would tip the responsibility of compliance so as to favor the unlicensed users and leave the FCC facing a large number of harmful interference complaints to resolve."

AMRAD recommended the FCC proceed "slowly and with caution" in advancing BPL as a viable and economical alternative to existing high-speed Internet technologies.

The non-profit scientific and educational organization expressed concerns as to whether the FCC would be able to enforce Part 15 rules as written in the face of neighborhood Internet service interruptions caused by "a single radio amateur or other FCC-licensed radio transmitter." It said its own testing has

demonstrated that a 20-meter amateur transmitter running as little as 10 W in the vicinity of an in-house HomePlug standard BPL local network could seriously impair the system's throughput. A 100 W signal would cause it to collapse altogether.

Ironically, the HomePlug standard substantially notches out the amateur bands--something ARRL convinced the HomePlug Powerline Alliance to do after amateur complaints sparked a recall of HomePlug-standard devices. The new 60-meter band is not notched out, however.

AMRAD said its observations and tests demonstrate that broadband BPL signals that conform to Part 15 "are well above the ambient noise and will interfere with many forms of reception." It said other non-HomePlug-standard systems that don't notch out ham bands "could cause more serious interference problems."

In the final analysis, AMRAD said, the FCC "must proceed with great care and take actions now to conduct testing to gather critical information" before making regulatory assessments. "The FCC efforts should remain focused on providing broadband to the home and not focus on any specific technology," AMRAD asserted.

(Continued on page 9)

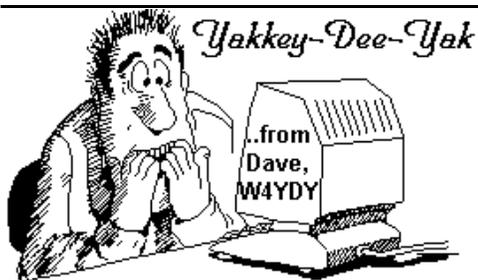
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Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK
Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ



Yakkey-Dee-Yak

ARRL seeks clubs' support in BPL campaign

ARRL has asked some 2100 ARRL-affiliated clubs to consider donating to the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Special Spectrum Defense Campaign. "Your ARRL is at the forefront of the campaign to defeat BPL and will continue to work tirelessly to protect your Amateur Radio bands," says ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. Hobart notes that individuals and clubs have responded generously to fund ARRL's efforts to fight BPL and many also have filed comments in response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-104. "But we still need to raise an additional \$55,000 to fund the field measurements and document filings necessary to defeat this threat," Hobart pointed out in urging clubs to give serious thought to helping out. ARRL has received club contributions ranging from \$50 to \$2000. She promised to post a list of contributing clubs on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org>> this fall "as our way of saying thank you." More information on BPL is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/BPL>>, including a video--available for downloading and showing at club meetings--that graphically demonstrates the interference radio amateurs would experience from BPL. There's a PowerPoint presentation too. To help, visit ARRL's secure BPL campaign donation site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>> or mail your contribution to BPL Special Spectrum Defense Campaign, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. - - via *ARRL Letter Online 8/28/03*

still enjoy it very much. Make it a point to go at least once. It was the first time Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, had attended Shelby. He said, "Now this is a ham-fest!" I'll bet he will be going again. - *W4YDY*

2002 ARRL Technical Service Award

Congratulations is in order for our Technical Coordinator, Danny Hampton, K4ITL of Raleigh. Danny is the recipient of the 2002 ARRL Technical Service Award, so designated by the ARRL Board of Directors during the July meeting.

His technical service has been outstanding. Danny has served as ARRL Technical Coordinator under two different Section Managers in the North Carolina Section. Danny's technical expertise has served us well during disasters, including locating backup repeater resources on short notice during the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd (1999). His advice in resolving RFI problems between repeaters and commercial services, and other technical matters, have been extremely valuable to the Section.

Danny has provided equipment and countless hours of his time to creating and maintaining Amateur Radio repeater networks in the state of North Carolina during the last thirty years. This is important to ARES and NTS because repeaters provide a substantial portion of our disaster and public service communications capability.

Danny set up a pair of repeaters in the Raleigh area in the 1970s as a personal project. The repeaters became very popular and the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network was formed to support this network. Today PCRN consists of over 30 independently-owned repeaters linked together using a linking system designed by Danny. His knowledge of the broadcast and two-way radio industry has helped others setting up repeaters also. As a result we have excellent coverage even in rural areas.

Danny is also the North Carolina Director of the SouthEastern Repeater Association, and has been involved in the Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance communications project. - via *ARRL NC SM: John M. Covington, W4CC*

An announcement by John Covington, W4CC, ARRL NC Section Manager, informs that Danny Hampton, K4ITL, of Raleigh was designated by the ARRL Board of Directors to receive the 2002 ARRL Technical Service Award. It is a well deserved award. Danny had the first 2-meter repeater in Raleigh and has assisted in the designing and installation of many repeaters in North Carolina. He was there in the beginning in the early 1970's of the repeater organization that is now the Southeastern Repeater Association. Presently, he is the Chairman of the Technical Committee and North Carolina Director. Congratulation Danny.

When I got my first 2-meter transceiver in 1971, I bought it from Danny. His 146.88 MHz repeater was the only one in Raleigh for several years.

The Shelby Hamfest was another good one. There were lots of dealers, flea market vendors, equipment, parts and "junk". Most anything can be found when there are acres of vendors. The prices are usually very good. Take a list!

Shelby is one of the largest ham-fests anywhere around, so make it a point to go sometime. Hams with campers start moving in and camping out up almost two weeks before the big weekend. We got to the area on Friday and spent the afternoon there. There's no charge to get in until the weekend. I bought several small items and picked them all up on Friday. Saturday was spent just having a good time seeing friends and looking at the goodies and drooling!

I have been to the Shelby ham-fest about 30 times since the 1950's and

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Hams a bright spot during power blackout

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 54 ARLB054
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 18, 2003
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB054
ARLB054 Hams a bright spot during power blackout

When a power blackout struck at least a half dozen eastern states August 14, many Amateur Radio operators were ready and able to provide whatever assistance they could. Hardest hit were metropolitan areas like New York City, Detroit and Cleveland. With cellular systems overloaded or out altogether, the incident turned into a test of Amateur Radio's capabilities to operate without commercial power.

New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D, called the response "a good drill," but says it was a cautionary tale too. "The lesson is that everybody gets a little complacent," he said. "Have emergency power backup and make sure it's working!" By and large, Carrubba said, ARES members did what they were trained to do. "It's going to show the worth of Amateur Radio," he said of the blackout response. "There were people on the air immediately."

Diane Ortiz, K2DO, the Public Information Coordinator for NYC-Long Island was one of them. When power went down in her Suffolk County community, she started up an informal VHF net. Over the next 20 hours or so, it passed some 500 pieces of traffic. In addition to handling messages for people stranded in the city, amateurs also relayed useful information, such as which stores or filling stations were open and operating. With many radio and TV stations dark, hams were able to help fill the information void, Ortiz said.

In the Big Apple itself, ARES teams provided communication support for Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) set up at main transportation centers in Manhattan. ARES members also accompanied ERVs on fire calls.

RACES activated in most Greater New York City area counties after a state of emergency was declared. Some ARES teams--including a few across the Hudson River in New Jersey--activated or remained on standby to help if called upon. In New Jersey, a net linked the Red Cross lead chapter's N2ARC in Princeton with other New Jersey ARC chapters.

Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, relied on his emergency generator. Some Michigan ARES teams assisted emergency operations centers and the Red Cross, he said. In Ohio, Section Emergency Coordinator Larry Rain, WD8IHP, reports that all ARES organizations in northern Ohio were activated. Still going strong at week's end were ARES teams in Cleveland and Akron. ARES handled communication support for Ohio Emergency Management.

Nancy Hall, KC4IYD--who lives west of Cleveland--said she's glad she took the ARRL Emergency Communications Level I class. "I have to say that being a ham and knowing about emergency preparedness did make life easier for me and my family," she said.

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/EX

President's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

are up. This is great, and I hope that it continues. If you can, come to the meetings as we have some good programs for the fall. As is my constant plea, if you have an idea for a program, please let me know as it is not too early to be planning for 2004. Lets end the year with the same enthusiasm as we started. Thanks for all that you do for the hobby and the club.

See you at the meeting!

73. Dave ZV4CN

Roy Neal, K6DUE, SK

QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 8 ARLX008
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 18, 2003
To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX008
ARLX008 Roy Neal, K6DUE, SK

Retired NBC News science correspondent, producer and executive Roy Neal, K6DUE, of High Point, North Carolina, died August 15, after undergoing major heart surgery three days earlier. He was 82.

Recognized as a leading news expert in spaceflight and science, Neal--born Roy N. Hinkel--covered the early days of NASA's human space flight program, including the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions and the early shuttle flights. Neal's space news experience, led him to become involved with the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX)--and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) programs. A joint project of ARRL, AMSAT and NASA, ARISS put Amateur Radio aboard space shuttles and developed the first permanent ham station in space aboard the ISS. Neal chaired the SAREX/ARISS Working Group and moderated ARISS international team gatherings and, quite often, school group contact teleconferences.

Earlier this year, he was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for his role in persuading NASA officials to allow Amateur Radio operation from space in the 1980s.

A Pennsylvania native, Neal began his broadcasting career at WIBG radio in Philadelphia. He served as a combat infantry officer during World War II and later became a program manager for the Armed Forces Radio Network in Europe. After the war, he was a television pioneer at WPTZ-TV in Philadelphia. He subsequently set up NBC's West Coast news bureau.

Neal was an ARRL member and active amateur operator throughout his adult life. Survivors include his wife Pat and sons David and Mark.

NNNN

Beacons

Many months ago I saw an advertisement in QST about the MFJ-890 DX Beacon Monitor. The ad referenced two articles on beacons and Dave, W4YDY, was good enough to sort through his stash of magazines to round them up for me (QST, 11/1994 and QST, 9/1997 (also QST, 10/1994 and www.ncdx.org)).

The beacons are a network of transmitters all over the world - 18 in all - sending signals in multiples of 3 minutes starting at the top of the hour. The beacon network started in 1979 and has grown since then to its current number. The value of such a network is that if you can hear a beacon you can have some idea about band conditions. The "monitor" tells you when the beacon should be able to be heard.

The beacons transmit on frequencies: 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, 28.200 MHz. During the ten second transmission at each frequency the signal strength declines in power starting at 100 watts, then 10, then 1 and finally 0.1 watt. Signal modality is CW at 22 WPM for the call sign followed by a one second dash at each power level. The beacon then moves to the next frequency. Therefore, it takes 50 seconds to go through the five bands and then the beacon stops transmitting for 130 seconds (because it takes 180 seconds for all 18 beacons to go thru all the frequencies) then restarts the three minute sequence.

The "monitor" works in conjunction with a transceiver, "Once the 890 is synchronize to the 60-kHz standard time signal of WWVB (in Fort Collins, CO- ed.), it will indicate which beacon is transmitting at a given time." (QST, 12/2002, page 70). (The 12/2002 QST has a review of the 890.) Actually, the beacons do not use WWVB, they use Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites for the timing. The "monitor" does not actually receive the signal, it knows the order of the beacons and when they should be transmitting and so is a clock rather than a receiver.

To get an idea of the order, location and call sign of the beacons, I got my magnify glass to examine the picture in the ad (there may have been an easier way); they are: 1. UN (NYC), 4U1UN; 2. Canada, VE8AT; 3. US (CA), W6WX; 4. US (HI), KH6WO; 5. New Zealand, ZL6B; 6. Australia, VK6RBP; 7. Japan, JA2IGY; 8. Russia, PR9O; 9. Hong Kong, VR2B; 10. Sri Lanka, 4S7B; 11. South Africa, ZS6DN; 12. Kenya, 5Z4B; 13. Israel, 4X6TU; 14. Finland, OH2B; 15. Madeira, CS3B; 16. Argentina, LU4AA; 17. Peru, OA4B; and 18. Venezuela, YV5B.

The complexity of the technology to precisely coordinate these 18 transmitters to transmit exactly on time, change frequency and decline their power is enormous. The details are explained in QST, 11/1994

With all due respect to MFJ, you don't need the 890. Park on one of the frequencies and wait for the beacon in the

part of the world you're interested in to transmit. (You can try and follow a given beacon as it goes thru the bands, but you have to be fast - not only switching bands (using the frequency memory in the transceiver would help), but also with your CW copying skills. Give the beacons a listen and see how the bands differ in propagation and listen to other parts of the world. *K4MHM*

Spam a result of virus e-mail spoofing, not from ARRL

Spam that appears to be coming from ARRL Headquarters e-mail addresses is a result of computer worms capable of e-mail "spoofing" and is not coming from ARRL. Complaints from the began arriving this week to ARRL Headquarters about received spam that looked like it had come from ARRL's e-mail system. Outside of routine correspondence, the ARRL only sends e-mail to its members who request mailings, such as WIAW bulletins and The ARRL Letter. ARRL Information Systems Department Manager Don Durand says so-called worm programs are the culprit. "What happens is that this worm--and many others--will infect someone's machine," he explained. The worm takes addresses from the user's personal address book and uses them on the "From:" line of a piece of e-mail. "The worm will then take the rest of the personal address book and send notes to everyone in it, varying the 'From:' line as it goes." Du-

(Continued on page 9)

Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **October 17**. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Tom Parsons, W4TEP, 355-2815. w4tep@arrl.net. Please bring the following:

- ◆ Photo ID (drivers license)
- ◆ Original Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Copy of Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Original CSCE's
- ◆ Copy of CSCE
- ◆ Test fee is \$12.00
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.

Email addresses

Please send me your new addresses so I can update my records. I need the correct addresses to notify members when the latest *Ham Chatter* goes online, important notifications and update the email roster on the web site. - *W4YDY*

K4KBB

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Meet the Member Bill Overton, WB4PAC

(Continued from page 1)

pass the 13 WPM test and followed up with the Advanced license. He went to Norfolk to take the 20 WPM test which he passed on the first try and went back later for the Extra written exam which he passed. The tester for the FCC was Jerry Freeman.

In addition, Bill got a Commercial First Class Radio Telephone license and went to work for WNCT with Heber Adams, W4GDF. He worked there for 22 years. After that he went to work for WUNK as an engineer and has been there eight years. He helps to monitor the 22 state wide remote TV sites from the Farmville location. His co-workers include Bernie, WA4MOK, and Doug, K4ROK.

He joined BARC when he first got his licensed and can remember Bob Knapp, W4OMW, Charlie Wells, K4SKI, and Jack Kear, W4MI, as members. They met in a bank building. He has been a member since then except for a time when he was getting treatment for cancer.

Bill's red 2001 Ford Taurus sports four antennas for 2 meter, 220 and 440 plus a Tarheel screwdriver for HF. He is quite proud of his Icom 706 he has inside. His radio shack (a real radio shack). has an old Kenwood TS 530 S, Icom 751A for DX and another 706 for 440 and 220 "local contacts." In addition he has a Heathkit SB 200 amplifier that puts out 800 watts. His antennas at the house are a 85 foot tower with a Hy-Gain tribander and two Carolina Windoms for 80 thru 10 meters and 40 thru 10 meters. He *really* likes Windoms. Bill has a repeater on 224.36 MHz. He recently

needed to move his repeater back to his own tower from a nearby tower that was removed. He prefers CW and estimates his speed to be about 22 WPM. He did take part in a DXpedition to Sheep Island (near Ocracoke) with Murray many years ago. He is thinking they may go back.

He has had an interest in astronomy since high school. He has a telescope and looks forward to seeing Mars since it so close at this time.

Bill has never been married, but is currently dating. There are no other hams in his family. Bill is a long time member of BARC and is still active in Amateur Radio. While he can't come to most of the meetings because of his schedule, he still supports the club. He made a special effort to let people know of his appreciation of Murray for helping him with the tower and Bernie for helping him with his antennas. *K4MHM*

FCC invites comments on six Morse code-related petitions

The FCC has invited public comments on six 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). 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.

A petition from Peter M. Beauregard, K111, designated RM-10781, would give all Technician licensees current Novice/Tech Plus CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters and limited phone and image privileges on 80, 40 and 10 meters. Beauregard said the CW privileges would "encourage Technician class licensees to upgrade to General" by giving them a "practice area." He has proposed new Tech phone/image privileges on 3850-3900 kHz and 7225-7300 kHz. His petition would not eliminate Element 1, however.

Pete V. Coppola, KG4QDZ, and family--Tina Coppola, KG4YUM, and Pete A. Coppola, KG4QDY--have asked

the FCC to eliminate Element 1 from the rules. The Coppolas' petition, designated RM-10782, would grant Tech Plus HF privileges to current Technician licensees. It also would retain the current CW-only subbands. The Coppolas asked the FCC to make the change effective immediately on a provisional basis.

Kiernan K. Holliday, WA6BJH, has asked the FCC simply to "remove all requirements for knowledge of Morse code" from the Amateur Service rules. Holliday said there is less reason to require Morse code in the Amateur Service today. In his petition, designated RM-10783, Holliday also said the code requirement limits the ability of handicapped individuals to get ham tickets. "The Commission's policy should be to encourage the use of Amateur Radio," he said.

Dale Reich, K8AD, petitioned the FCC to delete Element 1 for General class applicants but keep it in place for Extra class applicants. Under Reich's scheme, "no-code" Techs wanting HF privileges would have to upgrade to Gen-

eral first. Reich's petition is designated RM-10784.

Eric Ward, N0HHS, seeks immediate elimination of "proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code." The "immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest," Ward contended in his petition, designated RM-10785.

In a detailed, nine-page petition, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is calling on the FCC to delete Element 1 and give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees. The NCVEC also asked the FCC to "take expedited action" to allow volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 "as soon as possible."

"The Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned away because of the CW requirement," the NCVEC petition said.

(Continued on page 7)

BPL advocates comments lack technical substance, ARRL reply comments say

The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference. In reply comments filed August 20--the FCC's deadline to receive comments in the Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104--the League said that if the FCC is going to rely on industry statements in making decisions on BPL deployment, the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public.

"Unfounded assurances that BPL will not cause interference are no substitute for real-world measurements," the League declared, "and the FCC should rely on documented test results and an impact of interference potential based on scientific, not marketing, criteria."

A form of power line carrier--or PLC--technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses using frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. Some BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets and want the FCC to relax radiation limits.

"Power lines are ubiquitous, and attempts by the BPL industry to obtain relaxed emission classifications based on operating environment are obviously illogical and frivolous," the ARRL said. BPL would impact not only hams but public safety low-band VHF systems and other mobile systems, the League's comments added.

In contrast to the BPL advocates' "blanket statements" of no interference from BPL field trial sites, the ARRL said its own field tests "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference." It predicted signal levels of up to 30 dB over S9 on a typical amateur transceiver, "well beyond what would preclude amateur HF communications entirely."

To dramatize its point, the League urged the Commission to view

video <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video> shot during recent ARRL test-and-measurement forays to BPL field trial communities in four states. The ARRL said the type of degradation expected from BPL would transform 20 meters from a band with worldwide communication capabilities to one of limited regional communication capability.

"ARRL has, in fact, done what the BPL industry should have done--brought an amateur station to the trial area," the League said. "When it did so, the interference was manifest and widespread and would be so even to an untrained observer."

The League also noted that comments in the proceeding so far have been silent on the interference susceptibility of BPL to ham radio signal ingress. The League predicted that even as little as 250 mW of signal induced into overhead power lines some 100 feet from an amateur antenna could degrade a BPL system or render it inoperative.

The ARRL called on the FCC to stop acting like a cheerleader for BPL. "It is past time that the Commission acted in its proper role as a steward of the radio spectrum and recognized the interference potential of BPL to the sensitive incumbent licensed services in these bands," the League concluded. "The Commission cannot stretch the Part 15 regulations as far as would be required to accommodate BPL."

The League's complete reply comments are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply-comments-index.htm> along with more information

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/07/08/1/>. Additional information and video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/.

To support the League's efforts in the BPL fight, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>. - via ARRL Letter Online 8/22/03

Morse petitions

(Continued from page 6)

The organization, the umbrella group for the 14 VECs in the US, said there's "no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill," and that most applicants never use Morse after they pass the test. The NCVEC petition is designated RM-10787.

The ARRL-VEC abstained from voting on the NCVEC's petition question when it came up during the NCVEC's July 25 meeting in Pennsylvania. At its own July meeting in Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors affirmed its interest in reviewing members' input on the Morse issue as well as on other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03. The Board's current position is to retain the Morse requirement for HF access.

Two more recently filed petitions--one from No Code International and another from two amateur licensees--are expected to be put on public notice in the near future.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all of these petitions using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>, which also permits users to view the petitions and 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. While a Morse code exam element remains on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, a handful of countries--including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands--already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria and New Zealand are expected to do so soon. - via ARRL Letter Online 8/29/03

BARC Monthly Minutes - August 2003

BARC Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 12, 2003
7:30 pm at the VFW hall

Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, called the meeting to order, and asked everyone to introduce themselves with their name, call letters, and city location. John McCoy, K4KBB, announced for each new member to let everyone know if they are new members.

SECRETARY REPORT: Taylor Millar reported that the last Elmer Session for Morse Code would be held on Thursday, August 14th. He also mentioned the VE Session to be held on August 15th.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John McCoy, K4KBB, reported on funds deposited, expenses, and new members who have recently joined BARC. He also reported total funds presently on hand in the club account.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Ken Graf, N8FF, reported that Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK, has two more treatments to go, and that she is struggling. It was also reported that Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, was back in the hospital, and was going to have MRI tests done soon. Keep both of these in your thoughts and prayers.

EQUIPMENT: Nothing new was reported on equipment. Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, mentioned that the club

could possibly use a projection screen to use during our programs.

PUBLICITY: Pat Williams, KG4NSC, reported that the Daily Reflector put our meeting announcement in Sunday's newspaper. He also reported placing our ad in the Carolina Bargain Hunter and Carolina Bargain Trader.

He also introduced a possible fund raiser for the club using Food Lion's "Shop & Share" Card program. A portion of our grocery bill would be donated to the club each quarter. Stay tuned for more information about this program.

VE SESSIONS: Tom Parsons, W4TEP, announced the next VE session would be held on August 15th at St. Peter's School on 5th Street.

MURRAY MERNER-TECHNICIAN CLASSES: Murray Merner, K4MHM, mentioned advertising the new classes starting in September. Anyone interested in the classes should contact Murray. Fliers are available for posting.

ARES - PITT COUNTY: Doug Ferris, K4ROK, reported that there were 15 people in attendance at the Ares meeting held on Tuesday night, August 5th. He talked about state funds to be dispersed, and equipment needs. He mentioned a request for a trailer, antennas, and replacement of equipment lost during Hurricane Floyd. It was mentioned that ID cards

are on the way. Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, reported on the Area 1 & 2 meeting held on Saturday, August 9th in Columbia. James Smith gave a program on Ares response, etc. Doug discussed the BARC Net and the Ares Net on Monday nights, plus the Skywarn Net on the 3rd Monday night. He said for everyone to consider net control.

NEW BUSINESS: Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, reported the names of the nominating committee. Names of nominated persons are to be announced at the September meeting with elections at the November meeting.

MEETING PROGRAM: Mike Langley, KD4MTT, gave a good power point slide presentation on Emergency Preparedness. With hurricane season upon us, this was needed at this time.

BOARD MEETING: The next board Meeting will be on August 26th at 7:30 pm at Mike's Marine on Highway 33 east. All members are invited to all board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting adjourned about 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Taylor Millar,
W4WTM - ex KG4SNC*

BARC Board Minutes - August 2003

BARC Board Meeting: August 26, 2003

Attending: Dave LeMoine, KV4CN; John McCoy, K4KBB; Mike Langley, KD4MTT; Pat Williams, KG4NSC; Dave Langley, W4YDY; Taylor Millar, KG4SNC; Byron Highland, K4BMH.

TREASURER REPORT: John McCoy, K4KBB, reported total funds on hand. He also reported that the nominating committee results would be announced at the next meeting. John is to fill out the Food Lion form with our tax ID number so we can get all members started with this fund raiser program.

HEALTH & WELFARE: It was reported that Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, was in and out of the hospital. It was mentioned that Jeff Hardee, K4RJH, was still

having some health problems.

EQUIPMENT: Byron Highland, K4BMH, was trying to locate a power supply for the new ICOM 706 radio purchased for the club. It was reported that Bernie, WA4MOK, was purchasing about 200 power pole connectors for the club to sell.

PUBLICITY: Pat Williams, KG4NSC, mentioned trying to get on several other radio stations. He also discussed the new Food Lion program for the club using the MVP Card which would be a great fund raiser for our club.

ELMER SESSION CLASSES: John McCoy, K4KBB suggested continuing the code sessions since several still need to pass the code.

NEW BUSINESS: Fall meetings and

upcoming events were discussed. Elections will be held in November, and our Christmas party in December. Nominating committee will announce their selections at the September meeting. It was reported that the local emergency manager, Mr. Greg Hackett, has resigned to take a job with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Also the retirement resignation of Mr. James Smith from Kinston was announced. Project Santa Clause for December was also discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Taylor Millar, W4WTM -
ex KG4SNC*

Spam

(Continued from page 5)

rand said the worm programs can use arrl.org e-mail addresses it harvests from others' machines to propagate and replicate itself. The latest SoBig.f variant began circulating August 19. Durand said ARRL has been receiving dozens of calls from victims of e-mail spoofing. "It's everywhere," he said of the SoBig worm. "It's not slowing down." Network Associates has upped its threat rating for SoBig to "high." NAI has more information on the worm on its Web site <http://vil.nai.com/vil/content/v_100561.htm>.

BPL

(Continued from page 2)

AMRAD member Frank Gentges, KOBRA, recently assisted ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, WIRFI, in the League's efforts to assess the impact of BPL on HF. Gentges gave Hare a guided tour of "hot neighborhoods" in Manassas, Virginia, where BPL is undergoing field trials.

AMRAD's reply comments are available on the FCC Web site. - via ARRL Letter Online 8/28/03



Bernie and John Covington, W4CC, NC SM



Bernie and Robert Young, NC4ME, of Tarheel Antennas

Ham Ads

Ham Ads will be run, free of charge in Ham Chatter for three months for each renewal. Ads must be received by the last week of the month to be included in the following issue. Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835, ATTN: Dave Langley** or email to: w4ydy@qsl.net

For Sale:

Mosley TA-33 HF Beam. 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters. 3 elements with 40 meter extension. Reduced to a bargain \$150. Wayne, WD4JPQ, 756-7719

For Sale:

Mosley Classic 33 \$100. The center part of the reflector was bent in hurricane Floyd. I worked on it and got it as straight as I could.

Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, 946-4760 or dawsonw@mail.ecu.edu.

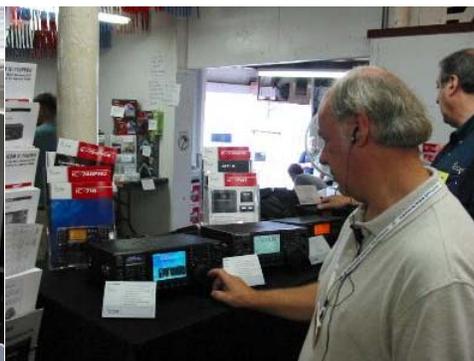
For Sale:

Hygain TH-6 tri-band beam. \$200
Hassell Bailey, W4OZV, 756-4471 or hbb929@aol.com

For Sale:

Ed Andrews (SK) estate. Kenwood TS-820 \$200. Kenwood TR-7800 2m FM \$60, GSC 35R 35 Amp power supply \$150, Shure mic \$40, Astatic D104 mic \$35, (2) Radio Shack mobile speakers \$15. Contact Annette Andrews 792-7657 (Williamston).

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, North Carolina SEC at the Shelby Hamfest



Bernie checking out the ICOM 756PROII

Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size

\$10 per Month - \$100 per Year

Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835**

ATTN: Dave Langley or email w4ydy@qsl.net

Help support *Ham Chatter*. **Donations accepted!**

NETS

VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz. (131.8 Hz Tone)
- ◆ Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Tuesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Williamston 145.410 & 444.250, Columbia 146.835 & 443.300, Rocky Mount 147.120, Ahoskie 146.910, Franklin, VA 147.300, Farmville 145.270
- ◆ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

HF

- ◆ Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

NTS CW Nets

- ◆ 3.695 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆ 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 9 **Regular Meeting**
 Sep 13-14..... ARRL VHF QSO Party
 Sep 27-28..... CQ/RJ WW RTTY Contest
 Sept 30..... **Board Meeting**
 Oct 4..... *Ham Chatter Deadline*
 Oct 12..... Maysville Hamfest
 Oct 14..... **Regular Meeting**
 Oct 17..... **BARC VE Session**
 Oct 25/26..... CQ WW SSB DX Contest
 Oct 28..... **Board Meeting**
 Nov 1..... *Ham Chatter Deadline*

Nov 1/2..... ARRL CW Sweepstakes
 Nov 11..... **Regular Meeting - Elections**
 Nov 15/16..... ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
 Nov 16..... Benson Hamfest
 Nov 25..... **Board Meeting**
 Nov 29..... *Ham Chatter Deadline*
 Nov 29/30..... CQ WW CW DX Contest
 Dec 6/7..... ARRL 160 Meter Contest
 Dec 9..... **Christmas Party!**
 Dec 13/14..... ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone
 PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

W 4 A M C - W I V O A

Printing courtesy of Xerox



September 2003
Next Meeting
September 9

To:



PO Box 8387
 Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter