

Ham Chatter



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December 2003

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Contributing Editor: Murray Merner, K4MHM

Meet the Member Dave Langley, W4YDY

Dave is my boss as the editor of the *Ham Chatter*. We have often had discussions at the HC international office about the Ham Chatter as well as other ham related topics. He certainly is knowledgeable and interested in the state of ham radio. I have learned a lot from Dave although he could have paid me better. To me he is the ham operator's, ham operator.

I originally wrote about Dave in a MTM column in October, 1998. Since this is my also MTM column, I thought it only fitting that I bring you up to date on Dave. I am not going to redo the '98 information, but suggest you read it to learn of his extensive past. (<http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/hc/hc9810.html#Meet>)

Dave seems to be at the head of the pack when it comes to equipment. He has upgraded to a Icom 756PRO and that is one impressive machine! Even the car has gone thru a rig upgrade with a Icom IC-706MKIIG and a VHF/UHF Kenwood TM-V7A dual bander. A Tarheel 100 screwdriver antenna is used to kick

(Continued on page 6)



Dave Langley, W4YDY

CHRISTMAS PARTY! DECEMBER 9

The annual Christmas party will be on December 9 at **6:30 PM** with a covered dish meal to start a **7 PM**. Please note that this is earlier than the regular meeting time. Bring a covered dish and/or desert if you can. The drinks, etc. will be supplied by BARC.

This is not only for BARC members but also the families. Awards and certificates will be presented for Ham of the Year and others. Also, several poinsettias will be given to lucky ticket holders. The party is one of the highlights of the year for BARC. It's a chance to meet and visit with the families while enjoying a great meal. A good time is always had.

November 15 Special VE Session Results

A special VE session was held for the BARC Technician class and others on November 15. It resulted in FIVE new licenses and ONE upgrade. John Manning, **KG4WEV**, Grifton, upgraded to General Class. Kevin Miller, **KI4DEF**, Washington, passed the first 3 elements to earn a General Class.

The four that qualified for the Technician license were Rose McLaughlin, **KI4DED**, Walstonburg, Charles Ingle, **KI4DEE**, Grifton, George Pollock, **KI4DEC**, Greenville, and Paul Woodward, **KI4DEB**, Greenville. Their new call signs were granted on November 25.

Tom Parsons, **W4TEP**, led the VE team consisting of Murray Merner, **K4MHM**, Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, Byron Highland, **K4BMH**, and Bob Moore, **N4USB**.

Next Meeting December 9

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its annual family Christmas Party and award presentation on Dec. 9 at 6:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 at 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. A covered dish meal will start at 7 PM. Awards will be presented to the Ham of the Year, and OM, YL, Elmer and New Ham of the Year. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

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

New Club Officers elected in November

New club officers for 2004 were elected at the November 11 meeting. They are:

President: **Mike Langley, KD4MTT**
1st VP: **Byron Highland, K4BMH**
2nd VP: **Dan Drake, KG4ISO**
Secretary: **Taylor Millar, W4WTM**
Treasurer: **John McCoy, K4KBB**

Director **Richard Campbell, KG4SNE**, has another year to complete on his two year term and **Dave LeMoine, KV4CN**, as past President, will serve a one year term in the other director position.

Thanks to the 2003 officers for an outstanding year. Congratulations to all. We look forward to another outstanding year.

President's Corner

Dave, KV4CN

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. I know it's a trite expression, but they do seem to go by quickly these days. It's been a great year for the club. New activities, new members, a terrific field day, and the list goes on. All of it would not have possible except for the time and support of the membership. To everyone that worked and supported our efforts this year, a heart felt thank you. A special thanks to Murray, K4MHM who is retiring as Ham Chatter associate editor and coordinator for the new ham class. Also thanks to the board members for their extra work to keep our club on course.

This is my last message as president, and I wish to extend additional thanks to you for your confidence and support. Two years ago, I spoke of continuous improvement. Being a little better today than yesterday and working to be better tomorrow than today. I hope that we have succeeded and are prepared for further improvement.

There are a lot of challenges facing amateur radio today, but lets not loose sight of the most important part of amateur radio which is having fun.

To you and your family, the best of the holiday season and a most successful New Year.

See you at the meeting!

73, Dave KV4CN



Happy Birthday

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

- | | | |
|----|--------|---------------|
| 2 | W2YBN | John Metha |
| 2 | W4ZRA | Rick LaMonica |
| 8 | WA4SLF | Joe Melton |
| 11 | KG4CCX | Tod LeMoine |
| 13 | KC4RBE | June Highland |
| 16 | N8FF | Ken Graf |
| 21 | N8OVD | Jim Reeves |
| 26 | KG4PIL | George Smith |

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

Spectrum Protection Act co-sponsor list takes a giant step

Encouraging news this week from Washington: The list of House co-sponsors for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713, has reached 69. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says he's pleased with the progress since mid-October, when he'd expressed his frustration over a lack of cosponsors. Since that time, the list has grown by 17 representatives. The Senate version of the legislation, S 537, is holding at eight co-sponsors.

"I'm cheered up that we've got new representatives to sign on, but we can't just stop," Haynie said. "We gotta keep at it." He said the League has been concentrating its efforts on promoting HR 713 because the bill has the best chance for success of any Amateur Radio-related legislation now before Congress.

Haynie continues to encourage ARRL members to not only urge their senators and representatives to cosponsor HR 713 and S 537 but to write and ask them to actively support them. "This is something that's important to the future of Amateur Radio," Haynie reiterated.

Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

HR 713 has been referred to the

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Haynie testified before that panel in June. S 537 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

For the convenience of those writing their representatives and senators to urge cosponsorship of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, sample letters are on the ARRL Web site. For guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site or in the April 2003 issue of QST (p 46).

Additional information--including the text of the Spectrum Protection Act and information on how to write members of Congress--is on the ARRL's "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail to specbill03@arrl.org.
Via ARRL Letter Online

In This Issue

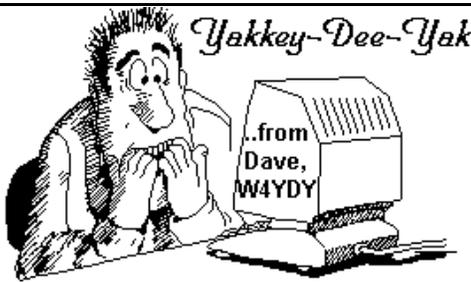
<i>Meet the Member - W4YDY</i>	1
<i>Club officer elected</i>	1
<i>VE Results</i>	1
<i>President's Corner, KV4CN</i>	2
<i>FCC mulls complaints</i>	3
<i>FCC reorganizes WTB</i>	4
<i>National Radio Emergency Network</i>	4
<i>BARC 2003 Field Day results</i>	5
<i>Next BARC VE Session - Dec. 12</i>	5
<i>New BARC Members</i>	6
<i>FCC Commissioner clarifies remarks</i>	7
<i>BARC Meeting Minutes</i>	8
<i>BARC Board Minutes</i>	8
<i>Hollis does it again!</i>	9
<i>Calendar</i>	B

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK

Gail Manning, wife of Mac Manning, KD4AFL.



FCC mulls responses to complaints

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. Where does the time go? The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club has had another successful year under the leadership of Dave LeMoine, **KV4CN**, in the second and last year of his two years as President. Now Mike Langley, **KD4MTT**, will ask for your support in activities for 2004. Volunteer to help BARC become a bigger and better club.

If Mikx asks for voluntxxrs for projxets and activitixs, vxvryonx nxxds to hxlp. Voluntxxr to hxlp thx lxadxrs of activitixs. You might say, "Bxing onx pxrson would not mattxr much", but it can mxan a lot. You will njoy thx club much morx by bxing activx in it. Sxx what happnxd whxn a singlx kxy mxssxd up on my kxyboard. That could happxn to thx club. Thx club nxxds you. Hopx I can gxt it fixxd bxforx much morx of this!

I want to thank Dave, **KV4CN**, for his monthly column and Taylor Millar, **W4WTM**, for the monthly meeting minutes to help me fill space in *Ham Chatter*. Also thanks to John McCoy, **K4KBB**, for getting me the info on the membership. Without his input, the rosters would not be as complete. I do make mistakes with it just as I do in *Ham Chatter*, but with everyone's help, I can improve on them.

Last but not least, thanks to Murray Merner, **K4MHM**, for his many articles over the past six yeas as Contributing Editor of *Ham Chatter*. I have a tougher job now!

Merry Christmas to all. -*W4YDY*

The FCC is considering the explanation of a Maryland ham in the wake of complaints that he disrupted an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net in September during Hurricane Isabel. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote Charles E. Cox Sr, **WA3AE**, on October 16, enclosing complaints alleging deliberate interference to emergency communications conducted on 2 meters by **W3AAC** at the Anne Arundel County emergency operations center.

"The allegations, if true, raise serious questions about your qualifications to be a Commission licensee and warrant enforcement action," Hollingsworth told Cox. The US Postal Service returned the FCC's certified letter to Cox as undeliverable. Commission personnel eventually tracked him down to a residence in Laurel, Maryland.

In a handwritten note, Cox told the FCC that he was on the air, but he asserted that he was only trying to help and didn't believe he was interfering with the emergency net. "There is a major misunderstanding," Cox wrote, adding that he felt the situation was being blown out of proportion. Cox also said he would change his mailing address with the FCC.

Several complainants--two off-duty FCC employees among them--tell a different story. A station identifying as **WA3AE** came on the net and uttered "irrelevant comments many times," according to one net control station, who also said that the operator was rude, "seemed intoxicated" and used inappropriate language. Cox told the FCC he has a speech impediment that makes him sound inebriated. The NCS contended that Cox ignored numerous requests to keep the frequency open for emergency communications, but Cox disputes that.

Hollingsworth said the FCC has Cox's response to the complaints under review.

The FCC also is reviewing a response from a California licensee. On October 15, Hollingsworth wrote Angel Carballo, **KG6QKR**, of Fremont enclosing a complaint alleging interference on 2 meters during a two-hour period. The complainant told the FCC that two repeaters in the south San Francisco Bay area "were being kerchunked." The amateur who complained said he was able to track the source of the interfering signal to an unoccupied vehicle sitting in a corporate parking lot. He said the transceiver appeared to be in cross-band mode, and he was able to spot the transceiver's display blink momentarily each time the repeaters were accessed.

After the complaining amateur approached corporate security and threatened to report the incident to the FCC, security personnel asked him to hold off while they tried to "solve the problem internally." The complainant, whom the FCC did not identify, said security subsequently brought out a man who went to the vehicle and shut down the transceiver. The FCC apparently was able to locate Carballo through the license plate and vehicle description the complainant provided.

In an October 25 reply to the Commission, Carballo told the FCC he believes he "made a mistake" setting up his radios and did not intend to maliciously interfere. He indicated that he had set up his mobile transceiver as a cross-band repeater on VHF and UHF frequencies--one of them 146.94 MHz--and monitored both frequencies from a handheld transceiver in his office.

Carballo said his transceiver is not capable of transmitting on two frequencies within the same band, so he could not explain the interference to the 146.23 machine. He also offered his apologies and asked the FCC to extend them to the complainant as well. - *via ARRL Letter Online*

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FCC reorganizes Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

The FCC has announced a reorganization of its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/>> "to more effectively support the FCC's strategic goals--broadband, competition, spectrum, media, homeland security and modernizing the FCC." The WTB administers the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) and amateur licensing, but the changes are expected to be transparent to the amateur community. The Amateur Service now will be administered by the newly named Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division. D'wana Terry, formerly chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, will head the new division.

"The bureau's portfolios have been redistributed along the lines of strategic goals, consolidating similar functions to focus resources better," the FCC said in a November 24 public notice. As a result of the reorganization, which the FCC approved November 13, WTB expands from five to six divisions: Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure, Spec-

trum Management Resources and Technologies, Auctions and Spectrum Access, Spectrum and Competition Policy, Mobility, and Broadband.

In addition to the Amateur Service, the Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division will oversee Part 95, Marine, Aviation, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Public Safety Fixed Microwave, Public Safety and Private Land Mobile services and E911, among other areas. Responsibilities moved elsewhere include Fixed Microwave (Part 101), Instructional Television Fixed Service, the Multipoint Distribution Service, and the Multichannel Video Distribution and Data Service.

The action reduces the scope and size of WTB's larger divisions and eliminates separate branches below the division level, while retaining their current functions. One of those was the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch, headquartered in the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. Among other tasks, that branch has handled the granting and issuance of Amateur Radio licenses and the vanity call sign

program. Another was the Policy and Rules Branch at FCC Headquarters, which has been the home of Bill Cross, W3TN, an FCC figure well-known within the amateur community. Among other tasks, that branch has handled Amateur Radio rule making petitions and Part 97 rules interpretations.

A potential plus of the new arrangement is that Cross now will work under another amateur licensee, Mike Wilhelm, WS6BR, who will report to Terry.

The FCC said eliminating branches would promote greater management flexibility in deploying resources and lead to a flatter, more flexible organization without altering the bureau's overall mission. The Commission said it was able to carry out the reorganization by redeploying existing positions.

WTB Chief John Muleta said the reorganization will result in "a mission-driven team that will be innovative in its approach to regulatory policies and customer service." *via ARRL Letter Online*

Rohn announces asset purchase agreement

Amateur Radio and telecommunications industry tower manufacturer ROHN Industries <<http://www.rohnnet.com/>> has announced that it's entered into an asset purchase agreement with SPX Corporation <<http://www.spx.com/>>, a global, multi-industry company. ROHN filed September 16 for Chapter 11 (debtor-in-possession) relief in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The deal will include ROHN subsidiaries that are party to the bankruptcy proceeding.

"The asset purchase agreement provides for the sale of certain assets of the company and the affected subsidiaries to SPX Corporation for the amount of \$5,450,000," ROHN said in a news release.

Through its Broadcast and Communication Systems and Services division, SPX provides analog and digital TV and FM systems, high-frequency and medium-frequency antennas, transmission lines, towers and radio frequency filter systems for the broadcast market. SPX also is a major site developer for the PCS/cellular in-

dustry.

The bankruptcy court must approve the ROHN-SPX agreement. ROHN filed an amended motion with the court November 13 seeking the court's approval of the asset sale and authority to sell the assets "after an opportunity is provided for competitive bidding." A hearing to consider proposed bid procedures is scheduled for November 25, and the bidding auction is set for December 8. The bankruptcy court is to consider approval of the asset sale December 9.

In addition to its other products and services, ROHN manufactures towers, antenna support structures and "infrastructure equipment" for the telecommunications industry. Horace Ward is ROHN's chief executive officer. The company consolidated its manufacturing operations in Frankfort, Indiana, earlier this year.

More information on the proposed deal with SPX is available on the ROHN Industries Web site <<http://www.rohnnet.com/>> (click on "Press Releases"). *via ARRL Letter Online*

National Radio Emergency Network to debut

The National Radio Emergency Network (NREN) <<http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>> will commence operations December 1. A cooperative effort of several US CW net managers, NREN hopes to provide an alternative public service network geared to low-power, portable and mobile stations. "Because CW provides significantly more reliability for stations operating at low power levels (QRP) or with compromise antennas, this will be a CW-based program," said an announcement from Chuck Mabbott, AA8VS. NREN will work on the "radio watch" principle, and member stations will maintain a watch on one or more of three selected frequencies in the 40, 30, and 20-meter bands. A detailed description of NREN, along standard operating procedures is available on the NREN Web page <<http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>>. *via ARRL Letter Online*

ARRL sponsors BPL gathering for communications

The interference potential of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) to over-the-air radio services was the topic of an ARRL-sponsored meeting of 25 communications professionals November 7. The National Association of Broadcasters hosted the gathering at its headquarters in Washington, DC.

"Listening to everyone introduce themselves and explain why they had come made the trip to Washington worthwhile all by itself," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who offered opening remarks and guided the discussion. Sumner showed excerpts from the ARRL BPL field test videos, which graphically demonstrate that BPL's interference potential at HF is real, not just theoretical.

During the meeting, representatives from the shortwave broadcasting, public safety, aeronautical and scientific communities joined amateur and amateur-satellite representatives to discuss the threat of BPL and possible avenues to combat its interference potential to licensed HF and low-VHF spectrum users. Military and consumer electronics representatives participated as observers. Coming the farthest was Chip Margelli, K7JA, who attended on behalf of the Yaesu Amateur Division of Vertex-Standard.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, reviewed the status of last April's FCC's Notice of Inquiry on BPL and noted that more than 5000 comments

were filed with the Commission--most of them from Amateur Radio operators. Imlay said that proposed FCC rules changes could come as soon as early next year.

Imlay added that a number of non-amateur organizations support ARRL's position on BPL. Representing the National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters, George Jacobs, W3ASK, affirmed their strong support for the ARRL position.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, provided a technical review of BPL. BPL delivery systems would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute Internet and other broadband services to homes and businesses.

Other points the group touched upon included:

* BPL emission measurements by government agencies are under way, but the results have not yet been made public. The FCC denied an ARRL Freedom of Information Act request on the grounds that their test results represent work-in-progress.

* A government representative observed that concerned groups should be wary of tying in the overused term "homeland security" with any anti-BPL campaign, since it could be spun back against BPL opponents.

* Meeting attendees cited numerous and increasing instances of interference from Part 15 devices, suggesting that such in-

stances only infrequently result in complaints to the FCC--and even less frequently in any FCC action.

A follow-up meeting may be held early next year if it becomes clear that the FCC intends to release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding BPL. Some attendees indicated a willingness to accompany ARRL representatives to meetings with federal officials to underscore that concerns about BPL are not confined to radio amateurs.

"It's apparent that concerns about BPL run very deep and include nearly every over-the-air radio service," Sumner remarked after the meeting. "Now we can work together much more effectively to express our concerns both inside and outside of government."--Derek Riker, KB3JLF, compiled information for this report. *via ARRL Letter Online*

BARC 2003 Field Day results

BARC Field Day results were reported by Byron Highland, K4BMH. In North Carolina, BARC was 18th of 59 entries. In the 3A category in North Carolina, BARC was 5th of nine entries. For all entries in the 3A category, BARC placed 75th of 278 entries. Congratulations to all that participated and had a great time over the weekend activity. Also, congratulations to Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, for his outstanding job as Field Day chairman.

Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **December 12**. 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 - Dave Langley, W4YDY

(Continued from page 1)

the HF signal out of the car. One area he has failed to make progress is to convince Anne, his wife, to put a radio in her car.

He has done some upgrading in his back yard, not flowers or bushes, - antennas. His dipole has had 160 meters added to the 80/40. His tribander has been upgraded to include the WARC bands of 12 and 17 meters. He still has the 2 meter beam and added a 3 element 6 meter beam.

He doesn't use packet much anymore, but has gotten into PSK31 and RTTY and while continuing SSB, he has increased his CW work.

To keep track of his on air activity he has two computer logs. The PDA LOGic 6 shows a total of over 55,600 contacts to date. The Counter Hunters computer log is specialized for his County Hunter activity. Technology has not completely taken his logging activity. He still maintains a paper log on all of his HF contacts. He is just about to fill his 47th book with each one holding about 1,250 contacts (he will use 10 books this year alone). This year so far he has made 11,587 contacts and expects to make 12,000 contacts for the year. His previous high was in 2001 with 10,420 which was double the previous record set in 2000. In his first 39 years of operating, his total number of contacts was 14,231 before he retired and moved to Greenville in 1992. Since then he has added over 41,000 more including over 2700 from the new mobile in the last 1 1/2 years. Retirement must be nice!

With all this activity you would him to have accomplished something. He did. He has gotten the WAS Award. Since 1998 he got the 100 countries to get the DXCC and now has 282. He has worked the 40 zones to be awarded the WAZ award sponsored by CQ magazine. IARU/ARRL has honored him with the WAC (Continents) award. World Radio magazine has gave him an award for having contacts with 100 different nations. The "31 on 31" is an award for making 31 contacts using PSK31 (his total now is 57) - the award number is 36. He is the second person to get the WANC Award. It is the Worked All North Carolina (counties) sponsored by the Forsyth

Amateur Radio Club. The 3905 Century Club Award is for getting 100 points on each of 160, 75 and 40 meters. He's gotten the ARRL Friendship Award. He has gotten two millennium awards: the 2000 DXCC Millennium Award from ARRL he contacted 100 countries in 2000. He did it in 10 days. He was one of 24 to get the CQ Millennium Award in 2001 for contacting 100 countries (CQDX); contacting 400 different prefixes (CQWPX); working 500 counties during the year (USACA) and working all 40 CQ Zones during the year (WAZ). For this he was in an article in CQ March 2003. (This was his third time being in CQ. The other times were February 2003 and in July 1953.). He also received the 10/10 number of 72671 which he could have gotten years ago.

On May 31, 2002 he receive the Worked all Counties Award for having made contact with each of the 3,077 counties in the 50 states. His award is number is 1069. An article in the October 2003 CQ Awards column covered that activity. He has restarted over and is only 354 from doing it again.

One of his most exciting contacts was on PSK31 when on November 5, 2001, he became the first person to communicate with the South Pole via the new PSK31 mode. They has just got PSK31 working and Dave answered the CQ not knowing it was the first PSK31 transmission from the South Pole. He received a QSL card postmarked "South Pole" from them a week later for confirmation of the first South Pole PSK31 contact.

Dave has not just been sitting in front of his rig. Each year he is an instructor for the Technician License Course, is an active Volunteer Examiner, participated in Field Day, has taken the SkyWarn Spotter Class several times, was in a couple of shelters for 3 days during the Floyd Flood in 1999. He has built his own interface for PSK31 which can also be used for RTTY and MFSK.

He receive the BARC Ham of the Year Award in 2001 and has been the Editor of Ham Chatter since June 1997 and is the web master of the BARC website. Every where I go I hear complements about the Ham Chatter and the web

Welcome new members

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club welcomes four new members. They are Walter Honea, W4HM, from Washington, Charles Lyons, NT1J, from Greenville, Sandy McLaughlin, KI4CRC, Walstonburg and Richard Cox, KI4CRD, Grifton. Be sure to greet and welcome them at the meetings.



WIAW

site.

His daughter Susan, WA4AKB is still a ham and does the web sites for the Cary ham club and for NC ARRL (ncarrl.org). She is employed by SAS where she teaches programming and writes programs. Dave and she have operated a couple of times as a YL/OM team on the County Hunter Nets on 20 and 40 meters. Other daughter Robin, who lives next door, now has 3 sons. Dave takes the grandsons to school most days on the "Yakkey-Dee-Yak bus". Dave's wife Anne, has a new desk top computer which she uses for her sewing and graphics used for making the families calendar.

There you have it - an update on what Dave Langley has been doing in the last five years. While he certainly has been enjoying Amateur Radio, he has made significant contributions to BARC. Thanks Dave. *K4MHM*

P.S. Since starting the MTM column January 1998, I have done 66 interviews. I has been nice getting to know our club members better I hope you know them better too. Dave works tirelessly on the Ham Chatter and I hope someone will have the interest and the time to give him a hand. *K4MHM*

On-line licensing course, lobbying kit part of ARRL's 2004 plan

An on-line Amateur Radio licensing course--possibly bundled with ARRL membership--plus additional Certification and Continuing Education courses <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> are among the strategic objectives of the League's 2004 Operational Plan. The League also plans to evaluate its existing ARRL on-line class offerings. The item was among several the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) designated to include in next year's plan when it met November 9 in Irving, Texas. Work on the licensing course already is under way, and the ARRL expects to announce its availability in the near future.

At a mid-September strategic planning session, ARRL Board members agreed to let the EC pick the 2004 objectives to incorporate into the 2004 Operational Plan. In the future, the full Board will handle the task. Other strategic objectives include development of a grassroots lobbying kit for ARRL members to use when approaching congressional representatives in their home districts on legislation affecting Amateur Radio and surveying served agencies such as relief organizations to identify their present and

future emergency communications requirements and areas of Amateur Radio performance that may need improvement.

The EC included some bottom-line related strategic objectives: That the League operate profitably to insure its future well being, and that it develop as ARRL Board policy a requirement that all new programs and services have a business plan and at least break even financially.

In other matters, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, told the EC that the League is close to signing a contract calling for independent testing and measurement of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) interference characteristics. Earlier this year, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry, ET 03-104, that enthusiastically endorsed the prospect of BPL, which the ARRL and others feel poses the potential of possibly severe interference to licensed HF radio services. The contract would include certification by professional engineers.

The EC discussed and developed draft proposals to implement changes in US Amateur Radio rules in the wake of World Radiocommunication Conference

2003 (WRC-03). Among other significant changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries whether to require a Morse code test for access to amateur high-frequency allocations. The ARRL Board of Directors will discuss the EC's recommendations in detail at its January 2004 meeting.

The EC also voted not to go forward with an appeal of FCC actions to permit expanded unlicensed Part 15 operations in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band. The ARRL had filed a Petition for Review October 22 with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit of two FCC orders that would allow certification of unlicensed 24-GHz equipment at field strengths 10 times the level Part 15 rules now permit. After discussing the pros and cons of the case and the minimal prospects for a positive outcome, the Executive Committee voted to withdraw the League's appeal.

Minutes of the November EC meeting are available on the ARRL Web site http://www.arrl.org/announce/ec_minutes_472.html. via *ARRL Letter Online*

FCC Commissioner's office clarifies "Broadband Nirvana" remarks

The office of FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy <http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/> has expressed regrets that her remarks in a September speech may have failed to make Abernathy's concerns sufficiently clear about potential interference from Broadband over Power Line (BPL).

"We regret that the Commissioner's remarks may have been interpreted as suggesting an absence of concern over harmful interference," said Abernathy Senior Legal Adviser Matthew A. Brill, responding to complaints from the ARRL and individual amateurs. From a policy perspective, Brill said, Abernathy is "keenly interested" in seeing multiple broadband platforms develop, but that she didn't intend to suggest that BPL "necessarily will emerge as a viable platform or that it does not present interference issues."

In her speech to the United Pow-
erline Council's <http://www.uplc.utc.org/>

> annual conference September 22, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and suggested it was a step along the pathway to "Broadband Nirvana." Brill noted, however, that near the end of her remarks, Abernathy--referring to the FCC's approach to PCS regulation--said the Commission was "right to adopt strict interference rules to prevent competitors from externalizing their costs. The same principle will apply to BPL."

Brill assured the ARRL that "ensuring that BPL and all new technologies avoid causing harmful interference to licensed RF users is a bedrock position for Commissioner Abernathy." He issued similar responses on Abernathy's behalf to several amateurs who had challenged her stance (see "ARRL Rebukes FCC Commissioner's BPL-Related 'Broadband Nirvana' Remarks" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/09/25/100/>).

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed delight at

Abernathy's recent clarification. Commissioner Abernathy's affirmation of this important principle as a 'bedrock position' is most welcome and reassuring news," he said. From the outset of the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket No. 03-104 last April, Sumner said, the League's goal has been to hold the FCC to its statement in the NOI that "each of these authorized services in the spectrum [including the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services] must be protected from harmful interference."

"Since that time the presence of harmful interference at BPL test sites has been thoroughly documented," Sumner noted, "confirming that our original concerns were well founded."

ARRL's extensive comments, reply comments and technical exhibits are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. There are additional information and video clips

(Continued on page 9)

BARC Monthly Minutes - November 2003

BARC Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 11, 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. Dave also welcomed everybody to the meeting.

SECRETARY REPORT: Taylor Millar, W4WTM, mentioned the Kinston club newsletter, and passed out the election ballots for special elections such as Ham of the Year, etc..

TREASURER'S REPORT: John McCoy, K4KBB, announced two new club members, and reported the current bank balance. He also reported getting a check from the Down East Ham Fest which was designated to go to the new repeater association. He also announced the upcoming Holland Grill Raffle to be held at several ham fests next year.

He is offering a dinner for two at the Beef Barn for the Ham selling the most tickets for the raffle. John also mentioned the sale prices for BARC patches.

PUBLICITY: Pat Williams, KG4NSC, reported on the fund raiser for the club using Food Lion's "Shop & Share" MVP card program is now ready to go. Detailed instructions on how to register for this were handed out to everyone. If any questions, contact Pat.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Byron Highland gave the reported condition of Mac Manning's wife as being better. He also reported that Juanita had been in the hospital recently. It was also reported that Wayne's wife had a brief hospital stay recently.

EQUIPMENT: Mike Langley, KD4MTT, reporting picking up the Honda generator from Wayne's house, reworking it, and getting it running. He also mentioned getting an equipment inventory list prepared after the first of the year of all equipment owned by the club and location of each piece of equipment. Byron, K4BMH, mentioned ordering the new 30 amp switching power supply from Astron to go with the new ICOM 706.

HAM CHATTER: Dave Langley, W4YDY, mentioned looking for another Associate Editor for the Ham Chatter. Thanks were given to Murray Merner, K4MHM, for all his help through the years with the newsletter, Elmer sessions, serving as Club President and many other things. A round of applause was given in honor of Murray's dedication to the club.

VE SESSIONS: Tom Parsons, W4TEP, announced the next VE session would be held on December 12th at St. Peter's School on 5th Street. Tom also mentioned the installation of the screen for viewing slides or movies at future meet-

ings.

MURRAY MERNER-TECHNICIAN CLASSES: The Technician classes are over. A total of 13 people have finished the course according to Murray Merner, K4MHM.

It was also mentioned that we need another class coordinator for next year since Murray will no longer be doing this.

ARES - PITT COUNTY: Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, reported on the meeting held in Winston-Salem on October 25th. This meeting was an overview of statewide ARES. He also mentioned the statewide SET and emergency training. He also reported on the Area 1 & 2 ARES meeting in Columbia.

Doug Ferris, K4ROK, reported that jump kit that was put on the Black Hawk Helicopter during Hurricane Floyd has been found in a closet at one of the schools. Doug also reported on updates being done locally and reported on Hurricane Isabel.

NEW BUSINESS: Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, reported that we have been asked to help at the Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament when they come to Greenville in March. It was mentioned that this will be a rewarding event for us to participate in. It was also mentioned asking other surrounding clubs to help with this. Doug Ferris will follow-up on this. All

(Continued on page 9)

BARC Board Minutes - November 2003

**BARC Board Meeting:
November 25, 2003**

Attending: Dave LeMoine, KV4CN; John McCoy, K4KBB; Pat Williams, KG4NSC; Dave Langley, W4YDY; Jeff Hardee, K4RJH; Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, Mike Langley, KD4MTT, Byron Highland, K4BMH, Taylor Millar, W4WTM

SECRETARY REPORT: Taylor Millar, W4WTM, reported that a letter of appreciation is being sent from BARC to the Down East Ham Fest to thank them for the donation check to the repeater fund.

TREASURER REPORT: John McCoy, K4KBB, reported on funds received and balance on hand presently. He also re-

ported on new BARC members.

EQUIPMENT: Mike Langley, KD4MTT, mentioned starting inventory control after year end of all equipment owned by the club. Equipment will be inventoried by date purchased, location of equipment, or on loan to who.

HAM CHATTER: Dave Langley, W4YDY, mentioned needing a new contributing editor at the beginning of the year. Also mentioned was needing someone to be the Ham Training Class coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS: "North Pole Network" with Amateur Radio (radio call to Santa), will be held again this year at the hospital on December 19th after lunch.

The State Basketball Olympics will be held in Greenville on March 19th, 20th &

21st, and we will need 12 to 15 operators for this event.

Final plans for our Christmas Party on December 9th were discussed with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. and we will eat at 7:00 p.m.

Also announced was the Kinston Ham Fest to be held on March 21st. Another raffle of a Holland Grill is planned for the Kinston Ham Fest, the Raleigh Ham Fest, and Farmville Dogwood Festival.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting adjourned about 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Millar, W4WTM

BARC Meeting minutes

(Continued from page 8)

club members will be helping with this special event.

Dave also told about our plans for the North Pole Amateur Radio Network to be held with children in the hospital on Friday, December 19th after lunch.

Everyone was told to bring a dish and dessert to share at the Christmas Party at the next meeting. This party is for all spouses, so everyone get ready for a great time. This meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., and we will eat at 7:00 p.m.

The slate of officers for 2004 were elected by acclamation. Mike Langley collected the ballots for special elections for Ham of the Year, etc.

MEETING PROGRAM: Tom McLaughlin, KE4NQP, gave an excellent presentation of how AC current is radiated into a RF signal. Tom showed us one of the better coax cables and showed us how a signal gets off the antenna.

BOARD MEETING: The next board Meeting will be on November 25th 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 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Millar, W4WTM

Hollis does it again - Another award!

Just 8 days after Hollis Thigpen, KC3X, completed the rare "K" prefix award for contacting stations starting with "K" in all 3077 counties, he contacted W4YDY/M in Chowan County, NC to complete and earn Bingo III Award #4 from the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC). This is a special award for making a contact in all counties with stations that have completed the CQ USA-CA Award or the county name starts with a letter in the station call sign. Not an easy task! Congratulations Hollis.



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 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

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year*

Remarks clarified

(Continued from page 7)

on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>.

More than 5000 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI and are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. via *ARRL Letter Online*

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

Dec 6	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Feb 10	Regular Meeting
Dec 9	Family Christmas Party!	Feb 14	CQ/RJ WPX RTTY Contest
Dec 12	BARC VE Session	Feb 20	?VE Session
Dec 13/14.	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Feb 21	ARRL CW DX Contest
Dec 30	Board Meeting	Feb 24	Board Meeting
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night	Feb 28	Ham Chatter Deadline
Jan 3	Ham Chatter Deadline	Feb 28-29.	CQ WW SSB 160M Contest
Jan 3-4.	ARRL RTTY Roundup	Mar 6-7.	ARRL SSB DX Contest
Jan 13	Regular Meeting	Mar 9	Regular Meeting
Jan 24-25.	CQ WW CW 160M Contest	Mar 21	Down East Hamfest - Kinston
Jan 24-25.	ARRL January VHF SS	Apr 4.	RARSFest – Raleigh
Jan 27	Board Meeting		
Jan 31	Ham Chatter Deadline		

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



December 9
Christmas Party
December 2003

To:



PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter