

Ham Chatter



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Joe Melton WB4SLF Silent Key



Joe H. Melton Jr., WB4SLF, 86, of 826 E. Boulevard Highway 17 Bypass in Williamston died Thursday, May 20, 2004, at the Vintage Inn Retirement Center. Joe was an Honorary Life Member of BARC.

When help was needed for communications at an evacuation shelter during the two hurricanes that crossed over Pitt County in 1996, Joe Melton, WB4SLF, was on the job. He stayed at one shelter all night because there was no relief and he provided valuable communications to the Emergency Operations Center on conditions at the shelter and number of people that were taking cover. This is the kind of dedication that Joe gave to Amateur Radio communications and to the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club. At the November 1997 meeting, because of his dedication to BARC and Amateur Radio, he was one of three voted in by the membership to bestow

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Can you believe Field Day is only a month away? Well it is and here are a few reminders of what will be going on that week end. The location for Field Day will be behind Sears at the Carolina East Mall. We will meet on Friday the 25 of June at 6:30 PM to set up the tents. Saturday the 26 of June at 7:00 AM, we will begin set up the radio stations. We hope to have every thing up and running by the 2:00 pm start time.

The pot luck supper will begin about 6:00 PM. Remember to bring a covered dish. Sunday the 27 of June about 12 noon we will start taking the stations down. So if you have not been to a club activity this year, kick off your summer by coming out to Field Day getting on the air and helping the club get lots of points.



2003 BARC Field Day

On a personal note, this will be my third Field Day event and Sunday the 27th will be my 46th birthday so help me celebrate my birthday by having a large turnout for the Field Day event. In closing a few things to remember think safety first dress for the occasion and bring your bug spray. - Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, Field Day Chairman

Next Meeting June 8

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next regular meeting on June 8 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 at 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be about Field Day preparations by Field Day Chairman Richard Campbell, KG4SNE. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting is set for June 29 at 7:30. The meeting is open to all members.

Byron Highland, K4BMH, named Officer of the Year

L t . Byron Highland, a 22-year veteran of the Greenville Police Department was named Officer of the Year on May 18 at a ceremony hosted by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.



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**Congratulations to BARC member
Hollis Thigpen, KC3X,
for receiving Award #18 for
working all USA counties for
the 6th time!**

President's Corner Spectrum Protection Act co-sponsor list tops 100

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Joe Melton, WB4SLF. When I first became involved with the club, I had the opportunity to help put up a tower and antenna in Greenville. Joe was there, and he took the time to show me his mobile rigs and made a couple mobile HF contacts to demonstrate the setup. Since it was our first meeting I was impressed that he would take the time to explain so much to someone still waiting for his Technician call sign to be issued. (In the early 90's it took muuuch longer for the FCC to issue calls.) As I was to discover, that was Joe's way. He loved ham radio and wanted others to do the same.

Field Day gives each of us the opportunity to do what Joe did for me. Field Day is a time that each of us can share their knowledge with others. For some it will be radios and antennas. From others we can gain knowledge about operating, computer networking, wiring, construction techniques and maybe even a little meal preparation. The point I'm trying to make is that no one of us has all the skills, or time, that it takes to make an event like Field Day a success. Please join me in helping Field Day Chief Richard, KG4SNE, and the club to have a great event.

Operate modes or frequencies that you haven't done before, or at least for a while. Hone your operating skills in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. Learn new ways to build portable antennas. Find out how the club shelter,

The number of US House members from both sides of the aisle signed on as cosponsors of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003--HR 713--has topped the century mark. The recent addition of three Republicans and three Democrats pushed the count to 103. Identical House and Senate versions of the measure, an ARRL initiative, are on their third try in Congress. Since January 1, the number of HR 713 cosponsors has grown by 26. The Senate version, S 537, has eight cosponsors.

The Spectrum Protection Act bills would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the Commission were to reallocate primary amateur frequencies, reduce any secondary amateur allocations, or make additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

Signing aboard HR 713 so far this month were representatives Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), C. A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger (D-MD), Jim Gerlach (R-PA), and Mike Thompson (D-CA). Florida Republican Michael Bilirakis spon-

sored the House bill, while Idaho Republican Michael Crapo introduced S 537.

Ruppertsberger this month also became the 35th cosponsor of HR 1478, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003--the so-called CC&R bill. Sponsored by New York Democrat Steve Israel, the CC&R bill would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption.

HR 713 and HR 1478 have been referred to the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. S 537 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, reiterated that the key to passage of the measures is letters from constituents. He called upon League members to take the effort to write, call or e-mail their representatives and senators to explain the bills' importance and encourage them to consider cosponsoring the measures. "Letters from ARRL members--who also are voters--are crucial to getting the spectrum bills through Congress, and that won't happen without support from our members," he said.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are

(Continued on page 6)

and my big red tent, is supposed to go together. Use it as an excuse not to mow grass or do "honey do's", or just come out for the great food and fellowship. Whatever reason(s) you choose, just come out and have a good time.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mike, KD4MTT



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

- 11 W4DXJ Jack Edwards
- 11 WB4SLC Bill Dawson
- 14 K4MI Jack Kear
- 17 K4IDD Gerald Clayton
- 22 KI4DLN Thomas Lee
- 27 KG4SNE Richard Campbell
- 30 N4WVA Maurice Ankrom

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

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Jeff Hardee, K4RJF

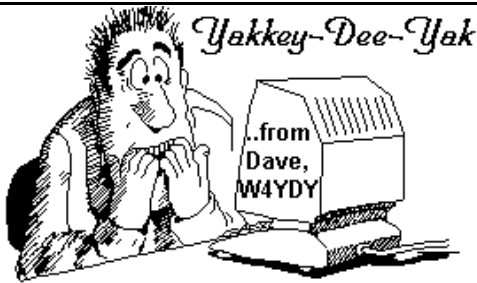
Gail Manning, wife of Mac Manning, KD4AFL

Bernice Turnage, WA4SLD



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The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club has been very busy in the past few months with the club participating in many special events. Also, a very successful raffle for the Holland Grill was completed. The biggest event of the year is coming up June 26, 27. It's Field Day and everyone that participates always has a good time. If you haven't been to a Field Day in many years or never, come on out and visit and participate if you will and can. Also, all club members and families are invited to the Saturday evening feast. The club will provide the main course (probably chicken) and beverages and the members will bring a covered dish and deserts.

Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, Field Day chairman, has been putting a lot of time in getting the operation organized and if he calls on you, please help and volunteer. Members will be needed to get the site ready putting up tents and antennas and also operators will be needed to man the four stations to be in operation. There will be three main sta-

tions and the GOTO station. If you don't have much or any experience operating HF, the GOTO station is there for you to get that experience. We know it will be a great Field Day because Richard was also last year's chairman so he knows how to get it organized.

Have you ever thought about the price of computer parts getting cheaper all the time and other prices going up? I was looking at a few figures not long ago and in 1978 when I bought the Radio Shack TRS-80, it had 4 KB of memory and an audio tape recorder to load and save programs. It took a couple of minutes to load a 1 KB program from the tape. To replace the memory with 16 KB chips (That's kilobytes, **not** megabytes!), you could get it from Radio Shack for \$299!!! If memory prices were the same, 256 megabytes, which is standard in most new computers now, would cost over \$4,800,000!

Hard drives were really expensive and they were not in homes in 1978. In 1987, a good price on a 30 meg hard drive was \$450. That's \$15 per megabyte. The 80 megabyte drive is standard in most new computers now and in 1987 prices, it would be \$1,200,000. Now if gas prices had gone down like memory prices did, you could buy 10,000 gallons for less than 6.2 cents!!! That's including tax! Maybe we could all get the new Icom IC-7800 (\$10,600) for less than a buck. Oh well, dream on. - *W4YDY*

FCC Chairman responds to request to support ARRL restructuring plan



F C C
Chairman Michael K. Powell has assured US representatives Greg Walden,

W7EQI (R-OR), and Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), that the Commission will act "as expeditiously as possible" on Amateur Radio restructuring. Walden and Ross wrote Powell a month ago to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place. Powell said the League's petition was one of many.

"At this time, the Commission staff is reviewing and analyzing carefully all of the petitions, comments and proposed rule changes in this area," Powell responded May 21. "Because this matter is of great importance to you and the almost 700,000 amateur radio operators nationwide, the staff is working diligently to create a comprehensive solution to address the proposals the petitioners have submitted." The next step in the process, he said, will be to prepare a notice of proposed rule making for the Commission's consideration.

In addition to the League's filing, Powell pointed out, the Commission received 17 other petitions for rule making that address examination requirements and operating privileges for Amateur Service licensees. The various proposals attracted more than 5000 comments, he noted--more than 800 of them on the ARRL's petition alone.

In their letter to Powell, Walden and Ross expressed their belief that the

(Continued on page 5)

NASA names new supercomputer after lost Columbia ham-astronaut

NASA will dedicate a new supercomputer in memory of Kalpana "KC" Chawla, KD5ESI. She was one of the seven shuttle Columbia STS-107 mission crew members lost February 1, 2003, as the vehicle was returning to Earth. The May 12 dedication ceremony was held at NASA Ames Research Center in California. The first Indian-born woman to fly in space, Chawla served as a flight engineer and mission specialist aboard Columbia. NASA's naming of the new "Kalpana"

supercomputer follows a long tradition at the research center of naming its new supercomputers after pioneers in the supercomputer industry or others in recognition of their achievements. The Columbia STS-107 crew, headed by Commander Rick Husband, also included Pilot Willie McCool and Mission Specialists David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU; Michael Anderson and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut. - *via ARRL Letter Online*

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FCC extends reply comment deadline in BPL proceeding



The FCC has extended to June 22 the deadline to file reply comments (comments on filed comments) in its broadband over power line (BPL) Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 04-37. The FCC acted this week on a request from the National Antenna Consortium and the Amherst Alliance (NAC/Amherst) for a much longer filing deadline extension. The organizations said the June 1 reply comment deadline would not allow stakeholders adequate time to prepare comments that address the full two-part National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) BPL study. The FCC said the NTIA has indicated it soon will submit comments and a technical appendix that will include key findings of the Phase 2 report, which is due for release later this year.

"We believe that three weeks should provide ample time for review and analysis of this information, and accordingly grant the extension for that period," said FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Edmond J. Thomas, who signed the May 26 Order Granting Extension of Time. NAC/Amherst had

sought to have the FCC postpone the filing comment deadline until either September 1 or two months after the public release of the NTIA's Phase 2 study--whichever came later.

Noting that its Part 15 rules already permit Access BPL systems and that its February BPL NPRM places additional requirements on BPL systems over and above current Part 15 requirements, the FCC asserted that any further delay would diminish the Commission's ability to protect licensed users now occupying the HF spectrum. A further extension, the FCC added, also would "needlessly increase regulatory uncertainty" about BPL.

The FCC turned down a request that it reissue in substantially greater detail the provisions of its proposed BPL rules concerning interference prevention and mitigation and the enforcement of standards.

The FCC does not routinely grant such time extensions, and it denied earlier petitions, including filings from the ARRL and NAC/Amherst, to extend the initial May 3 comment filing deadline. The League and others had said commenters needed more time to digest the NTIA's Part 1 BPL study, released April 27. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 05/27/04

Experience hams must nurture newcomers

It's up to today's Amateur Radio veterans to cultivate the younger generation, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, told the ARRL Forum at Dayton Hamvention 2004 May 15. Calling the statistic "shocking," Haynie cited ARRL survey data showing that more than one-fifth of new amateur licensees never get on the air. He suggested that too few experienced amateurs take new licensees under their wing to help them get started.

"One of the things that we need to do is open up our hearts and open up our minds a little bit about the new generation coming along," he said. The addition of another half-dozen ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) pilot schools has raised the total to 81, Haynie pointed out. While its primary goal is using Amateur Radio to educate youngsters about wireless technology, the ETP has resulted in thousands of new hams--teenagers and younger.

"What makes these programs successful, of course, is the local hams, the local clubs getting behind the program and teaching these kids the kinds of things we all know," Haynie said, adding that nothing is too basic or simple. "I didn't know how to put on a PL-259 when I got my General," Haynie admitted, recalling that he'd more than once forgotten to slip the connector's shell over the end of the cable before soldering the plug.

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Next VE Session


The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **June 18**. 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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BPL industry official disputes NTIA report in Congressional hearing

A BPL industry witness this week told a House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing that the extensive National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) broadband over power line interference study draws "generalized conclusions," some of which are "inaccurate." Jay Birnbaum, vice president and general counsel of BPL provider Current Communications Group LLC <<http://www.currentgroup.com/>> was among those answering lawmakers' questions during the May 19 hearing, "Competition in the Communications Marketplace: How Convergence Is Blurring the Lines Between Voice, Video, and Data Services." ARRL CEO David Sumner called it "interesting" that a BPL spokesperson would try to downplay the significance of the NTIA's findings.

"Clearly, the report has the BPL industry worried--as well it should," Sumner said. "Anyone who gets past the introduction and actually reads the body of the NTIA study can only conclude that NTIA's findings are devastating to the case for BPL."

Among other observations, the NTIA acknowledged that BPL signals "unintentionally radiate" from power lines, but said there's "substantial disagreement as to the strength of the emissions and their potential for causing interference to licensed radio systems."

The subcommittee members questioning Birnbaum included Oregon Republican Greg Walden, W7EQI, one of two amateur licensees in the US House. Walden asked Birnbaum to address the BPL interference issues that the NTIA report and the amateur community have raised.

Birnbaum responded that he thinks interference concerns about BPL are unfounded and that the FCC agrees. BPL emissions from power lines, he asserted, are at very low levels and dissipate very quickly with distance. Current Technologies is field testing a BPL system in Potomac, Maryland and has a 50-50 partnership with Cinergy to deploy a full-blown BPL system in the Cincinnati area. The Maryland system employs the HomePlug

Alliance standard, which notches all HF amateur bands except 60 meters.

The ARRL documented a visit to the Potomac test area on its Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#Video>>. The Potomac site is identified as "Trial Area #1" under "Video showing results of ARRL testing in MD, VA, PA and NY." BPL interference heard outside amateur bands at the Potomac site sounds like severe, irregular pulse-type noise.

Birnbaum also told Walden that BPL is "literally undetectable" tens of meters away, although he indicated that there's disagreement on the issue. Walden said he just wants the interference addressed technically--"especially driving under power lines."

The NTIA, which conducted measurements at three different BPL field trial sites, said that while radiated power "decreased with increasing distance," the decay was not always predictable. At one measurement location with a number of BPL devices, the NTIA said, "appreciable BPL signal levels (ie, at least 5 dB higher than ambient noise) were observed beyond 500 meters from the nearest BPL-energized power lines."

The NTIA study further calculated that interference "is likely" to mobile stations in areas extending to 30 meters and to fixed stations in areas extending to 55 meters from a single BPL device and the power lines to which it's connected. Interference to systems with "low to moderate desired signal levels," such as those common in ham radio, is likely within areas extending to 75 meters for mobiles and 460 meters for fixed stations, the NTIA study said.

Responding to a question from New Hampshire Republican Charles Bass, Birnbaum said the BPL industry would be pleased if Congress could provide tax or financial incentives, especially for improving the power grid.

Birnbaum suggested that while utilities have been slow to act on BPL, they will begin to deploy BPL systems over the next year or two. The biggest issue, he said, is the incentive for utilities to invest in broadband technology. - *via ARRL Letter Online 5/21/04*

FCC Chairman responds to request to support ARRL restructuring plan

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ARRL's plan "will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country."

Other restructuring plans were filed by the Radio Amateur Foundation, RM-10868, and by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10870.

Fifteen other petitions for rule making came down on one side or the other of retaining the Amateur Radio Morse code examination requirement to operate on HF. Judging from Powell's letter to Walden and Ross, the FCC plans to address all 18 petitions within the framework of a single rule making proceeding. - *via ARRL Letter Online 5/28/05*

Byron Highland, K4BMH, named Officer of the Year

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Outside of the police department, he is First Vice President of BARC and he serves as a member of the Farmville Fire Department, a volunteer with Amateur Radio Emergency Services and a member of the State Emergency Response Team.

The Georgia native, who moved to Wilson when he was in middle school, said he was influenced by several police officers growing up but didn't know he would become a police officer.

Byron began his law enforcement career in Stantonsburg on April 1, 1978 and later spent time at the Middlesex and Farmville police departments before joining the Greenville Police Department in August 1982.

Congratulations Byron!

White House give ARRL delegation assurances on BPL interference



ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, headed an ARRL delegation during a May 20 White House visit to discuss concerns about broadband over power line (BPL). Haynie, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met with Richard Russell, the White House associate director for technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The ARRL officials asked the Bush administration to heed its own experts at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and back away from its support of BPL in favor of less troublesome technologies. The NTIA's Phase 1 BPL study acknowledged BPL as an interference source. Haynie said the meeting was both revealing and encouraging.

"He assured us that based on the NTIA report, the interference issues would be addressed," Haynie said. "That was one of our main purposes for being there." Haynie said, however, that he remains "absolutely" convinced that a political agenda is driving the BPL proceeding. Russell told the ARRL contingent that the administration is "very excited" about BPL and is committed to finding ways to make it work.

Imlay said the League's problems were not with broadband access but with the "rush-to-judgment" approach the FCC seems to be taking in the BPL proceeding. As one example, he cited the timing between the release of the extensive NTIA study and the comment deadline on the BPL proceeding just a few days later. The Commission denied requests from the ARRL and others to extend the comment deadline. While somewhat sympathetic, Russell suggested that his office was in less of a position to influence the FCC than it was the NTIA.

After Rinaldo presented some of the ARRL's BPL interference test findings, Russell asked the League to provide

a breakdown of the BPL systems and providers manifesting both lesser and greater degrees of interference.

Rinaldo also told Russell that representatives of the BPL industry have been double-talking their way around interference claims. Imlay pointed out that the FCC has yet to address dozens of BPL-related interference complaints from amateurs.

The administration does not want a flawed technology to result from the BPL proceeding, Russell said at the session's conclusion, and he offered assurances to the League visitors that the NTIA would work to address the interference.

"We did get listened to," Haynie said afterward. "Did I leave there feeling euphoric? No, I didn't, but at least I have a better feeling now of the overall big picture, of where BPL's coming from, and I hope that I can take to the bank the fact that they're going to address and continue to address aggressively the interference issues."

Derek Riker, KB3JLF, of Chwat & Company, the ARRL's legislative relations consultant, arranged the meeting and accompanied the delegation on the White House visit.

The ARRL already has asked the FCC to put its BPL proceeding on hold to allow more thorough research of its interference potential. The League contended in its comments on the February 23 Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47 that the FCC's "overly aggressive timetable" to proceed with BPL deployment will effectively preclude the development of cooperative interference avoidance and resolution mechanisms. - *via ARRL Newsletter 5/21/04*

Spectrum Protection Act

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asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>. Those writing on behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, are asked to copy their correspondence to <ccr-bill@arrl.org>.

Amateur enforcement cases declining

The number of Amateur Radio enforcement cases has continued to drop since a five-year peak of 350 in 2001. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth told the Dayton Hamvention 2004 FCC Forum May 15 that 240 ham radio enforcement cases crossed his desk last year. Entering his sixth year in amateur enforcement, he's estimating only 175 cases in 2004.

"Two years ago at Dayton, I said that I hoped the day would come soon when enforcement would not be an issue in the Amateur Service," Hollingsworth said. While he doesn't believe amateur enforcement is in "maintenance mode" yet, it's well on its way, he said. He urged his audience not to become complacent just because there's active FCC Amateur Service enforcement. Although the percentage of "hard-core" cases is very small and fast declining, the remaining cases include "some real nasty ones," he said.

Hollingsworth said his main worry remains inappropriate or illegal on-the-air behavior and the sometimes-negative image it can present to decision makers at a time of broadband over power line (BPL) and other threats to amateur spectrum. He proposed that amateurs concentrate on improving how they conduct themselves on the air while letting him deal with the remaining bad apples that require his attention.

"No enforcement program in the world can save certain people from themselves or from being an embarrassment to the entire service," he said--reiterating a refrain that's now almost become his mantra. "If anything is the downfall of Amateur Radio, it will probably be the microphone. You have to focus on your image--what you sound like--all the time."

Hollingsworth also told the forum he's convinced that further Amateur Service restructuring is a necessity. He also suggested that amateurs be less concerned about any perceived "dumbing down" of the licensing requirements, because ham radio will continue to thrive in any event. "It's not really what you do to get into Amateur Radio that counts. It's what you do once you get on the air," he said. - *via ARRL Letter Online 5/21/04*

Joe Melton, WB4SLF, Silent Key

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Honorary Life Membership to him.

Joe became interested in Amateur Radio in 1934 while in high school, but just put off getting his license. But in 1976, he decided to join the fun and fellowship and he became WN4SLF on July 27, 1976. He later upgraded and was assigned call sign WB4SLF, a call that was very familiar in North Carolina on 75 meters and 2 meters.

Originally from Robersonville, NC, Joe graduated from Robersonville High School in 1935. He also took High School Post Graduated courses in book- ing and typing. Joe ended up a long time resident of Farmville where he spent many years at the Farmville Hardware Store. He was Manager of the store when he retired on December 31, 1980. Joe's wife passed away March 20, 1983.

Joe reported that when it came to club activities, he said "Just attend the meetings." But as all active club members know, he did much more than that. He was active in emergency communications (as outlined earlier in this article) and he did more than his share at the annual ARRL Field Day in June 1997. On the

BARC Internet 1997 Field Day page, there is a picture of Joe swinging a big hammer driving stakes in the ground to help support the antenna poles. Joe also volunteered for assisting the club in the several other weekend activities during 1997.

Equipment for Joe's Amateur Radio station consisted of a Ten-Tec Omni V, a Kenwood 450S for mobile, an Icom 28-H for mobile, a Kenwood TM-241A, a Yeasu 2500 and a Kenwood 79-A dual bander HT. For Packet, he used an Alinco DR1200 and a PK64 TNC. His antennas consisted of a Mosley Classic 33 Triband beam, a Cushcraft 11 element 2 meter beam and a Ringo Ranger he had mounted on a nice tower at the back of his house in Farmville. He also used an MFJ 962 tuner and a Viking phone patch. Joe enjoyed operating the HF bands and he called into the Costal Carolina Net most every night on 3907 kHz. He was also active on 2 meters from his house and mobile.

Joe also enjoys using his IBM compatible computer and he sent and received a lot of email. Many times at the BARC functions (such as the Christmas

party), you could see Joe taking pictures with his Casio QV-10 digital camera. Some of the members were surprised later on when they got an email from Joe and there's your picture staring back at you.

Joe lived in a rest home for the last couple of years and he missed his Amateur Radio. He continued to come to club meeting when he was able to get transportation. Harold Bailey, KD4NRB, provided that transportation many times.

Joe was a member of the First Christian Church in Farmville. He was also a member of the Farmville Masonic Lodge No. 517 and the Eastern Star and was an avid photographer.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Susie Ward Melton, and a brother, Lewis Melton.

He is survived by three nephews, Ronnie Melton of Rocky Mount, William Melton of Biloxi, Miss., and Gary Melton of Crestview, Fla.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members send their condolences to his family and many friends. We have lost another outstanding member.

Farmville Dogwood Festival Special Event Operation

Members of the club spent the weekend of April 23rd at the 17th annual Farmville Dogwood Festival operating a Special Event Station. This was the club's third trip to the festival. We asked for a beautiful weekend and got one. Preparations began Friday evening when several members of the club met to set up the club's trailer, the shelter and two sections of tower with the Club's Cushcraft vertical antenna mounted on top. Our location was just about perfect. We again set up between the Fire Station and the Post Office right on Main Street. This year we had to put up with a LOT of computer noise which made it almost impossible to hear weak stations. However, even with the noise and bad band conditions, we made quite a few contacts on both SSB and CW.

The Club's Holland Grill raffle was a huge success; tickets were sold on

Saturday **until we ran out!** At least 30 people stopped by and asked about making a donation after tickets were gone on Saturday. All were told that more would be available on Sunday, and quite a few returned Sunday to get a ticket. Somewhere



Bill, WA4SLC

the LUCKY guy! CONGRATULATIONS "Lucky"!!!

The following hams, most of whom are club members participated during the Dogwood Festival: Doug Ferris

in the neighborhood of 3:00 p.m., the drawing was held. Guess who won?!?! No, not K4BMH, Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, K4ROK, Dave LeMoine KV4CN, Dan Drake KG4ISO, Brad Brechtelsbauer KG4ZVM, William Brechtelsbauer (Brad's Harmonic), Tom McLaughlin KE4NQP, Sandy McLaughlin KI4CRC, Byron Highland K4BMH, Richard Campbell KG4SNE, Taylor Millar W4WTM, Bob Moore N4USB, David Nichols KD4MTS, Paul Fletcher KS4YF, Dave Pulver KG4CZV, Murray Merner K4MHM, Mike Langley KD4MTT, Pat Williams KG4NSC, Bernice Turnage WA4SLD, Harold Bailey KD4NRB and Tod LeMoine KG4CCX.

Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Cliff Kendall N3LEX. Cliff is the Director of the Farmville Dogwood Festival and has been instrumental in the Club's appearance at the Dogwood Festival the last three years. - Byron Highland, K4BMH

BARC Monthly Minutes - May 2004

BARC Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 11, 2004
7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall

PRESIDENT: Mike Langley, KD4MTT, called the meeting to order by asking everyone to introduce themselves by announcing their call letters, their name and their city. While the sign-up book was being passed around, the minutes from the prior meeting were approved. During this time more 50-50 tickets were sold. Mike asked for staff reports

TREASURER REPORT: John McCoy, K4KBB, reported that a MVP Check was received from Food Lion. He also reported on the profit made on the Holland Grill project, and announced that Bill Dawson was the winner.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Byron Highland. K4BMH, reported on conditions of several including Gayle Manning, Joe Melton, Bernice Turnage, and Jeff Hardee who is still in the hospital.

EQUIPMENT: Mike Langley, KD4MTT, said that we still need to identify where all the club assets are. New

IRS regulations are targeting non profit organizations. One of the biggest issues is accountability of assets. Bernie, WA4MOK, mentioned that he has a Classic 33 antenna belonging to the club.

PUBLICITY: Pat, KG4NSC, said notices are going out to all our elected officials inviting them to our Field Day event. He also mentioned that BARC will be listed in the new annual Pitt County list of organizations that the Daily Reflector is publishing.

HAM CHATTER: Dave Langley, W4YDY, mentioned that the Ham Chatter publications will be placed in Radio Shack and also Batteries Plus.

VE SESSION: Tom Parsons, W4TEP, announced that the next VE session would be on June 18th at St. Peters School. He also reported that no tests were requested or taken at the last VE session.

FIELD DAY: Our next meeting program will be all about plans for Field Day which will be held on June 26th and 27th. We will need an antenna person, a cook, and we will need everyone involved. Field Day plans are taking shape, and this

may be our best Field Day yet, but we need everyone to help.

TEDDY BEAR WALK, INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, DOGWOOD FESTIVAL, BOY SCOUT CAMPOREE, TOUR DE CURE BIKE EVENT: Several people reported on these special events just held.

NEW BUSINESS: It was mentioned that the club might need a projector and screen. Tom Parsons was to look into the possible costs and options.

PROGRAM: Bernie, WA4MOK, told us all about the ARES organization in North Carolina. He told about new appointees and had a power point program which was great. Byron, K4BMH, talked about the County funds from Homeland Security. He also mentioned combining radios (Police & Fire) during an emergency..

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, the meeting adjourned about 9:20 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Taylor Millar, W4WTM

Minor FCC Amateur rule changes became effective June 1



The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio (Part 97) rules became effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register.

The most extensive and substantive rule change involves §97.307, Emission standards, where the FCC revised the wording of §97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that:

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, must be at least 43 dB

below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB.

Still exempt from the provisions of §97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator. The change reflects the advent in the late 1990s of the Universal Licensing System <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> electronic licensee database. Under the amended §97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee database to be

the control operator of an amateur station." The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station."

Another change eliminates Technician or Technician with Element 1 credit licensees from the classes of operators permitted to prepare Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) and Element 2 (Technician written) examinations.

The Commission ordered the rule changes and additional wording updates within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges (see "FCC Proposes Wide-Ranging Changes to Amateur Service Rules--Not Restructuring" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/15/102/>>). It also denied several petitions.

(Continued on page 9)

FCC forms wireless broadband access task force, seeks public comment

Even as the FCC pursues its broadband over power line (BPL) agenda, it's continuing to explore wireless broadband access. FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell this week announced the formation of a Wireless Broadband Access Task Force, which has released a public notice seeking comment on issues related to the FCC's wireless broadband policies. Powell says the task force's mission is to identify potential changes in wireless broadband policies that will further facilitate the deployment of wireless broadband services.

"We are strongly committed to facilitating broadband investment and deployment, particularly through technological choices," Powell said. "This Commission has put a high priority on making sure Americans have access to broadband services through multiple facilities-based platforms. I believe that we can do even more."

The FCC says the new task force "will reach out to all relevant stakeholders and develop recommendations that will further the deployment of wireless Internet service providers (WISPs)." Powell says the "overarching goal" of this newest initiative is to examine what the Commission can do to extend broadband services to underserved areas and to increase competition in areas already having broadband access.

There's more information on the FCC's Wireless Broadband Access Task Force Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/wbatf/>>. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 5/14/05

Minor FCC Amateur rule changes became effective June 1

(Continued from page 8)

The FCC continues to seek comments on the various proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice reformatting" plan <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513084388>. - 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: Yaesu FT 840, MFJ power supply, MFJ tuner, Yaesu speaker with limiters, Vertical antenna, dipole antennas and coax cables. Asking \$600 or will trade for small boat. Equipment is in mint condition in original boxes: rarely used.

Robert C. Forbes, KC4AGU, PO Box 16, Macclesfield, NC 27852.
Ph: (252) 827-5175.

For Sale: Yaesu FT-840 HF transceiver (10-160 m). Great condition, no problems that I can tell, always covered, original manual, original box, original hand mic, 500 Hz CW filter installed. No FM board. It's been a great starter radio for me (WAS, WAC on a dipole). Have used it for contesting, RTTY, and PSK. Selling because I'm going to upgrade. \$350.

Dave LeMoine, KV4CN 353-8523
For Sale: Icom IC-745 Price \$400 negotiable. Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, 946-4760 or dawsonw@mail.ecu.edu.

Experience hams must nurture newcomers

(Continued from page 4)

Haynie suggested that today's older hams also need to consider that technology is changing, and the questions appearing on the ham radio examinations of tomorrow will be ones "that haven't been thought of yet." In 1972 when he took his General, he said, his test included questions on Hartley and Colpitts oscillators. In contrast, today's examinations cover topics such as phase-locked loops, satellite operation and digital technology.

"Amateur Radio is what you make of it once you get your license," Haynie continued. Getting a ham ticket doesn't make anyone more intelligent, and learning the ropes usually begins after someone already has a license in hand. "You learn by doing," he said. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 5/27/04

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

NC ARES Internet

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

BARC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun 5.....	Winston-Salem Hamfest	Aug 10.....	Regular Meeting
Jun 8.....	Regular Meeting	Aug 20.....	VE Session
Jun 18.....	VE Session	Aug 31.....	Board Meeting
Jun 26-27.....	ARRL Field Day	Sep 2.....	Ham Chatter Deadline
Jun 29.....	Board Meeting	Sep 4-5.....	Shelby Hamfest
Jul 3.....	Ham Chatter Deadline	Sep 14.....	Regular Meeting
Jul 10-11.....	IARU HF World Championship	Sep 25-26.....	CQ WW RTTY Contest
Jul 13.....	Regular Meeting	Sep 28.....	Board Meeting
Jul 17.....	Cary Hamfest	Oct 2.....	Ham Chatter Deadline
Jul 27.....	Board Meeting		
Jul 31.....	Ham Chatter Deadline		

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

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

W 4 A M C - W I V O A

Printing courtesy of Xerox

**Field Day
June 26-27**



**June 2004
Next Meeting
June 8**

To:



PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter