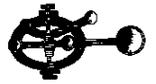




Ham Chatter



Volume XXXII Issue 10 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

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Contributing Editor: Murray Merner,

Meet The Member Dave Langley, W4YDY



The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting on October 13 at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Very important meeting! Election of Officers for 1999 will be held. See article below. Also Tom, W4TEP, will have a short program concerning JOTA. See Tom's column on next page and article on page five. All members and guests are invited to attend. The next board meeting is tentatively set for October 29. The meeting is open to all members.

FCC Issues Errata on "Streamlining" NPRM

The FCC has clarified most of the questions and confusion raised by its recent Amateur Radio rules "streamlining" proposal, WT Docket 98-143. The Commission this week issued some corrections and clarifications in a 13-page Errata to the original NPRM, released in early August. The FCC said the corrections were issued "to conform the proposed rules to the proposals discussed in the text of the Notice."

A major change from the original rulemaking proposal was to effectively reinstate language providing for a physician's certification that an applicant is unable to pass a 13 or 20 WPM Morse code test. In the NPRM text, the FCC invited comment on this issue and on an earlier ARRL proposal, RM-9196. The ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before getting exam credit.

The Commission also clarified its intention to retain the current 365-day time limit for a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to remain valid.

The FCC also added the words "Element 1(A), 1(B) or 1(C)" to proposed Section 97.301(e), referring to the 5, 13, and 20 WPM code examination elements, respectively. While this clarified the need to at least have credit for the 5 WPM Morse code examination to gain Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges, neither the original NPRM nor the Errata list Element 1(A)--the 5 WPM code test--as a specific requirement for any license class.

As I understand it, Dave Langley, W4YDY, had a rig when Marconi was just getting going good. Dave has been a pioneer in amateur radio being first licensed in October 1952 when he got two licenses at the same time - Novice, WN4YDY, and Technician, W4YDY! His first contact was December 25, 1952 - Merry Christmas. That was back in those days when you had to rub two tubes together to get them hot enough to work. Later in 1957, Dave was the first SSB operator in Raleigh and Wake County - not a popular thing to do at that time. Dave got his Amateur Extra Class in 1968. He was the second amateur in Beaufort County; was the custodian of a repeater call sign in Raleigh and had the first call sign, WR4ACH, on the 147.09 repeater in Greenville. He previously held second station call signs, K4IWI and K5NC. The man is a treasure of experience and stories.

You'd expect Dave to have a few pieces of amateur gear, and he does. On

(Continued on page 5)

Nominations For 1999 BARC Officers

Nominations were presented to the BARC members at the September meeting. The nominations are as follows: President - Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, and Murray Merner, K4MHM; First Vice President - Gary Gasperini, KU4NQ; Second Vice President - Jim Smith, KF4VHH; Secretary - Lily Fainter, KE4UGD; Treasurer - Bob Fainter, KE4UGC; Board Member (One year) - Tom Parsons, W4TEP, and Board Member (Two year) - Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ. Nominations are still open until just before voting and anyone may make a nomination.

Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, Doug Ferris, K4ROK, Byron Highland, KA4KGZ, John McCoy, K4KBB, and Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ are on the nominating committee. - W4YDY

(Continued on page 6)

President's Corner - Tom,

As I write this column, Hurricane Georges is leaving the Florida Keys behind and building up strength in the Gulf for an assault on the US mainland. We are thankful that we are not the target this time but remindful of how lucky we were when we look at the casualty toll that Georges has exacted do far. The devastation that the islands in the Caribbean have suffered has placed a heavy load on our amateur radio community. As we all know, we are the last line of communications. I am sure that many stories about "those helpful amateur radio operators" will surface in the coming days and hopefully, the press will give us full due.

Hurricane Bonnie gave us a good exercise and we had an interesting "lessons learned" session at chaired by Doug Ferris, K4ROK. A lot of good ideas were discussed for making our support more efficient during emergencies. It was also heartwarming to hear Bobby Joyner voice his support for what we do.

October is the month for Jamboree-On-the-Air (JOTA), the annual Scouting and amateur radio event sponsored by the World Scout Organization. It is the largest single Scouting event in the world with hundreds of thousands of Scouts and thousands of amateur radio stations from around the world participating. Our planned day long event with the local Scouts fell through but, you are encouraged to open you shack to the Scouts and give the an opportunity to be exposed to this wonderful hobby. Last year I ran JOTA from my home and had Scouts from all over Pitt County drop by. If we can't schedule something better then I will do the same thing this year. JOTA will be the weekend of 17-18 October. Open your hearts and your station to our young Scouts. Who knows, they may be amateurs a few years down the road. I will have additional information of contact frequencies available at the club meeting.

Our October meeting is the annual election meeting. I encourage all of

you to turn out and cast your vote for the officers for 1999. Our nominating committee has come up with a good slate of officers and they need your support. Be there! and have your vote counted. This is your club.

Tom, W4TEP

JOTA will be the weekend of 17-18 October

W0SL To Appear in CNN Series

Roy Welch, W0SL, of AMSAT fame says he's scheduled to appear in CNN's Cold War series, which started airing September 27. There are 24 programs in all. Welch has been told by CNN that his brief shot in the limelight will come during episode 8, "Sputnik," set to air November 15. His old Sputnik recordings--posted on the AMSAT Web site (<http://www.amsat.org>) included one from October 1957, when the first artificial Earth satellite was launched. CNN called asking if they could use the recordings and interviewed him for the production. "They flew me to Washington where I was taped," he said. His "15 minutes of fame" actually lasts less than a minute.



Happy Birthday

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

- | | | |
|----|--------|--------------------|
| 1 | KE4TZN | John Johnson |
| 6 | N4SFB | Len Downing |
| 19 | KD4JOV | James Eubanks |
| 21 | KF4FQC | Hal Smith |
| 22 | KD4FBP | Alan Grier |
| 28 | KA4KGZ | Byron Highland |
| 29 | KM4ZA | Sandy Vernick |
| 30 | KE4YOE | Paul Fletcher, III |

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

Well Wishes!!

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

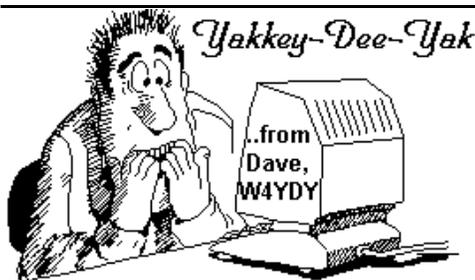
Shirley Katrobos, KF4VHJ for her continued surgery recovery.

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK's mother, Edith Nobles, was recently hospitalized for a Pulmonary Embolus. Mrs. Nobles is at home and doing much better now.

We wish them both a speedy recovery!!

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The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Society thanks John McCoy, K4KBB, for his extra support given to BARC. Ham Chatter's first ad starts running this month. Be sure to take a look at it on page seven. If we could get about six more like John's, *Ham Chatter* would be self supporting since that would take care of printing and stamps each month. As most know, the cost of stamps is going up on January 1, 1999. Also, the cost of printing went up a couple of months ago.

The ads do not have to be Amateur Radio related. Hams have to purchase goods and services just like anyone else, so there is a wide field out there for ads. If anyone wants to advertise or if you know someone with a business that may be interested or if you want to support the club with a business card ad, let us know. The cost is 10 dollars per month or 100 dollars per year. It's a good way to support the club.

The FCC has adopted the Universal Licensing System. A new electronic form 605 will replace the present Form 610 that has been around for many years with many modifications. Form 605 will be use for many other services other than Amateur Radio. Hams will have the option of filing electronically or on paper. There's more on page four.

Murray, K4MHM, has written a very good article on this page about getting involved with BARC club activities. He lists a lot of BARC activities that club members can help out with. One of the best things about getting involved is the

fellowship and making new friends in person instead of just on the air. Like most clubs, BARC is no different when it comes to involvement of the members. There seem to be a few that do most of the legwork and many others would be involved if they just knew what to do to help. The elections will be held at the next meeting. Let someone know if you are interested in a position so you can be nominated. The more members that are involved with club activities will help bring more ideas for a better club.

Tom, W4TEP, is looking for help with JOTA coming up in on October 17-18. I think he is planning operations on the 17th. He will talk about it at the October club meeting. This is a chance to help the club and help interest young people to get started in Amateur Radio. I remember when I was in the Boy Scouts, (Although K4MHM will probably say I was grown before the scouts started!) I

learned the Morse code and it helped me a few years later when I started working to get my Amateur Radio license.

It looks like HR 3572--better known as the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998--might not make it this year due to Congress not acting on it. They seem to have other things on their mind these days. Page seven of this *Ham Chatter* has more information and how to contact your Representatives.

Everyone should comment FCC Docket 98-143. That is the one about changing licensing requirements, code speeds, testing, etc. It's your chance to have a say in how you want Amateur Radio to look and function in the future. An easy way to comment is to use the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. If you don't have Internet access, I'm sure a friend will help.-W4YDY

Get Involved!

BARC is a way for those interested in amateur radio to get together, and pull together. For any organization to be a success it requires the involvement of its membership. There are a number of opportunities that BARC offers for the members to get involved.

The New Ham Class needs instructors. John McCoy (K4KBB) came up with a nice idea of one instructor for each of the 11 classes. No one would have to a lot of work and the students would get to know 11 members of BARC which might make them feel more comfortable coming to a meeting and joining. Put up flyers about the class; talk it up with people you meet -- let people know about the opportunity.

There are special events such as the Teddy Bear Safe Walk, Grifton Shad Festival, Purple and Gold Pigskin Pigout and Greenville International Festival. JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) is coming up on October 17 and 18. Help Tom Parsons (W4TEP) get some scouts interested in amateur radio. Your help and interaction with the public will get others interested in the hobby.

Field Day is our biggest event. We need you. It's a great time to participate with physical labor and at the radios.

ARES could use some people who can help in the time of emergencies. That service is invaluable to the community and it is appreciated. SET (Simulated Emergency Test) is coming up -- can you give a hand?

Talk to potential advertisers in Ham Chatter. Could your business or employer put in an ad? Our goal it to have it become self sufficient. If it was, that would free up our funds to invest in other projects of the club.

Club meetings need attendance and programs. You can help just by showing up, but even more by doing a program on something related to amateur radio that interests you.

(Continued on page 4)

Get Involved!

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 □ MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION □ PRESIDENT - TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 □ FIRST V. PRESIDENT - MURRAY MERNER, K4MHM, 757-3429 □ SECOND V. PRESIDENT - GENE UNDERWOOD, KE4JZU, 746-6964 □ SECRETARY - JUANITA HUMBLER, KE4JWK, 355-1051 □ TREASURER - ALEX MACKLIN, KC4PHJ, 752-2231 □ BOARD MEMBER - PAUL FLETCHER, KS4YF, 756-6985 □ BOARD MEMBER - GARY GASPERINI, KU4NQ, 758-8101 □ HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE

FCC Adopts Universal Licensing System

Amateurs can say good-bye to the FCC Form 610 series in a few months. The FCC has adopted its long-proposed Universal Licensing System, which replaces Form 610 with a new, electronic Form 605, the Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services. Applicants may continue to use the old forms for six months after the new rules go into effect, however.

The FCC also adopted proposals to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the

US, pursuant to recent international reciprocal operating agreements.

The FCC said the ULS will "fundamentally change" the way the Commission receives and processes wireless applications and makes licensee information available to the public. The rules adopted September 17 will--in the FCC's words--"consolidate, revise, and streamline" license application procedures for radio services under the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the ULS. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Access to the ULS is via

<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>.

When the FCC first aired its ULS plan, some licensees expressed concerns because ULS registration would require applicants to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number, typically a Social Security Number. In its public notice, the FCC assured that "all TIN information will be kept confidential."

The FCC's action consolidates 40 existing forms into four ULS application forms, including the new Form 605. Electronic filing in the ULS will not yet be mandatory for individual amateurs. Hams will have the

option of filing electronically or on paper. However, electronic filing via the ULS will be required for Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the Amateur

Service. Mandatory electronic filing requirements go into effect July 1, 1999 or six months after the use of ULS in a particular service--whichever is later.

An official Report and Order detailing the FCC's actions is expected to be released soon. The FCC's Public Notice is available on the FCC Web site at http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/News_Releases/1998/nrwl8040.html. -
Via ARRL Letter Online - 9/25/98

Amateurs can say good-bye to the FCC Form 610 series in a few months.

Jamboree On The Air '98 is October 17-18

On the third weekend of October, more than 400,000 Scouts around the world are expected to get together on the air during the 41st international Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). The annual event gives ham radio veterans a chance to plant the seed of ham radio in the minds of Scouts gathered at stations set up in fields, parks, mountaintops, or even at the veteran op's own shack, to participate.

Remember your first ham radio contact? Experienced hams can give that feeling to future ham radio operators during JOTA by showing Scouts the fun they could have if they embark on a "hobby of a lifetime." JOTA runs from Saturday, October 17, at 0001 local time to Sunday, October 18, at 2359 local time. This means activity continues from Friday to Monday, because of the time differences. During JOTA, participating Scouts not only get a chance to talk to other Scouts in their community or state, but they might even be able to chat with Scouts in different countries!

The radio station of the World Scout Bureau, HB9S, will be on the air from Geneva, Switzerland. HB9S will operate almost continuously, but will take breaks during the night in Europe. Groups can contact the station via packet at HB9S@HB9IAP or via e-mail to Station Manager Yves Margot, jota@world.scout.org. Operators at HB9S say they will do the best they can to make contact with Scout stations worldwide and speak to scouts in as many languages as possible.

JOTA can be a club activity or an individual project. Individual hams who want to get involved should make arrangements with Scout leaders a few weeks in advance (to get contact information, call the local Scout office and make yourself available to your local Cub Scout Pack, Girl or Boy Scout Troop or Explorers). The ARRL Educational Activities Department offers a JOTA information package on the ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/ead/jota.html>.

JOTA can sometimes be an outdoors activity like Field Day. The occasion gives veteran hams a chance to set

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Get Involved!

(Continued from page 3)

Write. Let people know what you think. Write for the Ham Chatter, ARRL, QST or the FCC. Folks need to know what you think.

Invite some one to a new ham class, talk to a school class, invite someone to a club meeting.

Our club and hobby live as long as there are people interested and you can make a big difference by being involved and getting others involved too. Ham radio, pass it on. - K4MHM

Next VE Session Oct. 16

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on October 16. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. - KQ2V
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 \$6.35

Meet the Member, Dave Langley, W4YDY

(Continued from page 1)

HF, he has a Kenwood TS 850S/AT, a Collins 30L-1 amplifier and a Collins KWM-2. His VHF rigs consist of a Kenwood TR-7800 in the house and an Azden 6000 in the car and an Alinco DJ 580 HT for 2 meters and 440. His antennas are a 60-foot Rohm foldover tower, 80/40 meter inverted Vee, a Mosley TA-33 beam for 10, 15 and 20 meters and 22 elements on 2 meters up about 70 feet. He also uses packet and computer logs.

In BARC, Dave has been Second VP, and is our Ham Chatter editor and the BARC Internet site editor of which he does an outstanding job. He participates in other activities of BARC including the Volunteer Examiner program and in 1997 was the BARC Ham of the Year. He was also the first editor of the Raleigh ARS newsletter from 1969 to 1974. In 1971, the newsletter got the Roanoke Division Outstanding Radio Club Journal Award. Also in 1971, Dave received the prestigious "**Order of the Long Leaf Pine**" (the highest public service award a governor can give) from then Governor Bob Scott. Governor Scott also issued an executive order designating W4YDY as an **Official Radio Amateur Station of the Governor's office for the 1971 Holiday Season**. Dave was treasurer of Amateur Radio News Service for two years from 1973 to 1975 and President of FAA Aeronautical Center Amateur Radio Club in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1977. He is a life member of ARRL.

Dave got his professional education started at Gaston Technical Institute with extensive follow up training in radar, communications, microwave and radar. (He might be the guy to ask about that TV and microwave that are on the fritz.) With that background, he has worked for TV stations WNCT, WITN, WRAL-TV and the Federal Aviation Administration. Dave was an FAA radar technician at Long Range Radar sites south of Raleigh and at Newton, NC. He spent two years in Oklahoma City (1975-77) at the FAA Academy as an Instructor teaching airport radar computers to field technicians. He retired in 1991 after 31 years with the FAA.

Dave and his wife Anne have two daughters, and both are teachers with masters degrees. Susan, WA4AKB, licensed at age 13, teaches computer program languages at SAS in Raleigh and Robin is a first grade teacher in Vanceboro while Dave and Anne do the grandparent thing for Robin's two youngsters. Anne enjoys sewing and using her new laptop computer. Dave has other interests including his own Internet home page, video editing, MS Flight Simulator and genealogy.

Dave is another example of the diversity and expertise of the BARC membership. His dedication to make the paper and electronic Ham Chatter adds immensely to the success of our club. Thanks Dave! - *K4MHM*

New Ham Class

Another ham class will begin Thursday, October 22. Format will be the same: presentation from 6:30 to 8:30 and Morse code from 8:30 to 9:00. All but the first meeting will be at St. Peter's School science lab. Flyers will be at the October meeting -- please take some and pass them around and put them up on area bulletin boards. Instructors include: Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, Gary Gasperini, KU4NQ, John McCoy, K4KBB, Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, Dave Langley, W4YDY, and Murray Merner, K4MHM. Thanks guys. Contact Murray at 757-3429 or email MMERNER@pcmh.com for more information. - *K4MHM*

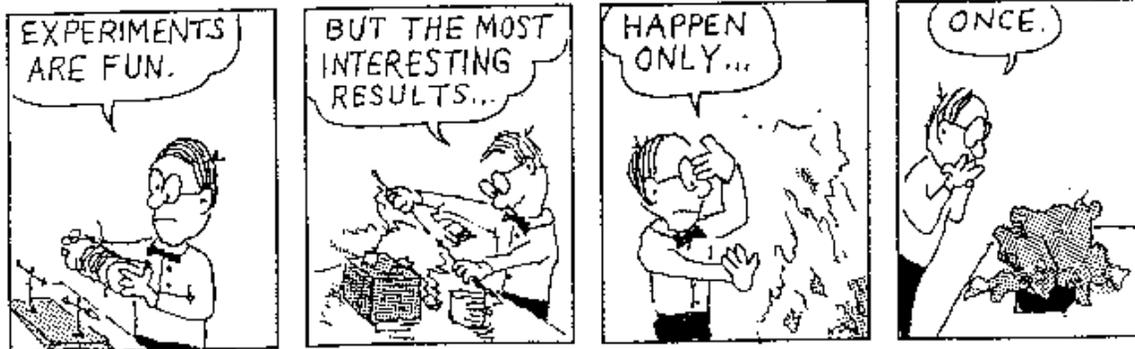
Lower Vanity Fee Boosts Applications

According to FCC numbers out of Gettysburg earlier this month, the new, lower vanity call sign application fee induced an additional spurt of applications from the typically thrifty ham radio community. The FCC reports getting 281 applications on September 14, the first day of the new \$13 fee, and another 78 applications the next day.

That's in sharp contrast to the 130 or so applications received between August 25 and September 2. In fact, during all of August, the FCC received just shy of 600 vanity applications. - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 9/25/98*

ELMER

BY RICH REGENT, K9GDF



Via ARNS Bulletin

Local Hams Respond To Hurricane Bonnie

Bonnie finally came to town (this location lost power and telephones) Thursday August 27. While the South is famous for its hospitality, Bonnie was not welcome, but we were ready for her.

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, of BARC is the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator of the Eastern Branch. The Ad-

Bonnie was not welcome, but we were ready for her.

ministrative office of the Eastern Branch Operations Center (EBOC) office is in Washington, NC. The Logistical Operations Staging Area (LOSA) for the Eastern Branch was moved to the National Guard Armory in Kinston, NC for logistical reasons (i.e. Global Trans Park accessibility). It operated from 1900 hours Tuesday August 24 to 1700 hours Thursday -- 24 hours a day.

Other Pitt County hams participating were: Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, Mike Langley, KD4MTT, Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, and Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ. Lenoir County hams included: Ron Knapp, W9EF, Kevin Lanning, KE4EMU, Steve Pittman, N4WUO. Non hams Tom Gladen from Greenville and Horace Dupree from Kinston were involved as well. The EBOC covered the Eastern Branch with HF and VHF operating on the Tar Heel Emergency Net and the repeater linking system throughout eastern North Carolina.

More specific to Pitt County, Doug Ferris, K4ROK) is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator for Pitt County. He, Bob, KE4UGC, and Lily, KE4UGD, Fainter, both of whom are trained in Skywarn, operated from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Greenville. At the Pitt County Memorial Hospital were: Walter Verdick, KA4WFS, and his wife Jean, Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK, and Murray Merner, K4MHM.

Five shelters holding about 1000 people were manned by: Joe Melton, WB4SLF, Bernice Turnage, WA4SLD, at Farmville HS; John, KD4EAD, and Gray, KD4RWF, Clements at D.H.Conley HS; Carl Andrews, KE4UGZ, and Donnie Had-dock, KE4UWR, at Ayden/Grifton HS; Lee Hemink, N4YAC, at North Pitt HS

the Red Cross office. Other local hams assisting in the Pitt County effort were: Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, and Mike Langley, KD4MTT, who filled in where and when needed.

Those covering the shelters had to first go by the EOC to get the "Jump Kits" consisting of a Yaesu dual band mobile transceiver, power supply and mag mount (antennas had already been installed at the schools). This communication became invaluable since the cell phones were gradually losing power.

and drove through the storm to arrive at about 0100 hours Thursday morning and stayed until the storm was over. Thanks guys.

Tom Parsons, W4TEP, covered

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FCC Issues Errata on "Streamlining" NPRM

(Continued from page 1)

The FCC appears to be proposing to provide that a Technician licensee could gain HF privileges by passing a 5 WPM code test. Just how this would happen in the real world remains unclear.

The FCC describes elsewhere in its proposed rules how applicants may claim credit for Element 1(A), however. A proposed change at Section 97.507(d) that would have substituted the words "no less than 5 WPM" has been dropped. The current wording says "no less than the prescribed speed."

The FCC also addressed apparently inadvertent rules changes in the NPRM. Gone is language that would have eliminated Ex-

tra class phone and image privileges in the 20 and 15-meter Extra class phone subbands and data privileges in the 20 and 15-meter Extra class CW subbands. Also gone is wording that would have dropped data privileges from Novices and phone privileges for current Tech Plus operators on 10 meters. The FCC also eliminated wording that seemingly would have limited Novice CW operation to "only messages sent by hand."

The FCC's Errata also indicate that the Commission intended to retain the current 200 W PEP power limit on the current Novice/Tech Plus HF bands. The

NPRM had proposed imposing the 200 W PEP power restriction on HF only when the control operator is a Novice.

The FCC also made it clear that someone holding a Technician class license granted before February 14, 1991, could get examination credit for written Element 3(A). The Errata also add Element 1(B), the 13 WPM code test, to the elements that may be prepared by an Advanced class Volunteer Examiner.

The Errata also correct several apparent typographical errors and make other relatively minor changes to the original NPRM.

The Errata fail to address another discrepancy in the NPRM that was noted earlier by the

ARRL. The NPRM gives an applicant who held a Technician license (expired or otherwise) granted before March 21, 1987, examination credit for written Element 3(B). But the proposed rules do not extend similar credit to an applicant who had held a General or higher class license, once the grace period

is past. The FCC Errata is on the ARRL Web at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/98-143/errata.html> - Via ARRL Letter Online - 9/4/98

No phone privilege loss for current Tech Plus operators on 10 meters

Some Sweepstakes Sections Play Hard To Get

All testers know the toughest ARRL/RAC sections to snag during the ARRL November Sweepstakes--or at least they think they do. But accountant Doug Richardson, VE5CMA, "could not resist playing with the numbers" and has ranked the hard-to-get sections in both the CW and phone events--from 1 to 78.

Most people who've ever attempted a clean sweep during Sweepstakes would probably guess Yukon/Northwest Territories (VE8/VY1) as the most elusive section. The real surprise from Richardson's data is that VE8/VY1 came in third place--behind Wyoming and Newfoundland-Maritime--on CW and second behind Puerto Rico on SSB. His analysis and rankings are detailed in the article ARRL Sweepstakes "Need List" on page 20 of the September/October issue of National Contest Journal (NCJ).

Working from 1996 and 1997 Sweepstakes results, Richardson teased out a combined ranking for all 78 ARRL/RAC sections. The results will be of interest to anyone who's ever tried to put those final few mults into the log in a quest to work all 78.

On CW, the top five hardest sections were: Wyoming, Newfoundland-Maritime (split in 1997), Yukon/NWT, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. On SSB, the toughest five sections to get were Puerto Rico, Yukon/NWT, Alaska, Newfoundland-Maritime, and Quebec.

What was the easiest section to snag? On CW, it was South Texas. On phone, it was Michigan, according to Richardson's statistics.

See you in the Sweeps! - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 9/11/98*

Spectrum Protection Bill Treading Water

It appears certain that action in Congress on HR 3572--better known as the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998--will be postponed at least until next year, when a new Congress will be in place. Even so, the ARRL and League members have continued to press for consideration of the measure during the current session. The bill--sponsored by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida--has garnered 74 cosponsors.

The projected early October adjournment date for the 105th Congress has become a moving target as the House attempted to juggle its efforts to complete the major appropriations bills, wade through the charges and countercharges in the ongoing investigation of the President, and find time for some politicking before the November elections.

New additions to the list of cosponsors for HR 3572 include Representatives Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan, Carolyn McCarthy of New York, Sam Farr of California, Owen Pickett of Virginia, Charles Stenhold and Gene Green of Texas, and Rod Blagojevich of Illinois.

For a full review of the bill along with a sample letter to Congress, see "DC Currents," QST, June 1998 or H. R. 3572: How You Can Help. -- Steve Mansfield, N1MZA - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 10/2/98*

Proposed Postage Hikes Force QSL Service To Adjust

Starting in 1999, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service will increase its fees from \$4 to \$6 a pound. ARRL Membership Services Manager Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, says the move is necessary to absorb the effects of a proposed postal rate increase and to bring the money-losing service a bit closer to a break-even basis. The rate for quantities of 10 cards will remain at \$1.

Kennamer said the rate increase represents a cost of 4 cents per card (based on 150 cards per pound) to sort, package and mail QSL cards to the bureaus of the other IARU member societies. "Even with the increase, this still represents one of the better bargains in services to ARRL members," he said.

Inaugurated in 1976, the Outgoing QSL Service provides an economical way for ARRL members to send their QSL cards to amateurs in other countries. Today, two fulltime employees handle the more than 2 million cards that show up most years.

"The ARRL has subsidized the Outgoing QSL Service since the beginning, and continues to do so today," Kennamer explained. He said the League's handling and mailing costs now run more than \$9 a pound, leaving a shortfall of more than \$5 per pound at the current rates.

The last rate increase, to \$4 a pound, was three years ago. - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 9/11/98*

ECFS System Reported Down

The FCC's e-mail electronic comment filing system (ecfs@fcc.gov) to collect comments on petitions for rulemaking was reported down September 29. An FCC spokesman was not sure when the system would be up and running again. - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 10/2/98*

J & P Machine Works, Inc.



K4KBB

4291 US 264 East
Greenville, NC 27834
252-758-1719 Fax 758-9031

Manufacturer of Swiss Screw Machine Products.
Pins, Shafts, Rods and Spacers.

BARC Monthly Minutes - September 1998

MEETING SEPTEMBER 8,
1998 193BARC MONTHLY
0HR. ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

1. Call to Order by Tom Parsons, W4TEP.

2. 50/50 Invitation.

3. August Meeting Minutes approved as published in the Ham Chatter.

4. Reports from Officers / Committees:

A. Treasurer's Report by Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ - Balance \$795.23 with \$240.04 set aside for new equipment.

B. Secretary's Report by Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK: See Newsletters. Shirley Katrobos, KF4VHJ had to return to the hospital recently for more surgery. Well Wishes go out to her for a speedy recovery. The Club's annual insurance premium was not paid in error last month. Upon finding the error, a decision was made to wait and discuss the feasibility of the policy versus finding a new one that includes equipment, along with Liability.

C. President's Report by Tom, W4TEP - Thanks to all who helped out during Hurricane Bonnie. If anyone knows of how to contact Dave Matani, please let him know of the date and time of the next BARC Meeting. Bob Sickels, W4RGT donated a nylon tent to the Club. S.E.T. (Simulated Emergency Test) will be held on Oct. 3 this year. Asking all HAM to please participate.

D. VOA Site C - No new info.

E. Absentee Ballot - Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, and Bob Fainter, KE4UGC have been very busy and unable to meet and facilitate recommendations per Paul.

F. Special Service Club Status - Paul, KS4YF noted report almost completed.

G. Special Events - JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) set for October 17-18. Give Tom, W4TEP a call if you can help.

H. Health and Welfare - Murray Merner, K4MHM - no report other than thoughts go out to Shirley, KF4VHJ.

I. Instructor Group - Murray,

K4MHM - New Ham Radio Class possibly starting mid October. Asking for Instructors. Also, please let Murray know if anyone interested in a class for General License.

J. Programs - Tonight - Emergency Preparedness by Mike Langley, KD4MTT and Nominations for 1999 Club Officers. John McCoy, K4KBB, Committee Member announced the slate of current Nominees thus far:

President - Paul Fletcher, KS4YF and Murray Merner, K4MHM

1st V. P. - Gary Gasperini, KU4NQ

2nd V. P. - Jim Smith, KF4VHH

Secretary - Lily Fainter, KE4UGD

Treasurer - Bob Fainter, KE4UGC

2yr. Board Member - Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ

Past President Board Member - Tom Parsons, W4TEP

A motion to accept these nominees thus far was made by Ken Graf, N8FF, 2nd by Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ, and approved by the group present. Mike, KD4MTT noted that additional nominations can be made up to the October Meeting.

October - Elections, JOTA preview.

November - No Program yet.

5. Outstanding Business:

A. Fund Raiser - No word from Billy Elks, KC4HHW about P&G Grant yet. May possibly have a Raffle without Grant and sell tickets for \$1.00 each. Will discuss at next meeting.

B. Club Insurance - Murray, K4MHM has looked in to the ARRL Insurance, which does not include equipment, but does insure Club Officers. The minimum premium is \$325.00. Alex, KC4PHJ voiced no contest on Liability to stay with Hooker & Buchanan. Lily, KE4UGC voiced a motion to continue with the current policy at Hooker and Buchanan, 2nd by Paul, KS4YF, and approved by the group present. After a discussion about Club Equipment, Bob, KE4UGC suggested designating someone to gather information about equipment insurance. Bob, then set a motion to investigate the feasibility of obtaining Equip. Insurance, 2nd by Lily, KE4UGD, and approved by the group. Alex questioned

who is liable for the Jump Kits used at Field Day and other Club functions if something were to happen to them. No one present with answer. Tom, W4TEP asked for a Committee to resolve the question of responsibility. Paul, Alex, and Murray volunteered.

C. Old Trailer Title - Juanita, KE4JWK has it in the File Box if needed.

D. Murray voiced a reminder of provisions made in HAM CHATTER for commercial ads.

6. New Business:

A. RF Safety Compliance - Dave Langley, W4YDY has information on computer discs if anyone interested in a copy.

B. VE Session - next session to be held at St. Peter's on Oct. 16, 1998 at 6:30PM.

7. ARES - Tom asked Lily, ARES Assistant E.C. to make a note that there is no Amateur Radio equipment at the Red Cross Agency and if he is out of town during an emergency, then the person(s) covering Red Cross will have to use their own equipment or get a Jump Kit if available. Mike reviewed some problems that happen during Hurricane Bonnie such as some shelters lost power and some of the Jump Kit Radios lost the Tone and had to be reprogrammed. Steps are being taken to have a list of programming instructions in each kit. Mike also noted everyone should be prepared when they go to shelters with their own equipment, extra batteries, HT's, Antennas, Coax Cable, adapters, connectors, etc.

8. 50/50 Drawing: \$28.00 collected with \$14.00 won by Bob Fainter, KE4UGC. Bob donated his share back to the Club.

11. The Meeting was adjourned at 2035hr. by motion of the group.

12. Tonight's Program: Emergency Preparedness by Mike Langley, KD4MTT.

Minutes by Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK

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@sprintmail.com

FOR SALE: Kenwood MC-85 Desk Microphone with MJ-88 Adapter. \$60.00. (3) Kenwood TS-60 All Mode, 6 Meter Rig, 100 watts, in mint condition. Asking Price - \$725.00 but will negotiate. (1) Call Ken Graf @ 321-4824.

FCC'S Ness: Ensure Adequate Spectrum For Amateurs

FCC Commissioner Susan Ness recently gave amateurs some cause for optimism. In remarks prepared for delivery September 23 at the Personal Communications Industry Association of America's PCS '98 in Orlando, Florida, Ness promoted the notion that some spectrum should be kept off the auction block. The value to the public of certain spectrum uses "does not always translate into pure economic terms," Ness declared.

"For example, we need to ensure that adequate spectrum is available for public safety purposes, for unlicensed--that is, Part 15--uses, for the Amateur Service, and for experimental and scientific purposes," Ness said. "None of these needs would be met if auctions displaced judgment in the spectrum allocation process."

Addressing the topic "Blueprint for Spectrum Management," Ness said auctions work well but are not a substitute for the allocation process. The FCC, she said, must not back away from its fundamental duty to allocate "in accordance with the public interest."

The complete text of Commissioner Ness's remarks are available on the FCC Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/Speeches/Ness/spsn815.html>. - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 10/2/98*

Jamboree On The Air '98 is October 17-18

(Continued from page 4)

up antennas and demonstrate different modes of radio communication, including packet, RTTY, SSTV, and HF digital modes, as well as voice.

JOTA activity on HF will center around 3740 or 3940, 7290, 14290, 18140, 21360, 24960, and 28990 kHz on SSB or 3590, 7030, 14070, 18080, 21140, 24910, and 28190 kHz on CW. For more JOTA information, see <http://www.scout.org/jota/>. -- Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS; Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN - *Via ARRL Letter Online - 9/25/98*

Local Hams Respond To Hurricane Bonnie

(Continued from page 6)

Many people put in many long hours as Bonnie dragged on. As Doug puts it, "Many bent over backwards to produce and stayed until the end." Still, with 100 hams in Pitt County ARES, the turnout should have been better. We could not man all the shelters and we had no one in reserve to relieve the tired or those who had to go to work. We are thankful that there were no serious emergencies, and some hams were ready to provide emergency communication when needed. If you're ready, willing and able to be part of the ARES team let Doug or Bernie know so they can count on you. - *K4MHM*

USS HORNET Special Event Station NB6GC

Date: Oct. 17 & 18 0001Z 17 Oct to 2359Z 18 Oct.

Freq: SSB Lower part of General Band. 40 - 10; CW 7.050 10.120 14.050 18.090 21.050 24.900 28.125 + or - 10Khz; CW Novice 7.120 21.120 28.125

Q S L Info: NB6GC, 4658 Captain Dr., Fremont, Ca 94536-5448

Commercial Ad Rates

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

or email w4ydy@sprintmail.com
Help support *Ham Chatter*. Get some ads to offset the higher printing and soon to be mailing costs. Donations accepted!

Attention Greenville 2 Meter Repeater Users

The **W4GDF 147.09** and **WD4JPQ 145.35** repeaters have started using tone access codes because of interference from so many commercial radios nearby. The tone frequency is

NETS

VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ New Bern Amateur Radio Club/Eastern NC 220 Association for the WD4JMS & WA4DAN Net, Monday, 2000 on 146.61 and 224.84 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, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.11 MHz and linked repeaters.
- ◆ 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.

BARC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 11	Maysville Hamfest	November 10.	Regular Meeting
October 13	Regular Meeting	November 15.	Benson Hamfest
October 16	VE Session	November 29.	Ham Chatter Deadline
Oct 17-18	JOTA	December 5	Greensboro Hamfest
October 29*	Board Meeting	December 8	Christmas Meeting
November 1.	Ham Chatter Deadline	December 18.	VE Session

*Tentative

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

W 4 A M C - W I V O A

October 1998

To:



PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter