

Ham Chatter



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North Carolina utility ending BPL field trial



Progress Energy Corporation (PEC) says it's completed Phase II of its broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area. In an August 4 PEC internal memorandum made available to ARRL, the company said its program to "test the viability of providing broadband service to communities it serves" will wrap up by the end of August. The company reportedly will shut down the system once it's able to move its BPL customers to other broadband providers.

"Currently, the company does not have plans for a large-scale commercial rollout of BPL in the company's service territories," the memorandum states. Progress Energy's decision comes on the heels of announced shutdowns of BPL field trials in Penn Yan, New York, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

PEC Vice President of Energy Delivery Solutions Lisa Myers said the utility obtained significant information about the design, construction and operation of a BPL system. "Overall, this has been a successful test for us," the memorandum quotes her as saying. "We have gathered valuable information about broadband over power lines and its potential."

During its six-month Phase I and Phase II tests, the utility says it offered broadband service to more than 400 homes in southern Wake County. Earlier this year, FCC Chairman Michael Powell visited the BPL field trial to promote the technology, and local radio amateurs

spoke briefly with him about their interference concerns.

The PEC memorandum acknowledged Amateur Radio interference complaints. "BPL has met with vocal opposition from amateur or 'ham' radio operators who are concerned that the service will interfere with the radio frequencies they use," it said. "Some complaints were filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) during Phase II by ham radio operators using mobile equipment in search of BPL signals."

Responding to one amateur's complaint, the FCC earlier this summer took measurements in the field trial area. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Deputy Chief Bruce A. Franca said the FCC concluded that PEC's BPL trial "is in compliance" with FCC rules and that the company's ham band notching efforts "are effective" to avoid the potential for harmful interference. The ARRL has requested clarification of certain claims made in Franca's July 22 letter, however. The memorandum cites PEC Director of Emerging Technologies Matt Oja as saying the technology PEC selected--by Amperion--"allowed us to address all complaints by changing the settings to mitigate interference."

One of the amateurs who's been closely monitoring PEC's foray into BPL--Gary Pearce, KN4AQ--says he's pleased with the utility's decision. "It's a positive thing for ham radio that Progress Energy is not going to be pursuing BPL for whatever reason they decided not to do it," Pearce told ARRL. "It's going to make a lot of hams in Eastern North Carolina

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Next Meeting September 14

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next regular meeting on September 14 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 at 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be by Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting is set for September 28 at 7:30 PM. The meeting is open to all members.

Thanks from Emergency Services

**Noel Lee,
Pitt County Emergency Services**

During a time of need it is good to see a group of people come together to try to provide a need for the county. We never want to see any type of disaster but we all know that at some point of time a disaster will occur. The recent storm, Charley, proved your ability to mobilize and to be ready to provide the service that the county may need.

I would like to thank you for your co-operation and dedication in making the EOC operations a success. As you know this was my first storm and by you knowing what you were to do made me feel more relaxed in what I had to do. Never did I hear anyone complain even when Mike and his men got soaked trying to

(Continued on page 2)

President's Corner

It seems that every time that I sit down to write a column lately, there is threatening weather either active or forecast. This year has been much more active than I remember in some time, and we are just getting to the "active" portion of the season.

Our friends in Florida, already reeling from the impact of Charley, are under the gun again from his big sister Frances. Richmond, VA suffered from severe flooding due to TS Gaston. The western part of our state stands a good chance of flooding from intense rains as a result remnants of Frances.

Please remember to be ready to help any way that you can in the aftermath of these storms. With any disaster there is the need for all sorts of support for the victims. After hurricane Charley, I clipped an article from a Tampa newspaper. It quoted emergency officials as saying that monetary contributions to one of the serving agencies would be the greatest help in getting supplies to the victims. The list they printed was long, including the Red Cross and many faith-based organizations such as the Baptist Men's Feeding Unit that served thousands of meals here after Floyd and the Salvation Army.

Speaking of helping, there are to groups in our area that could use your help.

The first is BARC, which always

need the support of members in recruiting new hams and new club members as well as helping with various projects and special events.

The second is the Pitt County Repeater Association. After countless years of flawless service, our local repeaters have recently experienced several maintenance problems. Macon Dail, WB4PMQ and John Johnson, KE4TZN, are working tirelessly to get the repeaters back up to full speed. Currently 444.80 is working fine, but 145.35 is, to quote Byron, a "neighborhood repeater" due to low power output. Macon is working on the 147.09 machine and hopes to have it back up soon. If the power amplifier is bad on the .35 machine it may cost hundreds of dollars to replace. Repairs to the other machines have put a strain on the available funds.

Please be of any assistance that you can to both groups. If we all pitch in and help a little, no burden is impossible to overcome.

I look forward to seeing you all at the BARC meeting Sept. 14th.

Mike, KD4MTT

Thanks from Emergency Services

(Continued from page 1)

keep the water out of the building. I could mention several people and the extra efforts that they made but I am afraid that I might miss someone and never would I want to do that.

Again, thank you for all that you do,

Noel Lee

Pitt County Emergency Services

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Bernie Nobles,

WA4MOK

Jeff Hardee, K4RJF

Gail Manning, wife of Mac Manning,

KD4AFL

Bernice Turnage, WA4SLD



North Carolina utility ending BPL field trial

(Continued from page 1)
happy."

Pearce acknowledged that Progress Energy and Amerperion personnel worked closely with local amateurs to notch out interference on HF amateur frequencies. Effective notching turned out to be more difficult than anticipated, however. Even following the FCC's visit to take measurements, amateurs continued to report strong BPL interference on the high end of 20 meters as well as in the HF international broadcast bands.

A news report on Progress Energy's BPL decision appeared in the August 6 editions of the Raleigh News & Observer <<http://www.newsobserver.com/business/nc/story/1504502p-7666421c.html>>.

There's more information about BPL and Amateur Radio on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>. - via ARRL Letter Online 8/6/04

Bill Overton's Dad passes

Bill Overton's Dad recently passed away after a bout with cancer. BARC members sends their condolences to Bill, WB4PAC, and his family.

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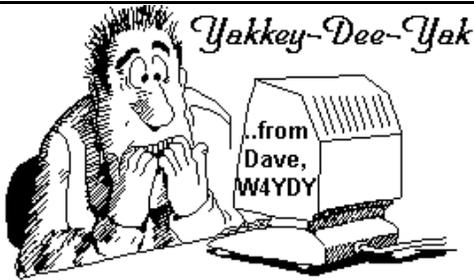


Happy Birthday

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

1	KG4NSC	Pat Williams
1	KC4ROR	Rose Wainwright
2	N4USB	Bob Moore
5	KQ2V	Brother Simon Jaworski
6	KC4TOI	Marcian Bouchard
6	KD4MTT	Mike Langley
7	KG4ZVM	Brad Brechtelsbauer
8	KD4NRB	Harold Bailey
14	K7UGT	Ken Slough
20	W4FA	John Schultz
24	W4OZV	Hassell Bailey
29	KC3X	Hollis Thigpen

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



Just got back from the Shelby Hamfest on Labor Day weekend. It looked like another successful one with several thousand folks looking over the new and used equipment and hauling boxes and bags full of goodies out to the parking lot. If you don't get there before 9 AM, you just might have to walk about a block uphill. The parking is overflowing and lot of police personnel directing traffic.

I drove up on Friday and returned Sunday. I stayed with my friend, Bob, W4FR, whom I have known for over 45 years. He lives in Maiden in Catawba County and it is about a 40 minute drive to the hamfest. We left Maiden a little after 6 AM and arrived just before 7. The first thing we did was to have a good breakfast at the hamfest. There are a number of local organizations at the Shelby County Fairgrounds that serve food to help finance their projects. The home cooked bacon, eggs, hash browns, toast and coffee hit the spot.

Then off to see the many vendors at the giant flea market and also the vendors inside the buildings. Going through the flea market, saw Doug, K4ROK, riding his bicycle. He has the right idea to save the feet! After a few hours, the feet do feel numb. Stopped by and talked to Robert and Cindy Young at Tarheel Antennas for a few minutes. He was staying pretty busy answering questions and business didn't look to bad either. Robert told me that he told Bernie that he had heard that Bernie was taking up county hunting with his 'new' Tarheel Antenna!!! Not sure what Bernie's comment was. We then went to the ARRL

forum but got there when it was about half over. Saw and talked to Bernie for a few minutes after the meeting.

I picked up a few goodies. I got a CD Callbook and also a couple of small insulators so I can put up a 30 meter antenna. Going to add another inverted V to my 160, 80, 40 meter combo.

Stopped by the Icom booth and touched the IC-7800. That's as close as I

can get to a \$10,600 transceiver. I paid just a little more than that for my car. If you want to hear one on the air, listen to the 14.336 MHz net control station, KZ2P/K2JG. He is trying it out now before he decides if he wants a second one for a backup! Bet he paid a lot for his car and RV. He did say that the receiver was the best he has used.

(Continued on page 4)

Repeater Coordinator (SERA) okays mandatory repeater tone policy

The Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) Board of Directors has approved an "all tone, all the time" policy for the repeaters SERA coordinates. SERA provides voluntary frequency coordination for amateur repeaters in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and parts of Virginia and West Virginia. The Board okayed a motion to amend its coordination policy and guidelines to require CTCSS or DCS receive and transmit tones on all new FM voice repeaters. Existing voice repeaters will have until July 1, 2006, to comply. The SERA Repeater Journal reported the move in its August issue. Repeater Journal Editor Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, said a need to relieve interference complaints led to the Board's decision.

"The point is to stop the ongoing complaints and skirmishes between co-channel neighbors running carrier-access repeaters," Pearce explained. "The vote was unanimous, but SERA recognizes that tone isn't universally popular nor is it a cure-all. And it causes new problems, particularly for travelers."

South Carolina ARRL member Laurie Sansbury Jr, KV4C, would agree with Pearce on that score. He also has taken issue with SERA's new policy and with Pearce's Repeater Journal "SquelchTale" editorial, in which Pearce said he had "little sympathy for the ham whose radio doesn't have a tone encoder"

and "Radios are cheap today."

"Not for the senior on a fixed income they're not," Sansbury retorted in an e-mail copied to ARRL. "Not for a teenager--the future of ham radio--they're not."

ARRL South Carolina Technical Coordinator Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, said he believes an important consideration of SERA's tone policy is its potential effect on emergency operations. "The Amateur Radio Service is expected to provide emergency communications," Tarplee said. "How does broad CTCSS implementation enhance or hinder our ability to deliver those communications?"

SERA has no plans to automatically decoordinate repeaters that continue to operate without tones, but "SERA would not entertain an interference complaint from the owner of any repeater who chooses to remain carrier access," the Repeater Journal said. If a carrier-access repeater owner getting co-channel interference complains to the FCC, SERA would tell the Commission that the complaining repeater's owner was opting to operate outside the conditions of coordination. "SERA would expect that to be interpreted as a 'no,'" the Repeater Journal report said.

"If a repeater owner wants to complain about interference, they'll have to incorporate tone first," Pearce said. - *via ARRL Letter Online 8/27/04*

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Technician License Course by BARC

Text: Now You're Talking (5th edition)
Class time:
Start 9:15 a.m. End: around 12:00

Course Coordinator: Robert Moore
Phone (252) 524 4003
Email n4usb@earthlink.net

Location: Sheppard Memorial Library

Oct 9 Orientation – Robert Moore, **N4USB**

Oct 12 Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club (BARC) meeting 7:30 VFW building – students welcome

Oct 16 Class 1
Chapter 7 Basic Communications Electronics – Murray Merner, **K4MHM**
Chapter 2 Methods of Communication (pages 2.1 to 2.4) – same

Oct 30 Class 2
Chapter 8 Good Engineering Practices (pages 8.1 thru 8.13) - John McCoy **K4KBB**
Chapter 3 Radio Phenomena - Bill All, **N3KKM**
Chapter 2 Methods of Communication (pages 2.7 to end) – Bill Dawson, **WA4SLC**
Chapter 9 Special Operations - same

Nov 9 BARC meeting – students welcome

Nov 13 Class 3
Chapter 8 Good Engineering Practices (pages 8.13 to end) – Bernie Nobles, **WA4MOK**

Nov 20 Class 4
Chapter 10 Electrical, Antenna Structure and RF Safety – Dave Langley, **W4YDY**
Chapter 1 Federal Communication Commission Rules – Gerry Clayton, **K4IDD**
Chapter 2 Method of Communication (pages 2.5 to 2.7) - same

Dec 4 Class 5
Chapter 4 Station Licensee Duties – Dave LeMoine, **KV4CN**
Chapter 5 Control Operator Duties - same
Chapter 6 Good Operating Practices – same

Dec 11 License Exam
Volunteer Examiners Coordinated by Tom Parsons, **W4TEP**

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*

Yakkey-Dee-Yak from Dave, W4YDY

(Continued from page 3)

For lunch along with my daughter, Susan, WA4AKB, and her husband, Dale, we went to another fairground eatery and had lunch. From there we did some more browsing in the flea market. I think we went through about 70 percent of it. It would really be nice if one could have the hamfest flea market to shop at when you are working on a project at any time. There is about any part you can think of there and the prices are much better than the local Radio Shack. The feet gave out so we left about 2 PM to go back to Maiden. The weather was very nice.

Got back home Sunday so I could work on Ham Chatter on Monday. Sure glad I had an extra day. - *W4YDY*

Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **October 15**. 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.

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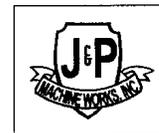
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ARRL seek comment on draft "bandwidth" petition

The ARRL wants members' comments on a planned petition to the FCC seeking to regulate amateur subbands by bandwidth rather than by mode. The ARRL Board of Directors adopted the petition's guiding principle--to create a regulatory environment more accommodating to newer technologies--two years ago, and it wrapped up its review of a draft petition in late July.

"The main objective is to make appropriate provision for digital modes in the HF amateur bands, while preserving amateurs' prerogatives to use the traditional modes," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Regulation by Bandwidth" is the title of Sumner's "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial in September QST.

The draft petition represents expert input from the ARRL Ad Hoc HF Digital Committee. ARRL staff also provided an interim report, and the Board reviewed a draft petition when it met last January. An ARRL Executive Committee review followed. The EC decided to make a synopsis and explanation of the petition available to ARRL members before it goes to the FCC.

"The regulation of emission modes in Amateur Radio Service allocations is a limiting factor with respect to Amateur Radio experimentation," the petition synopsis concludes. "It leads to attempts to put new technology into a regulatory framework that was designed only to deal with older analog emissions." To implement digital technologies, an underlying assumption of the League's draft petition is to provide for an intermediate bandwidth--between what's needed for the legacy CW and phone modes--in the middle of certain bands.

As drafted, the ARRL's bandwidth petition would preserve double-sideband AM unchanged, but it would stop short of opening the phone bands to digital and other modes of the same bandwidth.

FCC rules now permit RTTY and data emissions throughout the HF CW subbands, although informal agreements typically keep RTTY and data sig-

nals out of those parts of the CW band generally used for CW. The ARRL's petition proposes to limit bandwidth in the CW subbands to 200 Hz, which also will accommodate data modes such as PSK31.

In addition, the League's proposal would limit bandwidth in the existing "RTTY/data subbands" to either 500 Hz or 3 kHz, with phone emissions specifically prohibited in certain subbands where 3 kHz would be permitted. Under the proposal, these would include 3650-3725, 7100-7125, 14,100-14,150 and 21,150-21,200 kHz.

"The reason for this is to encourage the development of higher-speed data communications in these subbands by preventing them from becoming de facto 'expanded phone bands.'" Sumner explained.

The new proposals take into account the ARRL's prior "Novice refarming" petition to expand some HF phone bands, included in the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket 04-140.

Amateurs typically won't have to be able to measure the bandwidth of their signals, Sumner says, since the bandwidths proposed are more than sufficient for "clean" signals using traditional HF modes.

The ARRL proposal would eliminate bandwidth restrictions in the 222-225 MHz band--beyond a requirement to keep signals confined within the band.

Sumner encouraged ARRL members to review the synopsis of the petition and the specific rule changes the League plans to propose <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html>>. Direct questions or comments--favorable or otherwise--via e-mail <bandwidth@arrl.org>. ARRL staff members will respond to any questions, while comments will be forwarded to your ARRL division director. Members also are welcome to comment directly to their ARRL directors <<http://www.arrl.org/divisions/>>, also listed on page 15 in QST. - *via ARRL Letter Online 8/27/04*

Visit by Hurricane Expert

The ECU Chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, is sponsoring a visit to ECU by Dr. Nicholas Coch, of Queens College, New York. Dr. Coch is an expert on hurricanes. He will present a public talk on the "Mechanisms of Hurricane Destruction" at 3:30 PM, Tuesday, October 5, 2004 in the Hendrix Theater on the ECU campus. In this talk, he describes just how it is that hurricanes do so much damage.

His visit here is a real feather in eastern North Carolina's cap. It would be good if as many ham operators/ARES personnel/BARC members as possible came out to hear him. I also expect that others from emergency management (EOC personnel, police officers, fire fighters, EMTs, etc) would be interested in the talk.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me.

Bob Fainter, KV4RF
Allied Health, Belk Annex/6, 105
328-2139

Opportunities Fair show- cases ham radio for retirees

ARRL Honorary Vice President Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Bob Barnes, KR3X, and his wife Pat, KB3BTB, hosted an Amateur Radio demonstration Friday, August 20, at the Riderwood Village retirement complex in Silver Spring, Maryland, where all reside. The display was part of the complex's annual Opportunities Fair. "Along with about 35 other special-interest groups, we welcomed the opportunity to acquaint the other residents with another way to spend their time," Turnbull said. "Our table featured some ham radio memorabilia, QSL cards, an operating 2 meter station and a code practice machine to provide some Morse Code 'background music.'" Turnbull said the timing of their demonstration turned out to be "opportune" as well--coming just as local media were praising the Amateur Radio community for assisting in providing communication when Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly lost its main telephone system for about 10 hours. Turnbull said that while their dem-

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Amateur Radio BPL team to stress credibility

The Cincinnati area's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) Amateur Radio team won't ramp up its activities until Cinergy Corp rolls out its BPL system over a broader area than that of typical BPL field trials to date. ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, says the group--headed by Kirk Swallow, W8QID--initially will study the impact of Cinergy's BPL deployment in two neighborhoods--Hyde Park and Mount Lookout.

"We're not all that geared up, because Cinergy has not established much of a BPL footprint yet," Phillips explained. "We want to see what happens when they do the buildout. That will be the definitive factor."

Cinergy's is being touted as the first large-scale commercial BPL deployment in the US. At this point, Phillips said, the team has seen no formal complaints of interference--just "some reports." But when complaints do start showing up, "I want ham radio to look credible," he emphasized. "Any interference complaints will be valid." Phillips says the BPL team--a subcommittee of the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference

Committee--aims to gather solid engineering data on any BPL interference cases.

"I have this recurring dream that one of these days we'll walk into Cinergy, we'll have data they can't get from their BPL partners and they'll walk away from it saying it's not worth it," Phillips said, noting that utilities are "very PR conscious." An August 10 article in the Cincinnati Enquirer cites "a flurry of concern among ham radio operators" and quotes Cinergy and its partner Current Communications Group as saying that Amateur Radio operators' interference fears "are unfounded."

That assertion flies in the face of the growing number of BPL-related interference reports being tracked by ARRL <<http://www.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/reports>>.

Phillips, who's also mentioned in the Enquirer article, predicts the "massive antenna" system that will result from Cinergy's planned widespread deployment will raise the noise floor to undesirable levels. "We're not interested in having them fix every little thing," he said, referring to the sorts of "interference mitigation" techniques BPL providers have

used to date, such as notching of amateur frequencies. "We are interested in seeing them do what FCC Part 15 rules require--not cause interference to licensed spectrum users."

Phillips also praised the Cincinnati Enquirer for soliciting Amateur Radio's perspective in the BPL controversy. "We don't have to seek it out," he said. "We're now a permanent part of the debate." He said he's in the process of contacting all amateur licensees in the affected neighborhoods--some five or six dozen in all--to enlist their cooperation with the BPL team.

The BPL rollout initially will make broadband service available to some 8000 customers. While Cinergy isn't saying publicly, it's estimated that 1000 or more customers already have signed up for the service.

Cinergy eventually hopes to have up to 55,000 subscribers on board by the end of its first year. Plans call for expanding BPL service to Northern Kentucky and to the remainder of the utility's Southwest Ohio service area next year. -
via ARRL Letter Online 8/13/04

FCC Still Enforcing Part 15 Rules in Some Amateur Interference



NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 31, 2004--While

the ARRL has accused the FCC of sweeping under the rug several Amateur Radio complaints of interference from unlicensed broadband over power line (BPL) devices, the Commission apparently is not ignoring other Part 15-related interference complaints from hams. With the assistance of the ARRL Laboratory, the FCC continues to dog complaints--some now longstanding--of power-line noise interference to Amateur Radio communication. Other cases of Part 15 device interference to radio amateurs have been a bit more exotic. For example, two recent citations issued by the Portland, Oregon, FCC field office involved interference from wireless microphones operating in the 70-cm band.

"The agent measured the field strength at 1500 uV/meter at a distance of

3 meters from the referenced wireless microphones and determined that the microphones were in noncompliance with §15.209 of the Commission's rules, which apply to intentional radiators," the FCC said.

Daniel Bathurst, WA7ABU, of Salem, Oregon, filed the complaint. In citations this month to FLECO Corp of Chino, California, and The Club Works Sound and Lighting of Salem, the Commission alleged that the devices, which operate on 432.55 and 439.55 MHz, also were not certificated for sale in the US. The FCC citation indicated that FLECO had sold the microphones to The Club Works.

Earlier this year, the FCC fined Best Wok, a Westville, New Jersey, restaurant \$10,000 for operating transmitting equipment on 2 meters without a license. The eatery allegedly was using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle.

The FCC noted that the telephone, said to have been obtained outside the US, also was not FCC certificated. It operated within the 2-meter satellite subband at 145.8376 MHz, the FCC said.

Other recent cases have stemmed from radio amateurs' complaints about their neighbors' Part 15 devices. In a Texas case that FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth described as "an unfortunate neighborhood situation," the neighbor allegedly not only failed to respond to two previous FCC letters but tossed out the toroid core devices the amateur, William Cooper, W5ZAF, had provided free and which, the FCC said, had resolved the interference. Ironically, Cooper--who's active in emergency communications--and his unnamed neighbor live in the town of Friendswood.

Hollingsworth told the neighbor that under Part 15, operation of a con-

(Continued on page 7)

ARRL seeks BPL field trial shutdown



The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately shut down a broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. Electric Broadband LLC and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted Electric Broadband in March. Michael Kinney, KU7W, filed the first Amateur Radio complaint in June. It cited testing by the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) <<http://www.vvara.org>> in the 1.8-30 MHz range to show that BPL interference made attempts at ham radio communication useless.

"The interference on typical Amateur Radio equipment shows received undesired signal levels in excess of 60 dB over S9 on the receiver's signal strength meter," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told FCC officials on the League's behalf. "The utility and Electric Broadband were contacted, and no response was received." The ARRL asserted that both companies are aware that the BPL field trial has been causing harmful interference and "neither has taken any steps to either resolve it or terminate the test."

The League said VVARA and ARRL testing indicates "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which Electric Broadband told the FCC it would comply. VVARA testing revealed "actual harmful interference" from the BPL system to mobile stations in the vicinity and to a fixed station.

The League's shutdown request went out August 16 to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon and Deputy Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Bruce Franca.

ARRL called on the FCC to instruct Electric Broadband and APS to

shut down the BPL trial immediately and not resume operation until it can demonstrate that all interference issues have been resolved. It also insisted that the FCC immediately revoke any STAs granted for the Cottonwood or nearby operations, and that it institute forfeiture proceedings against the two companies for knowingly causing harmful interference.

VVARA submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report to the two companies and to the Commission in late July detailing the interference issues. The club took baseline measurements in January, before the BPL trial began, and it's continued taking measurements since the system's startup. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, conducted independent tests of the Cottonwood BPL system in July, and the League attached a summary of his findings to its letter.

The VVARA and ARRL measurements, the League said, indicate widespread interference to Amateur Radio communication in an area within a mile of the BPL field trial, and radiated emissions from BPL modems at levels "several orders of magnitude higher" than the FCC Part 15 limits. One ARRL measurement cited was more than 32 dB higher than Part 15 allows. The League further accused Electric Broadband of misrepresenting facts to the Commission by saying it would comply with §15.109 of the FCC's rules.

The ARRL said continued operation of the system while violating the conditions under which the STA was granted constitutes "willful and repeated interference," and both the utility and the BPL provider should be subject to fines as a result.

"ARRL requests that this test station be shut down immediately and that the appropriate monetary forfeitures be imposed against both Electric Broadband and APS," the League concluded. - *via ARRL Letter Online*

I can't think of a thing to put here! Can you?

Part 15 enforcement

(Continued from page 6)

sumer product "such as a battery charger" must not result in harmful interference to a licensed radio service. Hollingsworth emphasized that it's the neighbor's responsibility to correct the interference--whether or not the neighbor accepts Cooper's help.

In a similar case in Colorado, Hollingsworth on August 10 wrote another amateur's neighbor regarding interference from an electric fence charger to the Amateur Radio and broadcast television reception of P. E. Muetz, KOAWS.

"Operation of a consumer device such as your fence charger under Part 15 of the Commission's rules must not result in harmful interference to a licensed radio service, and Part 15 of our rules clearly explains that," said Hollingsworth, who'd also spoken with the neighbor by telephone last April. In another coincidental quirk, the neighbor in the fence charger situation lives on "Friendship Ranch."

In a seeming turnabout-is-fair-play situation, the FCC contacted a Mat-tawan, Michigan, resident to follow up on complaints that the individual's TV set was causing harmful interference to the Amateur Radio operations of Robert Lawson, KG8QD. Sharon Bowers, deputy chief of the FCC's Consumer Inquiries and Complaint Division, noted that Part 15 obliges the TV set's owner to resolve the interference promptly. Under Part 15, a TV set or a computer monitor is considered an "unintentional radiator."

In July, the FCC contacted Illinois Power Company to report receiving complaints that the utility's equipment may be causing harmful interference to the amateur operations of Earl Shaffer, WB9UWA, of Normal.

"The complainant has attempted unsuccessfully to work through your usual complaint resolution process, and, as a result, the matter has been referred to our office," Bowers said in a form letter to the utility's CEO. In both cases she handled, Bowers provided the address, telephone number and e-mail address of the ARRL's Radio Frequency Interference Desk as a source of "help and guidance about radio interference that involves Amateur Radio operators." - *ARRL*

BARC Monthly Minutes - August 2004

BARC Monthly Meeting 08-10-2004
VFW Hall - Mumford Road

Mike Langley, KD4MTT, Club President, welcomed everyone as the sign-up book was passed around to the membership. Everyone introduced themselves with their name, call letters, and their town.

The club meeting minutes published in the Ham Chatter were approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Taylor, W4WTM, reported receiving a check from Food Lion that was passed on to the treasurer. Also received was a bill for our insurance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John, K4KBB, reported the expenses and income for the month plus gave total balances on hand in the bank account.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Pat, KG4NSC, was asked to report on Jeff. He said that Jeff Hardee was still in the hospital and undergoing treatments. John, K4KBB, lost his Father who was 100 years and 6 months old. Our condolences go out to John. Bernie, WA4MOK, told us about his recent trip to the hospital with a stroke. He

is better and looking for an eventual full recovery.

Bill Overton, WB4PHC, lost his Father. Bill has been a Ham for a long while, and was a past member of the club.

EQUIPMENT: Mike, KD4MTT, said that we are still trying to put together a list of equipment needs for the club. After Field Day a few needs were mentioned such as filter for 75 meters, headset adapters, storage cases, power pole crimper, tilt-over tower base, speech synthesizer for our 706. The club voted to reimburse Mike for the power pole crimper that he purchased for club members use.

PUBLICITY: Pat, KG4NSC, reported that the fee for the Ayden Collard Festival was \$95.00, and the Winterville Watermelon Festival was \$100.00 per day. Some comments were that we might look for events that we do not have to pay for.

ARES: Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, told about the upcoming meeting in Columbia for Areas 1 & 2 at 10:30 a.m. on August 14th. The program is by a meteorologist from Havelock. He mentioned possible new changes coming for the Tarheel Emergency Net.. Doug, K4ROK, said

that he was always looking for new Pitt County ARES members. He said to get your ARES application from the BARC web site, fill it out, and get it to him. Doug also mentioned a Monday night training session on how to bring up the linking system.. Doug also reported the need for net control operators for Monday nights.

Mike, KD4MTT, said that ARRL has issued a statement that any time the ARES logo is used that the registered trademark ® must accompany the use of this logo.

VE SESSIONS: Tom Parsons, W4TEP, announced the next VE Session will be held on August 20th at St. Peters School on 5th Street.

OLD BUSINESS -HURRICANE CLASS REPORT: Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, reported that there were about 30 people who attended the recent class. Even though there were not many attending from the club, there were several from the hospital and other local organizations. He said that it was a very good program.

NEW BUSINESS: A meeting of the nominating committee will meet to come up with a slate of club officers for next

(Continued on page 9)

BARC Board Minutes - August 2004

BARC Board Meeting Minutes
08-31-2004

Marks Marine, Hwy #33 Grimesland, NC

The meeting was called to order by Mike Langley, KD4MTT, Club President. He also welcomed everyone, and asked for reports from board members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Taylor Millar, W4WTM mentioned Hurricane Frances. Mike said that this was addressed on the Monday night BARC net. Byron Highland reported sending out e-mails about availability if and when a storm hits.

PUBLICITY: Pat Williams, KG4NSC, reported a upcoming hurricane awareness

meeting.

HEALTH & WELFARE: It was reported that Bernie, WA4MOK, is better. Jeff Hardee is still in the hospital in room 485. Preston, KF4YNB, who was active with SkyWarn passed away it was announced. He was from either Carteret or Craven County area.

OLD BUSINESS: The new Ham Class is scheduled, and new Elmer Sessions are planned.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Langley went over equipment needs for the club. These items include a CW filter 250 hertz, power pole crimpers, headset adapters, storage cases, a tilt-over tower base, and a voice synthesizer. Mike mentioned having orange colored storage

boxes for club radios, including head sets, etc.

Mike reported that repeater 09 is down and being worked on, 35 has only about one watt out, 27 is up, but must be left for a linking machine, 440 is up.

Mike also mentioned that the nominating committee has been busy coming up with a slate of officers for next year.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Taylor Millar, W4WTM
Secretary

BARC Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 8)

year. If interested in being an officer, please let Mike know.

Elmer sessions were mentioned, and a good bit of interest was shown. Bernie said that he will put together something on this.

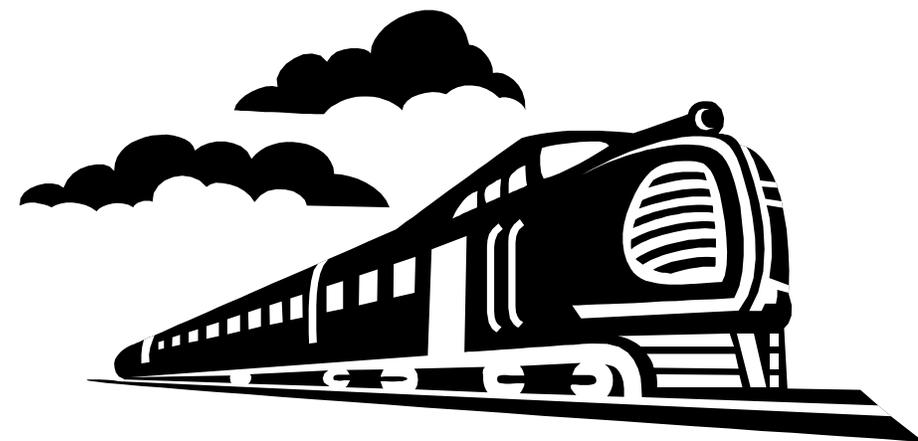
Upcoming new Ham classes will start on October 9th till December 11th, and be held at the Sheppard Library.

It was reported that maintenance was needed out at VOA Site C. Future activities at that site were mentioned. Placing computers for our use and repairing feed lines was mentioned.

PROGRAM: Tonight's program, Satellite Communication was by Dave LeMoine, KV4CN. His power point program was very informative. Dave told us how this type of communication works. He told the entire story of Satellite Communication to most of us who knew very little about this type of Ham Radio. Thanks Dave, this was great !

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting adjourned about 9:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Taylor Millar, W4WTM



BARC Officers wanted for 2005!

It's that time of year again. A nominating committee has been appointed for the upcoming club elections. Several positions will need to be filled including Secretary and Treasurer. Volunteer for a position to help the club grow. Or you might get railroaded by that fast moving train!!!!!!!

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: Old but working TS-520 & FT-101. Sell or trade for middle aged computer stuff. David Gaytko, WD4KPD, 252-946-6393

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

Ham radio for retirees

(Continued from page 5)

onstration table might not result in any new licensees, it did contribute to a better-informed public. "We continued the education process from what people read in the morning paper about the telephone outage," he said. - *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

NC ARES Internet

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

BARC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 14	Regular Meeting	Nov 21	Benson Hamfest
Sep 18-19	VA Beach Hamfest	Nov 20-21	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Sep 25-26	CQ WW RTTY Contest	Nov 27-28	CQ WW CW DX Contest
Sep 28	Board Meeting	Nov 30	Board Meeting
Oct 2	Ham Chatter Deadline	Dec 4	Ham Chatter Deadline
Oct 10	Maysville Hamfest?	Dec 4-5	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Oct 12	Regular Meeting	Dec 11	VE Session @ Library
Oct 15	VE Session	Dec 11-12	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Oct 26	Board Meeting	Dec 14	Christmas & Awards Party
Oct 30-31	CQ WW SSB DX Contest	Dec 17	VE Session
Oct 29	Ham Chatter Deadline	Dec 28	Board Meeting
Nov 6-7	ARRL CW Sweepstakes		
Nov 9	Regular Meeting		

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



September 2004
Next Meeting
September 14

To:



PO Box 8387
 Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter