



Ham Chatter



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Contributing Editor: Murray Merner, K4MHM

Meet The Member Dave LeMoine, KV4CN

Dave is our new First Vice President. Born and raised in Boston, MA, Dave moved to Chicago at the age of 13 where he lived for three years. He moved "back east" to upstate New York State and then back to Massachusetts. He went to three high schools! He went on to college at Cornell and graduated in 1977 with a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He worked for a year at OHAU Scales where they made laboratory scales (you may have seen them in your high school days). The next 17 years were spent at Buehler Products in Kinston, NC. They made DC motors for printers, eight track decks (remember them?), copiers and floppy disk drives (they originally used the same motors as the eight track drives). His first design was the motor for the Lady Remington razor. He joined

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Dave LeMoine, KV4CN

Next Meeting - January 12

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next regular meeting on January 9 at 7:30 PM at St. Peter's School on 5th Street. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting is set for January 30 at 7:00 PM. The meeting is open to all members.

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK Amateur Radio Operator Of the Year

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, was given an award for "Amateur Radio Operator Of the Year" by the Kinston Amateur Radio Society. The



award was presented to Bernie by KARS President Ron Knapp, W9EF. Bernie said his appreciation goes to KARS and he has always and still does "really enjoy helping people in ham radio." The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club congratulates Bernie for his deserved award.

Christmas Party and Ham of the Year

A good time was had by all at the annual BARC Christmas party. Shortly after arrival, everyone enjoyed the covered dish meal. Thanks to **Jim Smith, KF4VHH**, for his efforts in leading the organization of the party and seeing to it there were plenty of beverages, ice and eating supplies.

The highlight of the party was the announcement by Mike Langley, KD4MTT, of the BARC Ham of the Year, **Pat Sutton, KD4NNA**.

He was surprised! Pat did an outstanding job as Field Day



Pat Sutton, KD4NNA

Chairman and put in a lot of hours for the outstanding results. Other awards were presented to BARC Elmer of the Year, **Murray Merner, K4MHM**; BARC OM of the Year, **Jim Smith, KF4VHH**; BARC YL of the Year, **Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW**; and BARC New Ham of the Year, **Tod LeMoine, KG4CCX**.

BARC President **Murray Merner, K4MHM**, handed out certificates and awards for the 2000 club year. Certificates for BARC 2000 officers were received by President **Murray, K4MHM**; First Vice President **Mike Langley, KD4MTT**; Second Vice President **Jim Smith, KF4VHH**; Secretary **Lily Fainter, KV4AW**; Treasurer **Bob Fainter, KV4RF**; Board Member,

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner - *Wayne, WD4JPK*

A word from your President

As we welcome in the new year I pray this finds all of us doing well and looking forward to a prosperous new year. As we look forward into the New Year there are many opportunities for us as a club to excel upon and I expect each of you to be a part of.

I am looking forward to working with your new slate of officers for ensuring year of 2001. The officers are First Vice President Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, Second Vice President Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, Secretary Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW, Treasure David Pulver, KG4CZV, Board Members Mike Langley, KD4MTT, and Murray Merner, K4MHN. This will be a great year with a great staff like these.

I would like to say thanks to last year's board for a job well done. The members leaving the board are Jim,

KF4VHH, Lily, KV4AW, Bob, KV4RF, Ken and Buster, N8FF. These members should not stray away for there are many projects where they can be utilized.

I would like to say thank you to all of you members that do a little extra to promote, publicize, and carry forward Amateur Radio. Without you we would not have a great club. I challenge each of you to become involved with your officers to make a difference in your club. I

...there are many opportunities for us as a club to excel upon...

charge each of our officers to always have a listening ear to what our members have to say. I invite you to inform the officers of your concerns, ideas, and willingness to help as needed. There are many of you that have special skills and abilities that are needed to make your club (Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club) what you want it to be.

I wish every one a happy new year.

Wayne Ross, WD4JPK

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY 21ST CENTURY
HAPPY 3RD MILLENNIUM**

Did you know?

It will be 1000 years before similar greetings above will be true again.

That at 1 second past 1:00 AM on January 1, 2001, it was 01:01:01



Happy Birthday

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

2	KD4AFL	Mac Manning
6	KF4RBJ	Joyce Griswell
15	W4EHF	Bill Finch
24	KQ4BN	Joe Aleksa
26	W4UTO	Mary Knapp
27	W4CWL	Wes Lindsey
31	W4JIS	Cleon McKnight

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - *WAYDY*

Well Wishes

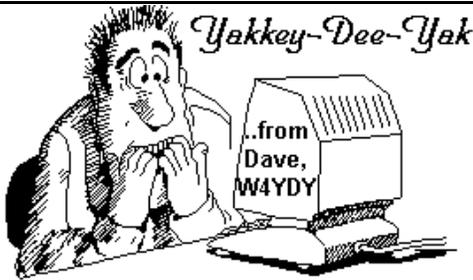
To James Eubanks, KD4JOV, who is recovering from his injuries.

Lukhard's Welcomes New Harmonic

Kim, KG4CCY, and Wayne Lukhard, KG4CCZ, welcomed a new son to their family when Robert Lynn Lukhard was born on December 9, 2000 at 4:03 AM and he was 8 pounds and 21 inches. It was reported that all were doing well, even Wayne. Wayne has already bought little Robert's first walkie-talkie set. Looks like BARC will have at least one student in the next Ham class. BARC congratulates Kim and Wayne.

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Another year has passed and the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club has had another successful year with a lot of activities including another ham class successfully completed, a great Field Day operation led by BARC Ham of the Year, Pat Sutton, KD4NNA, very busy VE sessions the first part of the year due to new licensing regulations and a lot of interesting meeting programs led by Jim Smith, KF4VHH. The club also obtained a new trailer for storing and transporting the club's radio and Field Day equipment. The club did have one great loss. **Brother Simon, KQ2V**, one of the most active and helpful members of BARC, moved back to New York and the club really misses his contributions. Everyone thanks **Murray, K4MHM, Mike, KD4MTT, Lily, KV4AW, Bob, KV4RF, Ken, N8FF, and Wayne, WD4JPQ**, for their efforts for the past year in leading the club.

Y2K has been an outstanding year for conditions on the Amateur Radio HF bands for the DX operator. Also there have been some good conditions for the VHF operator. The sunspot cycle was suppose to peak in late 2000 but it will still be very good for a few more years before it bottoms out in 2005 or 2006. Y2K saw a number of operations and DXpeditions to rare countries that very seldom have any Amateur Radio operations. I was lucky to pick up several of them including Myanmar, Burundi, Mayotte, Seychelles, Botswana, the Vatican,

Christmas Island, Juan Fernandez, Pitcairn Island, Easter Island, Eritrea, Clipperton Island, Bhutan and Kingman Reef. Conditions were good enough that I was able to work 225 countries in Y2K alone. Working DX surely helps on learning geography of the world.

Also, new digital modes are popping up on the bands such as PSK in 1999 and MFSK in 2000. All that is required is a computer with a sound card and your transceiver. Free software can be download from the Internet. I built a simple switch box for PSK to connect between the computer and the transceiver.

New digital modes popping up on the bands

It turns out the same box with free software from the Internet also gets you on RTTY, MFSK and SSTV and probably other modes that I haven't tried. I made my first MFSK contact on December 28 and I have been active on PSK (over 100 contacts) and RTTY (over 500 contacts.) The January 2001 issue of QST has an article on MFSK. - *W4YDY*



Postal rates for DXers

The cost of an international Reply Coupon (IRC) will increase from \$1.05 to \$1.75 on January 7. A one-ounce letter sent via air mail to anywhere in the world (except Canada and Mexico) will cost 80 cents. A two-ounce air mail letter will cost anywhere from \$1.55 to \$1.70, depending on where it's going. The complete rate schedule is available on the USPS Web site, <http://www.usps.gov/news/2001rate.htm>.--Dennis Egan, NB1B, via Bernie McClenny, W3UR. - *via ARRL Letter Online 12/15/00*

Christmas Party and Ham of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ; and Board Member, **Ken Graf, N8FF**.

Certificates were awarded to PR Chairman **Walt Verdick, KA4WFS**, Field Day Chairman **Pat Sutton, KD4NNA**, Special Events Chairman, **Gary Gasperini, AF4XV**, Ham Chatter and Web Site Editor, **Dave Langley, W4YDY**, and W4AMC/W1VOA Trustee, **Tom Parsons, W4TEP**.

Ham Class Liaison **Murray, K4MHM**, also handed out certificates for Class Instructors to **Dave Langley, W4YDY, Pat Sutton, KD4NNA, Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, John McCoy, K4KBB, Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, Bob Fainter, KV4RF, and Ken Graf, N8FF**. Volunteer Examiner certificates were presented to Liaison **Cliff Kendall, N3LEX, Gerry Clayton, K4IDD, Bob Connelly, KB4FWL, Gary Gasperini, AF4SV, Tom Parsons, W4TEP, Dave Langley, W4YDY, and Murray Merner, K4MHM**.



After the awards were presented, Murray introduced the new officers for 2001. They are President **Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ**; First Vice President **Dave LeMoine, KV4CN**; Second Vice President **Bill Dawson, WA4SLC**; Secretary **Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW**; Treasurer **David Pulver, KG4CZV**; and Board Member **Mike Langley, KD4MTT**. As past President, **Murray Merner, K4MHM**, will serve as Board Member for one year.

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Bell Rotor History



From the Web pages of Craig Henderson-N8DJB, C.E.O. of Rotor Doctor. This appeared in the August-September 1999 edition of the "LOG", the newsletter of the West Park Radiops, Glenn Williams-AF8C Editor. *Via ARNS News.*

The general line of bell rotors was developed at Cornell-Dubilier Electronics about 1950, starting with the TR-2 and TR-4 series of rotators designed for the newly popular directional TV antennas. As Ham Radio antennas became larger and larger during the 50's, the need for larger rotators became evident. So sometime about 1956, work started on a heavier design with a separate brake feature to keep the antennas from windmilling.

The Ham-M was the result of beefing up considerably the TV rotator design with stronger, heavier gears, the wedge brake, and an improved south-centered meter marked in degrees from 0 to 360. The first Ham-M's, series 1 and 2, debuted in November, 1957 and used a wiring format that was different and not compatible with later units.

Ham-M series 3 showed up late in 1959 after numerous complaints about the wiring, meter flutter and the backward scale. Series 3 revised wiring DOES MATCH the current models. There is an improved grounding system for the meter feedback circuit, and a north-centered scale. Ham-M's continued until 1974 through Series 4 and 5 with minor improvements in reliability.

HAM-2 or HAM-II debuted around 1974-1975. Aside from rumors, the most logical explanation for the change was a reworked design for the separate brake control because as antennas continued to grow in size, the instant stopping feature of the older style was causing more and more breakdowns. The rotator units were the same. The new control was larger, therefore lending itself nicely to later options. Early Ham-II control covers were two shades of brown; later model covers were black and white. Both controls had a gold faceplate and three plastic levers for direction control, along with front-mounted calibration and on/off switches.

HAM-3 or HAM-III came out in

the spring of 1977 to fulfill the needs of contesters and other big-guns whose antennas continued to get yet larger. The wedge brake style which had served so well for almost 20 years was being overloaded more and more often by monoband yagis with boom lengths larger than the average tri-bander. The pointed steel brake wedge evolved into being squared off on the end. A new brake housing design was built to match. This was an incredible improvement, and is still being used. Also at that time, the control was modernized internally with a printed circuit board to replace the old point-to-point wiring style. A disc pre-brake was also added to the motor to stop coasting.

HAM-4 or HAM-IV came soon after the Ham-3, about January 1979, because all these new larger antennas tended to break the die-cast ring gear used until then. The improvement consisted of making the ring gear out of low-grade stainless steel machined to match other gears and the main casting. The other most noticeable change was the switch to black plastic covers on the control unit, with a black faceplate.

Other changes within the next few years included changing the old rotary on/off switch to a toggle switch and redesigning the indication potentiometer to improve the grounding for more reliable meter indication.

In 1981, TELEX-HYGAIN bought the rotator portion of CDE and continued to build the world's most popular rotators, the Ham-4, T2X, and several smaller models. However, as the years progressed, the material in the brake wedge somehow changed, and problems started to develop (such as broken wedges) in 1985. Late in 1987, C.A.T.S. produced some hardened steel wedges and Hygain followed suit in November of 1988. This was the last major change to date on this series and its popularity continues.

Starting in September 1977, CDE produced a restyled unit commonly called the T2X or TailTwister. It

used much heavier castings, was painted a flat black color, and contained an extra row of ball bearings located at the bottom of the a thicker brake casting. Therefore, the T2X rotator will support heavier antennas, and is much more tolerant of side thrust when pipe-mounted with a lower adapter. Originally, the T2X had a specially-made wedge that was much different than the smaller models, but this proved to be a problem. After several different designs the whole brake assembly was changed in 1984 to a similar, but not identical system like the Ham-4. One point worth mentioning is that all internal components such as the motor and all gears are the same as the HAM4. This is not widely known. The only other change from the HAM-4 is the use of LED indicators in the control for showing activation of the brake and direction levers.

Editors Note: What was left out of this story was the fact that the HAM-M series of rotators were made in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. They had a Mosley TA-33 mounted on a Ham-M rotator up on their building that could be seen when passing through town on US 401. They had it in continuous operation rotating 360 degrees and back again 24 hours a day, every day of the year for years. One club that I was in went down for a very nice tour of the factory. I got one of the Ham-M rotators (Series 2) in 1960 and took it down around 1968 and had it overhauled while I was living in Raleigh. Also, I took down to Fuquay-Varina again in 1975 when I was getting ready to move to OKC and had it overhauled to a series 3. I did not use it in OKC so I sold it in 1978 when I returned to North Carolina and bought a HAM-3. It was sent off to an independent service company in 1992 after I moved to Greenville and updated with new connectors and overhauled. Today, it just keeps going on and on and on and on!!!! I don't believe you could buy one today for 120 bucks like I did. A new HAM-IV is \$529.99! - W4YDY

The Amateur's Code

This is the sixth and last code.

PATRIOTIC....station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Patriotism is a sense of duty and obligation usually to where one resides engendering a response to a call for need. Often there is some public display of being patriotic. Our transmitting privileges are granted by the Federal Communications Commission and provide a unique opportunity to serve our country and community.

During World Wars I and II, even while our transmitting privileges were put on hold, many Amateur Radio Operators were put to good use in the armed services serving as radio men on the land and sea. Many have served in the military in other roles and other wars. Amateur Radio continues to support our armed services by participating in the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) and otherwise providing communication between those in the service and their

families.

At times of emergency and disaster we use our skills, equipment and organizations to assist and support response efforts. Amateur Radio Emergence Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) are organized specifically to be there when it counts. Many hams participate in Skywarn. The ARRL's annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is one way we continue to be ready for emergencies. Field Day is another preparation exercise and part of that is raising the American flag on a tower or mast. Many of us proudly have our call signs on our vehicles and many times it's our license plate. Not only does it identify us as hams, it serves as a notice that we are willing to help.

While ham radio is fun, it is functional. Our role in serving our country and community is invaluable and often behind the scenes. Our country and community need us. While I don't know

for sure, I think it is safe to say that there is not a public emergency in this country without Amateur Radio participation. There may be some complaints about our antennas or interference, but all that goes out the window when we're there to help save lives and ease misery. Our licenses don't obligate us, but our commitment to Amateur Radio and caring for people motivate us to play a part as good citizens.

The Amateur's Code may seem outdated to some, but the simple basic principles of life seem to keep us going in the right direction most of the time. Being Considerate, Loyal, Progressive, Friendly, Balanced and Patriotic are certainly good attributes to ascribe to - I hope we are ever mindful of them and practice them to our own and Amateur Radio's benefit. - *K4MHM*

(Editors Note - This article was reprinted from last months issue of Ham Chatter because the last part of it was not included when it was cut off. - W4YDY)

More Books Donated to Area Libraries

Murray, K4MHM, was able to place the book *Now You're Talking* donated by Joyce Griswell, KF4RBJ, manager of the Radio Shack at Colonial

Mall in four more libraries. Michelle Rook, library desk assistant at the Bethel Library; M.J. Carbo, librarian at East Branch Library; Mildred Elliott, librarian at the G.W.



Carver Library and Joe Espinosa, principal of the St. Peter's School all accepted books on behalf of their respective libraries. We appreciate Radio Shack's generosity in this effort to acquaint the community with Amateur Radio. Eight of these books have been donated over the past two years.

Next VE Session December 15, 2000

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on December 15. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Cliff Kendall, K3LEX, 752-0107 : cpkendall@aol.com 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 \$10.00 - An increase!
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.

Bouvet (3Y) is on the air!

Astronaut Chuck Brady, N4BQW, is on the island of Bouvet (3Y) and on the air using the call sign 3Y0C. Bouvet is the 10th most-wanted entity on The ARRL DXCC List. Brady, a group of scientists from South America and a team leader from Norway will be there for three months for scientific studies. This is not a DXpedition, but Brady expects to find some time to operate and has been on 20 meters SSB. QSL via WA4FFW. For more information, visit the Amateur Radio Infoline site, <http://www.qsl.net/zr1dq>.--Bernie McClenny, W3UR - via ARRL Letter Online 12/22/00

W4AMC Mini Special Event

Dave Langley, W4YDY, called into the 3905 Century Club Net on 3.904 MHz on Christmas Eve (Christmas in UTC) with his call and the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club call, W4AMC, or **W 4 A Merry Christmas**. The operation lasted 58 minutes and twenty contacts were made that included 12 states and Canada. A special W4AMC Christmas QSL card was printed from the W4YDY logging program and sent to each station. The log and a scan of one of the QSL cards were emailed to Tom Parsons, W4TEP, club station trustee, who previously approved of the operation.

Meet The Member Dave LeMoine, KV4CN

(Continued from page 1)

ASMO in 1996 where he is currently the Senior Manager in charge of quality. ASMO makes motors for auto windshield wiper units, engine fans and AC/heating systems.

He became interested in Amateur Radio around the age of 13 because of an interest in electronics and equipment. It continues to amaze him that you can talk to some one halfway around the world with the power of a light bulb. He bought books in the late 1960's, but without help and encouragement was not able to pull it off on his own. In 1994 he got the urge again, studied on his own and passed the test at the Maysville hamfest. Since then he has been upgrading regularly and now has an Extra Class license.

Dave has a wide range of Amateur Radio interests: HF DX, meteor shower bounce, PSK31 (he gave a good presentation on PSK31 at the Nov meeting and the Technician Course), and RTTY. His equipment consists of: Yaesu FT 840 for HF and a Kenwood TM 261 for 2 meters at the house. The antennas are : a 40 meter dipole, a 2 meter beam and a Mosley 33 Jr. "still in the box". Other equipment includes a manual tuner and a dual port Kantronics KAM TNC. He is particularly proud of his newly acquired Drake TR3 HF transceiver and his

Astatic D104 microphone reminding him of the days when "radios glowed and gave off heat."

He has participated in the TEDI Bear Walk, Field Day, International Festival, Technical Course instructor, JOTA, and has interest in becoming a VE.

He is involved in other activities. He is the Scout Master of Troop 30 of the Jarvis United Methodist Church. That entails a large amount of time including camping in the area. Along with his interest in youth, he would like to get more kids interested in Amateur Radio. He golfs too, but "not enough".

Along that line, his son Tod, KG4CCX, is also a ham and was the year 2000 "New Ham of the Year". His other son Scott is expressing an interest in becoming a ham too. Karen, wife of 20 years, has not shown an interest - yet.

Dave is an example of the broad interests and involvement hams have in the community. His efforts with youth will reap many benefits to them and this community. His willing hand and his positive personality are appreciated contributions to BARC. Thanks Dave. - *K4MHM*

This column has tried to acquaint the members with the members. We have focused on the more long time members in order to provide an historical perspective. At other times, we have interviewed *any* member who succumbed to our pestering to be interviewed. When there are members of prominence, (i.e., Board members, Ham of the Year, etc) we have covered them so that the membership can get to know them better. The next few members interviewed will be newly elected Board members Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW, and Dave Pulver, KG4CZV. Obviously, this is not the entire Board, but the other members: Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ (Feb 1999), Bill Dawson, WA4SLC (Jan 2000), Mike Langley, KD4MTT (Jul 1998) and Murray Merner, K4MHM (Mar 1998) have been previously covered. - *K4MHM*

New FCC System Means Quick License Grants

The FCC's new system to handle batch-filed amateur applications from Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has cut processing time from hours to minutes. The FCC inaugurated the more rapid amateur license application processing system December 28--slightly ahead of its original schedule.

"Way to go, FCC!" said an enthusiastic ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after his office fed its first batch of license applications into the system. Jahnke says five dozen ARRL-VEC applications resulted in license grants about 52 minutes later. The W4VEC in North Carolina and Central America VEC also took advantage of the new system for the first time.

Except for a two-hour window right after midnight each day, the speedy new system looks for VEC submissions each hour on the half hour. With FCC license grant processing now measured in terms of hours instead of days, the major factor now determining the time from exam to license grant is how quickly VE teams get their test results to their VECs.

The FCC has been estimating a processing window of up to 90 minutes, depending on volume and arrival time. License grant results should be available immediately on the Universal Licensing System Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, using the license search option.

Applications processed by the FCC one day will appear in the public update ("zip") files the following morning. Public call sign servers on the Internet should be able to update within 24 hours after FCC action--rather than the 48 hours that's been typical.

On-line filings from individuals, weekend filings and FCC-manually processed applications put into the hopper during weekdays at Gettysburg will continue to be handled as have been. These are batched for midnight processing, and weekend filings will not queue up until Monday midnight. - *via ARRL Letter Online 12/29/00*



I HOPE IT'S NOT TERMINAL, DOCTOR---
HE'S BEEN THIS WAY SINCE HEATHKIT
STOPPED SELLING HAM GEAR!

From "The Best of Beasley"
Worldradio Books

ARRL Seeks FCC Review, Reversal of Wireless Bureau PRB-1 Denial

The ARRL is asking the full FCC to review part of an FCC Order that declined to include CC&Rs--covenants, conditions and restrictions--under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. Imposed by private homeowners' associations or by developers, CC&Rs--also known as "restrictive covenants" or "deed restrictions"--often impede or prohibit the installation of outside antennas.

"ARRL's petition relative to the application of its PRB-1 policy to private land use regulations has not, to date, been afforded a thorough review or a fair analysis," the ARRL said in its Application for Review, filed December 15. The ARRL maintains that the FCC should have the same interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio station and in the promotion of amateur communications regardless of whether the licensee's property is privately or publicly regulated.

In November, FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Deputy Chief Kathleen O'Brien Ham--acting under "delegated authority"--turned down an ARRL Petition for Reconsideration that--among other things--called on the FCC to declare that PRB-1 applies to amateurs governed by CC&Rs or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. The ARRL now wants the full Commission to review--and reverse--O'Brien Ham's decision.

The ARRL has argued that since PRB-1 was promulgated in 1985, the FCC has made it clear that it has Congressional authority to prohibit restrictive covenants that could keep property owners and even renters from installing antennas to receive TV, satellite and similar signals. The same principle applies to Amateur Radio, the ARRL asserted.

The FCC cannot use the private contractual nature of covenants "as a justification for the arbitrary and disparate treatment of radio amateurs similarly situated," the League said.

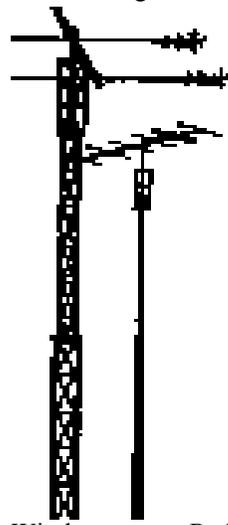
The ARRL made it clear, however, that it's not seeking any kind of preferential treatment from homeowners' associations, architectural committees or condominium boards. "It would be entirely consistent with PRB-1, for example, for a homeowners association to permit only a relatively small antenna in a planned community, such as a backyard, ground-mounted vertical antenna or one of the small Yagi configurations similar to an outdoor television antenna," the ARRL said.

he ARRL said that since the FCC already has jurisdiction to apply PRB-1 to all types of land-use regulation and has said it's willing to "encourage" private land-use authorities to apply PRB-1, "there is no legal or policy reason for continuing the distinction" between private and public land-use regulation with respect to amateur antennas.

The ARRL asserts that Amateur Radio operators should be able to negotiate "reasonable accommodation" provisions with local homeowner's associations just as they now may do with governmental land-use regulators.

Many amateurs now say it's impossible to find desirable housing that comes without CC&Rs. The League's Regulatory Information Branch reports that the topic of restrictive covenants and antennas is one of the most frequently raised by members contacting the ARRL for information.

A copy of the ARRL's Application for Review is available on ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/prb-1/prblaftr.html>. - Via *ARRL Letter Online* 12/22/00



Slain Texas Police Officer Was Amateur

An Irving, Texas, police officer shot and killed after answering a robbery call was an Amateur Radio operator. Aubrey W. Hawkins, KC5USI, a Technician licensee, died on Christmas Eve while responding a robbery-in-progress call. He was 29. Hawkins had been a police officer in Irving since October 1999. Police said this week that seven escaped prison inmates wanted in connection with the killing remain at large. An Eagle Scout, Hawkins was active in RACES and SKY-WARN. Marv Kontak, N5MK, reports that more than 2000 attended Hawkins' funeral December 28. Hawkins' wife and a nine-year-old son survive.--Marv Kontak, N5MK. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 12/29/00

Updated Volunteer Examiner Manual Now Available

The revised edition of The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Manual now is available in PDF format from the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/veman2000finalpdf.pdf>. Hard copies of the manual, which was prepared by ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, and his staff, will be shipped soon to prospective Volunteer Examiners who requested the updated manual. An initial stock of manuals was expected at ARRL Headquarters by December 22. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 12/22/00

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BARC Monthly Minutes - December 2000

BARC Christmas Party Minutes, 12/12/2000

Motion-To present St. Peter's School with a check for \$100.00 in thanks for letting us use their facility (Bob, KV4RF; second Lily, KV4AW). Passed.

The outgoing Board and the committee chairs were recognized and thanked for their work over the past year.

The New Ham Course instructors were recognized: Dave, W4YDY; David, KV4CN; Patrick, KD4NNA; Bernie, WA4MOK; John, K4KBB; Bill, WA4SLC; Bob, KV4RF; and Ken, N8FF. Ken in particular was praised for being there every night and also being the best instructor in Morse.

Awards: Thanks to Mike, KD4MTT, for making all the certificates.

Elmer of the Year

Murray Merner, K4MHM

Old Man of the Year

Jim Smith, KF4VHH

YL of the Year

Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW

New Ham of the Year

Todd LeMoine, KG4CCX

HAM OF THE YEAR Patrick Sutton, KD4NNA

Congratulations to all.

Installation of new Board members-Wayne, WD4JPQ, Pres; David, KV4CN, 1st VP; Bill, WD4SLC, 2nd VP & Program Chair; David, KG4CZV, Treasurer; Bonnie, KG4CZW, Secretary; Mike, KD4MTT and Murray, K4MHM, Trustees.

Murray presented the gavel to Wayne. Wayne asked for suggestions on how to paint and make our new trailer the way we want it and he looks forward to a good year with BARC.

James Eubanks, KD4JOV, will need a lot of help as he recuperates. Please remember him and think of ways you can help-transportation, meals, companionship, etc.

Also, K4INR, "Bus", died recently and our sympathy goes to his family.

Many thanks to all for the **great food** and *good fellowship*. Happy Holidays to all!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lily, KV4AW

ARRL'S "RADIOS ON-LINE" Service Now Free to Members

Listing a classified ad to buy and sell Amateur Radio-related equipment on the ARRL's Radios On-Line service now is free to League members. Listings will continue to be available for viewing by everyone, but now that Radios On-Line is an ARRL membership benefit, only League members may post ads.

ARRL members now will be able to post free ads up to 100 words--subject to a few rules. Members first must register for access to the ARRL members-only pages and be logged on as a member in order to post ads. Classifieds listed on Radios On-Line will remain posted for 30 days unless canceled earlier.

Radios On-Line is for noncommercial, personal use. There are no provisions for nonmembers to post classified advertising. The service provides for listings in more than two dozen categories. Members may list ads seeking or selling Amateur Radio-related equipment. The site includes a search engine to look for specific items.

The ARRL does not warrant any items advertised on Radios On-Line, nor are individual advertisers subject to scrutiny. The ARRL reserves the right, at its discretion, to decline a listing or to discontinue an ad without prior notice.

Visit the Radios On-Line site <http://www.arrl.org/RadiosOnline/> to place or view ads. For information on how to join the ARRL, visit ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org>, and click on the "JOIN ARRL" button. - *via ARRL Letter Online 12/8/00*



FCC Opens Door to Increased Test Fees For 2001

The FCC has suspended its regulatory limit on the reimbursement fee for Amateur Radio examinations, and the ARRL VEC says a new \$10 test fee will go into effect January 1. An FCC Public Notice released December 4 explained that the Commission did not plan to announce a maximum reimbursement fee for 2001 since the requirement to do so no longer appears in the Communications Act.

For now, the FCC says, it will suspend enforcement of the fee provision, §97.527(b), which continues to appear in the FCC rules. Some, if not all, of the nation's other Volunteer Examiner Coordinators are expected to follow suit, although at least one VEC charges no test fee whatsoever.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahнке, W9JJ, says the ARRL VEC's current fee of \$6.65 was based on the provision in the Communications Act, adopted in 1984, that established a \$4 cap on reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs with an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. The new, higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was originally envisioned when the provision was included in the Communications Act. That effort includes data entry for all new and upgrade license applications once done by FCC staffers.

ARRL VEC volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants \$6.65 through the end of 2000. - *via ARRL Letter Online 12/15/00*

Snowbound ham uses 2-meter H-T to call for help

Suffering recently from bronchitis and pneumonia, Jim Stewart, KK7VL, a homesteader in a secluded area near Bettas Pass, Washington, used his 2-meter hand-held to summon help. Stewart called his friend, Jim Flint, W7TXU, on the Kittitas County Repeater Association's repeater, advising him of his worsening condition and requesting assistance. Flint, a member of the Kittitas County Search and Rescue team, enlisted the help of Deputy Sheriff Robb Lipp. But, snowdrifts prevented them from reaching Stewart's home. A snowmobiler passing by took the rescuers to Stewart's house. Lipp then used his GPS and radio to guide a rescue helicopter to the scene, and Stewart was airlifted to a hospital in Yakima. "Many of our present rescue team members are already hams," said Flint, "and as a result of this rescue being reported on local radio, several people have called and asked to join our team, and to learn more about Amateur Radio."--The Daily Record (Ellensburg, Washington). - via *ARRL Letter Online* 12/29/00

Pennsylvania Ham Snags ISS Contact

It was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, says ARRL member Randy Shriver, KG3N, of Hanover, Pennsylvania. He managed to snag the first "informal" contact with ISS Expedition 1 crew commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, early on the morning of November 13. "I only had 20 seconds or so," said Shriver. Space Station Alpha was over Newfoundland at the time and had just completed an "engineering pass" contact with NNISS at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland when Shriver dropped in a quick call, and Shepherd came back to him using his own call sign. "Well Randy, you are my first contact from the space station," Shepherd responded. A ham for about 20 years, Shriver says he built his station specifically for SAREX. In 1985, Shriver worked Tony England, W0ORE, aboard the shuttle Challenger. WGAL-TV, Channel 8 in Lancaster included a report on Shriver's ISS QSO in its newscasts. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 12/8/00

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@arrl.net

Wanted:

Ham Ads! Only \$10 each with an instant rebate of \$10!! Can't beat a deal like that except for the \$100 ad with the \$100 instant rebate! Contact *Ham Chatter*.

You think you're having a bad day?

1. The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, they were both eaten by a killer whale.
2. A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Until that moment he had been happy listening to his Walkman.

From the May, 2000 issue of "Feedback", the newsletter of the Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club, inc., Bill Epperson, WB0CEF, ed. Via *ARNS News* 7/00

Commercial Ad Rates

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

or email w4ydy@arrl.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.
- ◆ 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 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, (Buxton 145.150 Coming Soon)
- ◆ 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

Jan 9.	Regular Meeting	Mar 3-4	ARRL SSB DX Contest
Jan 20-21	CQ WW CW 160M Contest	Mar 13.	Regular Meeting
Jan 30.	Board Meeting	Mar 24-25	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest
Feb 3.	Ham Chatter Deadline	Mar 27.	Board Meeting
Feb 13.	Regular Meeting	Mar 31.	Ham Chatter Deadline
Feb 17-18	ARRL CW DX Contest		
Feb 24-25	CQ WW SSB 160M Contest		
Feb 27.	Board Meeting		
Mar 3.	Ham Chatter Deadline		

Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 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

Happy 3rd Millennium!

**Next Meeting
January 9**

January 2001

To:



PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter