

Ham Chatter



Volume 38 Issue 2

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Juanita Faye Humbles, KE4JWK Silent Key

Juanita Faye Humbles, KE4JWK, died Thursday, January 15, 2004 in Pitt County Memorial Hospital, due to complications from breast cancer. She would have been 45 on February 1.

Juanita became interested in Amateur Radio in 1992 because her sister, Jannette, KD4KLO, was an Amateur Radio operator. A friend gave her the final push to attend classes at St. Peter's in the fall of 1993 and she passed the Technician class license exam. She received her call, KE4JWK, on February 15, 1994. An Azden 2 meter transceiver in her Crown Victoria kept the 2 meter repeaters in the area occupied. A handheld 2 meter transceiver also helped. She enjoyed

Amateur Radio and the friends she made on the air.

She was BARC Secretary for the three years and did an excellent job. Juanita enjoyed BARC club activities and she participated in the annual ARRL Field Day in June and club special events when her work schedule permitted.

Juanita lived most of her life in Pitt County. Juanita graduated from Chicod Elementary School and D. H. Conley High School. She graduated from Pitt Community College in 1982 with a Diploma for Medical Unit Secretary. She returned part-time in 1988 for nursing related courses. Graduating from the Licensed

(Continued on page 7)

Next Meeting February 10

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next regular meeting on February 10 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 at 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. John Johnston will present the program about digital communications and the rigblaster. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting is set for February 24 at 7:30. The meeting is open to all members.

Annual Dues are Due!

BARC dues were due on January 1, 2004.

On page 5 of the January *Ham Chatter*, there is an application for membership. Please fill it out and turn it in with your dues. BARC needs it to keep records up to date. For those on the Internet, go to the BARC web site and look in the *CONTENTS* and click on "BARC Application Form" for the HTML version or "PDF" for the PDF version. Print, complete and turn it in with your dues.

If you are not sure you owe dues for this year, contact John McCoy, K4KBB, for the information. Some joined very late in the year and will not be required to pay again for 2004.

Those that have not paid by the last weekend in March will be dropped from the roster to be printed in April. Also, *Ham Chatter* will be discontinued and email notifications will cease.



Juanita Faye Humbles, KE4JWK

President's Corner - Mike, KD4MTT

As I write this column the ground is covered with sheets of ice, many businesses (including mine) are either closed or on reduced schedules, and emergency services are overwhelmed. The NWS is calling for the possibility of more freezing rain on Monday night.

The television news reported that the NC Highway Patrol responded to 2000 accidents on Sunday. A string of accidents closed the New Bern bridge system for several hours. Thirty five vehicles were involved in accidents at ramps leading onto or off of the bridges. And Emergency Management activated the Eastern Branch office in Kinston Sunday afternoon.

What does this have to do with ham radio? In a word- PREPAREDNESS. When the Eastern Branch EOC was activated, one call went to Ron Knapp, W9EF. Ron put station NC4EB "on the air" from 1400-1900 hrs EST. When Ron was called he was "prepared" to respond on short notice.

If emergency shelters had been opened in Pitt County, would you have been "prepared" to respond? Do you have an emergency plan so that you and your loved ones know what to do in an emergency? Do you have a personal day pack or jump kit that contains the minimum es-

sentials for each person if you have to leave quickly? And last, but by no means least, do you have you radio gear ready with portable antennas and stand-by power (extra batteries or generator)?

If you can't answer YES to all of the questions, NOW is the best time to start getting "prepared". Emergencies don't always come in the form of hurricanes or others that give advanced warnings. In years past the area has seen fires, tornadoes, a chemical plant explosion, the flood of '99, missing fishermen, winter storms, and yes, several hurricanes. Each of these events required a massive communication effort and probably involved ham radio in the process.

On Saturday, in advance of the weather front, I ran my emergency generators, checked my radio equipment, ensured my backup heat source was working in the house, and had my warm clothes at arms reach.

Was I fully prepared? The short answer is NO- there were things that I did not do and things that I could-no should-have done better. I'll review this event and make notes on things that need to be done better for NEXT TIME.

I ask each of you to do the same: REVIEW the event, CRITIQUE your performance and PREPARE for the next one. There WILL be a next one. Until then remember:

HAM RADIO - TALK IT UP!

Mike, KD4MTT

(See Page 4 for Family Disaster Planning.)

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Hollis Thigpen, KC3X

Gail Manning, wife of Mac Manning, KD4AFL

Bernice Turnage, WA4SLD



Austrian Authorities pull plug on BPL pilot project

The Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation (ÖVSV--Österreichischer Versuchssenderverband) <<http://www.oevsv.at/index.shtml>> reports that a Broadband over Power Line (BPL) field test in the city of Linz has been cut short as a result of excessive radio interference. ÖVSV, Austria's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <<http://www.iaru.org>> member-society, said in December that the



Government Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology closed down Linz Power Company's BPL pilot project because it was

generating interference on the HF bands. Shortwave broadcaster Radio Austria's futureZone service <<http://futurezone.orf.at>> says the case that brought the issue to a head was a Red Cross report that emergency services radio traffic during a disaster response drill last May was the victim of massive BPL interference.

"The Commerce Ministry Order

(Continued on page 9)



Happy Birthday

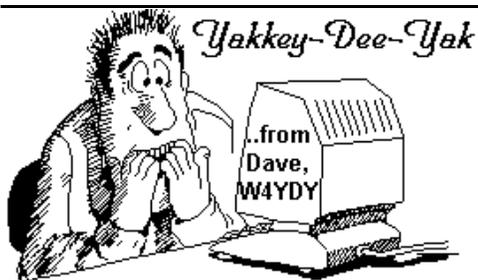
Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays in **February**.

- 5 KI4CRC Sandy McLaughlin
- 8 KG4SNB Ray Vickers
- 9 W4GDF Heber Adams
- 15 KE4JZU Gene Underwood
- 16 KG4WEZ Peter Van Houten
- 17 K4ROK Doug Ferris
- 18 KE4JZV Lynn Ross
- 20 WD4JAD George Dale
- 20 KE4UGG Micheal Metcalf

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

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ARRL files "A plan for the next decade" with FCC



Reference: ARRL's new proposal for doing away with the Morse code. **"It ain't going to be like this all the time. It's going to get worse!"** Where have I heard that before?

I have already heard results on the radio of the effects and they are not good. Some countries have dropped the requirements for Morse code for Radio Amateur license and the bands are beginning to get worse all the time. Some of the stations from the no code countries just start a QSO without even listening for a clear frequency. They interfere with other stations, nets and emergency communications. When they are asked to move, they just tell you to move your conversation or net.

If the ARRL gets their way and the FCC eliminates the code requirement for all but the Extra, it will add the USA to increase the clutter even more with those that may not appreciate the valuable RF spectrum Amateur Radio operators are privileged to have and enjoy. If it gets like the CB spectrum, the International community may do away with all HF frequencies for Amateur Radio.

As you may figure, I am one hundred percent against the ARRL proposal. I have never been for relaxing the FCC requirements for Amateur Radio licensing although it was a benefit to me the first time it was done. In 1952, the FCC decided to do away with the Advanced Class license. I had just got my Novice (WN4YDY) and Technician (W4YDY) license that both required the 5 WPM code. The Technician and Gen-

(Continued on page 6)

ber of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical self-training and exposure to all

aspects of the avocation."

Last fall a total of 14 Morse-related petitions were filed with the FCC. Several called on the Commission to drop the Morse requirement altogether, while others proposed to keep and even expand the requirement or put forth various license restructuring schemes of their own. The petitions, RM-10781-10787 and RM-10805-10811, attracted thousands of comments from the amateur community.

Beyond the Morse question, the ARRL says, the time is right--now that WRC-03 has finished its work--to follow through on the restructuring process the FCC began with its 1999 restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) <[http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-](http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf)

ARRL calls the Technician license "a dead end" for many people!

143ro.pdf>. Among other things, that landmark Order, which became effective April 15, 2000, reduced the number of Morse code test elements from three to a single 5 WPM requirement for all license classes offering HF privileges.

Simply dropping the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse requirement, the ARRL asserted, would fail to address the critical need for an entry-level ticket other than the Technician. Calling the Technician license "a dead end" for many people, the ARRL said its proposed entry-level license--being called "Novice" for now--would offer newcomers a much wider sampling of Amateur Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination--but no code test--and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data privileges at modest power output levels.

"This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other op-

(Continued on page 6)

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Family Disaster Planning

Families should be prepared for all hazards that could affect their area. NOAA's National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, and the Eastern Branch Office of Emergency Management urge every family to develop a family disaster plan.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere--at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Disaster may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services--water, gas, electricity or telephones--were cut off?

Follow these basic steps to develop a Family Disaster Plan

Gather information about hazards. Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management office, and American Red Cross chapter. Find out what types of disasters could occur and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signs and evacuation plans.

Meet with your family to create a plan. Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as a fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Choose an out-of-state friend

as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.

Implement your plan

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones;
- Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers;
- Inspect your home for potential hazards (such as items that can move, fall, break, or catch fire) and correct them;
- Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home;
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services number;
- Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a 72-hour Emergency Supplies Kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller emergency supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

Practice and maintain your plan

Ask questions to make sure your family members remember meeting places, phone numbers, and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries two times each year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every 6 months.

This article was meant to be a quick introduction to developing a Family Disaster Plan. In following issues we will have more detailed information on each of the steps for family disaster planning:

1. Understanding what could happen
2. Creating an Emergency/Disaster Plan
3. The preparedness checklist: What you need to know
4. Maintaining your plan

If you just can't wait to get started, or like to read ahead, use your internet search engine and look up family disaster plan. There will be more responses than you care to read. The Red Cross, FEMA and Disaster Center sites are particularly good.

A question just to get you thinking for next month:

What types of disasters are likely to occur in your area?

Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **February 20**. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Tom Parsons, W4TEP, 355-2815. w4tep@arrl.net. Please bring the following:

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

Email addresses

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

K4KBB



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ARRL to propose new entry-level license, code-free HF access



The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without 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 ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals, put forth by the ARRL Executive Committee, were in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" Harrison said the League's proposal would provide "a true entry-level license with HF privileges" to promote growth in the Amateur Service.

The League says its proposal would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in its Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

A new 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.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The ARRL plan would grandfather current Novice licensees into the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not 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.

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, and the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st

century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

The amateur community and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the ARRL proposal once the League formally files a Petition for Rule Making and the FCC puts it on public notice. - *Via ARRL Letter Online 1/23/04*

(Editor's note: The ARRL plan was filed. See article on page 3.)

The paomnehil pweor of the hmuan mnid!

Aoccdmrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total msees and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Pertty amzanig, huh?

Editor's note: There may be something there in applying it to learning the Morse code. - W4YDY

Yakkey-Dee-Yak from Dave, W4YDY

(Continued from page 3)

eral license had the same written test but the code requirements were 13 WPM for the General. At that time Technicians could only operate above 144 MHz. The General Class could operate on all bands but phone privileges on 75 and 20 meters were not allowed. The only bands in HF were 80, 20 and 10 meters. Phone privileges on 75 and 20 were granted to Advanced and Extra Class operators. Requirements for the Advanced were one year as a General and another written exam. Extra Class was 20 WPM and the Advanced and Extra Class written exams. Also, the Extra Class was available only after at least 2 years as a General or higher. I had decided to get on 10 meter phone when I got the General but starting January 1, 1953, the Advanced Class license was dropped so I was going to have to wait 2 years to get the Extra Class and get my code speed up enough to pass the 20 WPM test.

I had been listening to the 75 meter phone band for a couple of years before I got my license and already recognized a number of the operators in North Carolina who later became good friends when I got on the phone bands. But in late December 1952, the FCC surprised everyone and announced that they were giving the General Class all privileges just like Extra Class. It made me happy because I was able to get on HF phone much earlier but I had already conditioned myself that I was going to have to wait 2 years. There were a lot of complaints from the Advanced Class fellows and I can understand that. When I passed the 13 WPM code test, I made my first phone contact on 75 meter phone with one that I had listened to on the old floor model Philco radio.

Things kind of sailed along until the 60's when the FCC announced and approved in 1957 a new band plan. They added the Advanced Class license back, and gave phone and CW privileges to the higher class license. Therefore, General and Advanced (those that got it before 1953) lost some of their band privileges. I was delighted although I would have to get the Extra Class to keep from losing anything. That meant that I would have

to get my code speed up to at least 24 to 25 WPM to pass the FCC code test and overcome the nervousness. I was shocked when some that had complained about the 1953 expansion of privileges were now upset about the new restrictions. At least now, there was a reason to go for the higher class of license.

The FCC gave a year to get ready for the change and it went into effect in two stages, November, 22, 1968 and November 22, 1969. I immediately started to work on my code speed. I passed the Advanced exam in May 1968 and received the Amateur Extra dated August 13, 1968. Now the changes coming in November would not effect my band privileges.

In 1991, the FCC dropped the code test to for a no code Technician license. It was a sign of things to come. Then the blockbuster came in 2000 when the FCC lowered the code to 5 WPM for all Amateur Radio license classes and dropped the Advanced license again and the Novice license. Now the ARRL has ask the FCC to drop the Morse code for all but the Amateur Extra.

There are many new **great** hams that have come along since the code dropped to 5 WPM but there are also many that are harmful to the Amateur Radio community. The extra help in emergencies are great. There are pros and cons for the proposal but I still think there is still room for the Morse code as a requirement for HF operation. Some say why should the FCC test for Morse code when it doesn't test for RTTY, SSTV, PSK, etc. But they do! It's in the form of questions. Morse code can be copied with a pencil by listening to the dits and dahs. If you can figure out how to copy RTTY with a pencil by just listening to the tones, maybe the FCC can require that too! Some say they don't have time to mess with learning the code. I'm sure that everyone has 30 minutes in a day they could fit in 2 or 3 times a week.

It took several months, but when I got my license, the nearest ham I knew was 150 miles away! I studied the 50 cent ARRL license manual and copied CW on the radio and on my 78 RPM

(Continued on page 8)

ARRL files plan with the FCC

(Continued from page 3)

erating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the mainstream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order-to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf>>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC. - *Via ARRL Letter Online 1/30/04*

Silent Key - Juanita Faye Humbles, KE4JWK

(Continued from page 1)

Practical Nurse program in August 1990, she continued in the Registered Nurse program. Unfortunately she had to drop out due to multiple reasons.

She worked as an LPN in the Observation at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Juanita held a variety of jobs. They included farm work, carpentry, hauling junk cars and stripping them for salvage for her dad, operating tractors, small dozers and trucks, Secretarial-Bookkeeping, Cashier-Sales Clerk, Medical Unit Secretary and Unit Supervisor.

Juanita had many hobbies besides Amateur Radio and going to ham-fests. She enjoyed her computer and surfing the Internet. When she's was not busy with those two hobbies and she was looking for something to do, she stayed busy with gun shows, target practicing with her 1022's, making silk flower arrangements, gardening, yard work, fish-

ing and water activities.

In June, 1997, when the present Ham Chatter editor took over the job of getting out the newsletter every month, Juanita helped out with editor's training in getting it printed, folded, labeled and stamped ready for mailing. Her assistance was very valuable. She made several suggestions for improvements to make it a better newsletter. She also contributed to the content every month in addition to the monthly minutes while she was the BARC secretary.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will really miss Juanita and her participation. Juanita contributed a lot of time to BARC and it is this kind of dedication that has helped make BARC an outstanding club.

Juanita, a native of Pitt County, lived most of her life in the Gardnerville community. Besides her Amateur Radio activities, Juanita was a member of Faith

Assembly of God, the Greenville-Martinborough Lions Club and was active in the Relay for Life, American Cancer Society Fund Raiser.

She is survived by her parents, Robert Lee and Janice Sugg Humbles of Gardnerville; brothers, Robert Lee Humbles, Jr. of Gardnerville and Sam Humbles and wife, Monica, of Monroe, GA; sisters, Jannette H. Harris and husband, Robert, of Falkland and Bobbie Holton of Greenville; nephews, Robert Lee Humbles, III, Ashley Ray Humbles, Justin Ray Humbles, Russell Lyle Harris and Timothy Holton; nieces, Karen Marlana Harris and April Holton DeSelms; and very special friends, Kenneth Graf, N8FF, of Greenville and Shirley Baker of Bethel.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members extends their condolences to her family and friends.

FCC chairman promotes BPL in Press Club talk Touches on BPL interference issue in speech



FCC Chairman Michael Powell has cited the Commission's promotion of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology as an example of a government policy that supports expansion of broadband technology to all Americans. At the same time, Powell said, the FCC needs to ensure BPL doesn't interfere with licensed radio services. In his January 14 speech before the National Press Club, Powell mentioned BPL among "new emerging platforms" for broadband delivery.

"With BPL you theoretically reach every American with broadband to every power plug in America," Powell said. "Our goals of universal service will be substantially advanced if that service were fully deployed." Powell also acknowledged interference concerns that have been dogging BPL and raised by the Amateur Radio community and by at least two federal agencies: the Federal

Emergency Management Agency--now a part of the Department of Homeland Security--and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages spectrum allocated to government users.

"We will continue to explore ways to support this technology while protecting services from interference," Powell pledged.

In the next breath, Powell pointed out that the FCC also is looking to increase the feasibility of broadband delivery via satellite. "Because satellite technology has the ability to reach the entire country," he said, "it holds tremendous potential as an effective Internet solution for many parts of the nation, especially rural and remote areas, at affordable rates."

When it issued its BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI), ET Docket 03-104 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc>, last April, the FCC suggested that BPL technology would be one way to provide broadband service to rural dwellers.

Some technology experts suggest that, because of the equipment needed to deliver BPL broadband to rural customers, BPL would not be cost-effective for such residents.

In a bit of unintended irony, Powell's speech, "The Age of Personal Communications," bore the subtitle "Power to the People."

Since BPL applies high-frequency RF to parts of the power grid, one aspect of the NOI was to gather information on potential interference to authorized spectrum users. To date, the NOI has attracted nearly 5150 comments, many from the amateur community.

The FCC has indicated that providers of BPL equipment "are free to continue to deploy their networks in conformance with existing Part 15 rules." BPL providers already are setting up BPL systems in several communities.

NTIA Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Michael D. Gallagher recently told a gathering of the Power Line Communica-

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BARC Monthly Minutes - January 2004

BARC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall

PRESIDENT: Mike Langley, KD4MTT called the meeting to order. He asked everyone to announce their call letters, their name and their city.

He also announced that Marvin Buck, K4MCB, joined the club at this meeting. Mike also reported the cash on hand at the bank plus the expenditures for the year just ended.

SECRETARY REPORT: Taylor Millar, W4WTM, said that he has not made the contact to secure another Holland Grill for our Spring Raffle, but this should be accomplished before the next board meeting.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Byron Highland, K4BMH, reported on the condition of several older club members who are ailing. He did not have a recent condition report on Juanita Humbles. Byron said to e-mail him with any health con-

cerns of our members, and he will send them a card.

PUBLICITY: Pat Williams, KG4NSC, reported advertising our meeting in the local Daily Reflector newspaper. Pat also reviewed the Food Lion MVP cards, and how the club gets credit for our purchases. He also mentioned that everyone needs to re-register at foodlion.com for the calendar year 2004.

HAM CHATTER: Dave Langley, W4YDY, reported that he needs help as an assistant to do interviews with Hams featured in Ham Chatter.

VE SESSION: The next VE Session of testing will be Friday night Feb. 20th.

NEW BUSINESS: Elmer training for the coming year was also discussed. The May 1st Boy Scout Camporee, and the NCQSL Party is planned for VOA Site C on Sunday, Feb. 29th from noon until 10:00 P.M. were discussed.

The BARC Dues for 2004 are due.

The upcoming Basketball Special Olympics is scheduled for March 19, 20, and

21st.

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, reported that Tom Collins, KG4EIC, from Wilmington is the new Eastern Branch Manager.

Doug Ferris, K4ROK, reported on equipment and new tower to be replaced at the Pitt County Memorial Hospital. He reported having permission to install the ladder line on the big Rombic antenna at VOA.

Byron Highland, K4BMH, announced that permission has been given to move antennas at PCMH.

PROGRAMS: Dan Drake, KG4ISO, presented a very good audio visual program about Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Millar, W4WTM

W1AW expands digital capabilities

ARRL Maxim Memorial station W1AW has expanded its digital-mode capabilities. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says all three W1AW operating suites now offer digital mode access for visiting operators.

"When we first seriously computerized the station, we just had an interface that would let us do RTTY, AMTOR and packet," Carcia said. "When PSK31 came out a couple of years ago, [QST Editor] Steve Ford, WB8IMY, suggested that I try it out. I admit to being bit."

Soon, Carcia had a PC in place running PSK31 software and interfaced with W1AW's ICOM IC-765. This winter, Carcia made it a priority to expand digital capability to other gear. That meant first installing sound cards in several of W1AW's computers. Then Carcia built custom digital mode interfaces for each radio that included the capability to sample the radio's frequency to make logging almost automatic.

In addition to the IC-765, digital-ready transceivers at W1AW include a Kenwood TS-950S, an ICOM IC-

756PROII and a Kenwood TS-2000. All four units can operate RTTY, AMTOR, PSK31, PSK63, MFSK16, Hellschreiber, packet, Throb, PACTOR I and MT63. The IC-765 and IC-756PROII are wired for FSK RTTY--to take advantage of their narrow filters--while the Kenwood radios add SSTV software to the plate.

ARRL COO Mark Wilson, K1RO, says that the increased digital mode ability of W1AW allows the station to continue its tradition of technical excellence. "W1AW has always showcased Amateur Radio's capabilities, and keeping current with the latest digital modes is a logical extension of that," he said. "We're happy to have the opportunity to show the latest modes to visitors, who may not have been able to see or try them before."

More information about digital modes can be found on the ARRL Technical Information Service Web pages <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/>>. Information about W1AW can be found at the station's home page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>>. - via ARRL Letter Online

Yakkey-Dee-Yak

(Continued from page 6)

code records. If someone is really interested in getting a ham license, it can be done, help or no help. There are over 250 hams in Greenville alone so there is plenty of help if you need it plus there is the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club with license classes.

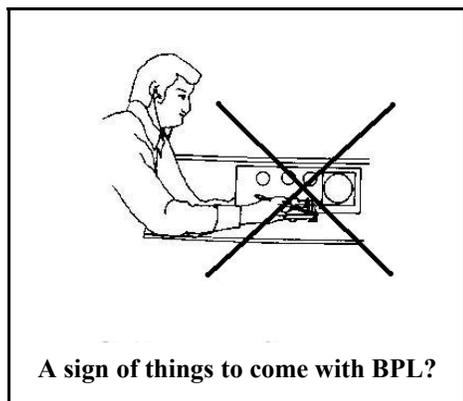
Why doesn't the ARRL board ask for input from members before they make decisions to cause such great effect on their members and others? Of the over 700,000 hams in the US, less the 25 percent are members. Maybe that is why they are sending out letters to the members asking for donations for different projects. I don't ever remember getting as many letters as I have in the last 5 years. If you think this article is confusing because of the "continued on page nn", just think how the bands will be with those that just don't care about the value of the RF spectrum. **"It ain't going to be like this all the time. It's going to get worse!"** - W4YDY



Austrian Authorities pull plug on BPL pilot project

(Continued from page 2)

not only means the end of the Linz BPL pilot project," the Radio Austria report said, "but the end of the deployment of this technology in Austria, especially given the interference to radio communication in places of business." According to the broadcaster, measurements were said to have indicated that radiation from the BPL system exceeded permissible field strength levels by a factor of 10,000.



ÖVSV says radio amateurs in Austria have opposed deployment of all BPL experiments as neither legal nor compatible with "vital, worldwide shortwave radio communication." Among other problems with BPL, ÖVSV has cited its potential to disrupt emergency communications and safety-of-life services as well as military operations on HF and navigation and aeronautical communication.

Last fall, ÖVSV representatives and Linz amateurs got together with power company representatives in an effort to resolve BPL's incompatibility with HF radio operation. The meetings followed news reports of interference to emergency service communications and QRM complaints from several area hams. "Because of the racket, expensive installations, such as a 20-meter monobander on a high-rise building, become totally worthless," ÖVSV said.

The utility agreed to look into the possibility of a 100-meter protective zone around each amateur's location, notch filters for amateur frequencies, network system filters and the use of 5 GHz wireless local area networks. - *via ARRL Letter Online*

Ham Ads

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

For Sale:

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

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

For Sale:

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

FCC chairman promotes BPL

(Continued from page 7)

tions Association <<http://www.plca.net/>> that the risk of interference to government or other spectrum users provides an incentive to BPL operators to "design and operate their systems to avoid such interference." He said the NTIA has been studying interference risks and the potential "for making risks more tolerable." He said the objective is "to accommodate BPL with acceptable risk."

The ARRL anticipates completing an independent BPL engineering evaluation early this year. The study will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>. - *Via ARRL Letter Online*

Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size
\$10 per Month - \$100 per Year
Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835**
ATTN: Dave Langley or email w4ydy@qsl.net
Help support *Ham Chatter*. **Donations accepted!**

NETS

VHF

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

HF

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

NTS CW Nets

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

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 10	Regular Meeting	Mar 27	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest
Feb 14	CQ/RJ WPX RTTY Contest	Mar 30	Board Meeting
Feb 20	VE Session	Apr 3	Ham Chatter Deadline
Feb 21	ARRL CW DX Contest	Apr 4	RARSFest – Raleigh
Feb 24	Board Meeting	Apr 13	Regular Meeting
Feb 28	Ham Chatter Deadline	Apr 16	VE Session
Feb 28-29	CQ WW SSB 160M Contest	Apr 27	Board Meeting
Mar 6-7	ARRL SSB DX Contest		
Mar 9	Regular Meeting	Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM	
Mar 21	Down East Hamfest - Kinston	Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM	

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

W 4 A M C - W I V O A

Printing courtesy of Xerox



February 2004
Next Meeting
February 10

To:



PO Box 8387
 Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter