



(Our Temporary Logo)

AADXA NEWSLETTER April 2004

One of the biggest controversies to hit amateur radio possibly ever is now currently in the spotlight at this time.

BPL used to mean Brass Pounders League for many years, which was an award for traffic handling skills from ARRL. Now it means something even more sinister to Ham radio and possibly to a lot of our friends here along the Gulf Coast. BPL is Broadband over Power Lines. What is that? It is a now preliminary approved by the FCC method of bringing Broadband internet service over power lines at HF frequencies. Most including most at FCC have likened this to a new day in Internet technology... For Hams, emergency preparedness people, and Mariners, this may be an end to conversations on HF as we know it. How's that? By putting HF transmissions over lines that are sometimes 30+ years old, the power lines will become very effective radiators right to your radios as you receive.... So hams will loose that great contact with even some of our closest neighbors such as XE Mexico and boats will no longer be able to call the office from offshore without the possibility of spending \$3/min. Yes we will have the ability to get the interference to stop because the new technology is licensed as a part 15 device, but most know how hard it is to convince people that they must take all interference especially at \$29.95/month estimated for this new service. DX may be gone soon if this technology is put out so get that DXCC application going cause we may never know when the next time we will have clear HF communications again...

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/02/23/1/?nc=1> for more information.

Mike KC5OKP

I have an idea for the newsletter, but will require some help from you the membership in more ways than one. First let me explain a little, I have been interested in doing a biography on the membership for some time now... you know...where you grew up, how you got interested in amateur radio, where you got your first ticket, what was your first rig, what is your current rig, favorite modes of operation, times of day, and many more questions that I have yet to think of. Maybe do one of these every quarter until we run out of members. I will send out questionnaires to the membership with these

questions and from their response I will complete a biography on them to be posted in the newsletter for all to read. (with their approval of course) I have belonged to this club for three years now and many of it's members still interest me, for instance...how did Paul KM5GD acquire his skill of repairing the most hopeless radio cases? And where did Ed NA5G and Charles KT5W attain their blazing CW speed? What led Guy W5ZIM to decide on a career as an electrical engineer? Why did Pauline KD5NOX dedicate her life to Ronnie KD5GAG (okay maybe that's not for this newsletter...but you have to wonder). I know many of you have belonged a lot longer than I have and maybe still wonder about the amazing talents of some of your closest friends. This will be your chance to have these questions answered. All featured members will have the chance to enhance his/her talents or may refuse to answer sensitive ones. The success of these future articles depends on the cooperation we receive on the questionnaires. Please e-mail any questions you may have for anyone to myself Mark KD5NOY@yahoo.com or Mike KC5OKP@hotmail.com

Field Day 2004

Currently we are looking for a site for 2004. We are still trying to find out if the CD building is going to be our home again this year, or if we will have to look for the 5th time in our short existence for a Field Day site. Mike will try to get in touch with the right people before the April meeting and try to have an answer for the membership then if a contingency plan will be needed or what. Currently we are under consideration of the Belle River and Baldwin FD homes if those are still available if the CD building is not to happen this year. If you have a site to propose or would like to offer supplies, radios, yourself, or others for the FD 2004 event; please contact a officer or come to a meeting.

Dues for 2004 in by April 2nd

AADXA dues for 2004 are now due in to Ronnie. Even though we collect through out the year, we set a deadline of the 1st meeting in April as a deadline to plan for the kind of activities we can do with the money on hand and that was collected for the year and also to update our active membership list.

We accept check, and Money order now at either the meeting or at our P.O. Box address listed below. Please makes them payable to "Atchafalaya Amateur DX Association Inc." The legal name of the club or we accept cash at the meeting site also for those who wish to pay in person.

Meeting Dates

Here are the official meeting dates for AADXA for 2004

The dates are April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, July 9th, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd.

Testing

Testing has been suspended for the April 2nd meeting due to Head VE Guy W5ZIM having to go to Oklahoma for a conference and the possibility of being short the needed 3 VEs. Testing will resume in May.

Our testing registration hotline is 985-518-3945. This is VP Pauline KD5NOX's phone number and she is currently giving information and helping pre-register for the VE tests. We also pre-register at wa5mc@qsl.net. We are currently pre-registering due to the use of security guards at our current meeting spot.

We tested one ham in January; we would like to congratulate him on his new license

KE5ACT Howard Shoemaker of St. Amant passed his no-code tech with us!

On Going Code Debate

Edited for length from the ARRL website

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/?nc=1>

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2004--The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. At the top

rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

Upcoming Events in the Area

Upcoming hamfest and events include:

April 30-May 1 Baton Rouge Hamfest and LA ARRL section
<http://www.brarc.org> , ad5jv@arrl.net , 225-686-1450

June 26-27 Field day 2004 Location TBA

July 17 Ozone ARC hamfest Slidell,La. <http://www.w5sla.org> ,
kc5wla@arrl.net , or 985-639-9690 (after 5 PM)

August 14 WCLARC hamfest Leesville,La. <http://www.wclarc.com> ,
wb5jzp@bellsouth.net , or 337-239-7613

Where To Write

If you would like to submit an article or reply to anything in this newsletter for printing, send email to either the editor directly at kc5okp@hotmail.com, our co-editor at kd5noy@yahoo.com or by snail mail to:

AADXA Newsletter

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Amelia, Louisiana 70340-0337

NOTE: We do have the right to edit for size and/or content and ask that you leave your name, Callsign, and a way to get in touch with you for any possible questions or clarifications.

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