

# HAM CHATTER



Volume 41 Issue 8

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

August 2007

Editor, Dave Langley, W4YDY

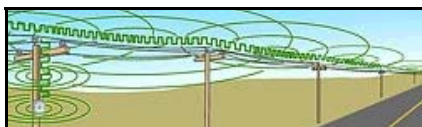
Email: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com)

## FCC Responds to ARRL's BPL Brief

## Next Meeting August 14

On Monday, July 2, the FCC filed its reply brief with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The FCC attempted to rebut the ARRL's challenge to the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules enacted in late 2004 and affirmed by the agency in 2006. According to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, "The FCC's brief does not accurately describe ARRL's arguments concerning harmful interference."

Given what is in essence a 100 percent probability of interference from BPL systems to fixed and mobile HF facilities at significant distances from power lines, Imlay said Section 301 of the Communications Act does not allow unlicensed BPL systems to operate in the HF bands. "Basically, Section 301 says you can not operate a radio frequency emitting device without a



license. The legislative purpose of Section 301 is clearly to avoid interference. FCC's Part 15 rules have assumed that certain very low power devices and systems can operate without predictable interference, thus allowing them to operate without a license, notwithstanding Section 301. But with BPL, the FCC has ignored conclusive record evidence which shows that there will be, and in fact our experience conclusively demonstrates, that BPL causes severe interference to licensed services," Imlay said.

The FCC claims that it has the authority to permit unlicensed BPL under Section 302 of the Act; this section allows the FCC to regulate the interference potential of RF devices. What Section

302 does not do, Imlay said, is to create a loophole in, or modify, or invalidate Section 301.

"It is the ARRL's position," Imlay said, "that the FCC can regulate and authorize BPL with certain safeguards, consistent with the terms of Section 301; however, the FCC simply cannot honestly maintain the position that BPL has an inherently low interference potential. It has a high interference potential, and the rules they have enacted to date are woefully inadequate and insufficient to address it." The ARRL has long maintained that BPL, when not adequately "notched," causes harmful interference to Amateur Radio operations. In its brief, the FCC claims BPL does not cause significant interference and the Courts must defer to the FCC's expertise to decide this issue.

Sumner explained, "The FCC claims that it continues to protect mobile stations from harmful interference, but it does so simply by defining whatever interference a mobile station might encounter from a notched BPL system as not harmful! None of the steps to limit the interference potential of BPL systems that the FCC took in this rulemaking proceeding reduce the likelihood of interference to the amateur service, and to this day the FCC has declined to enforce its rules even when protracted violations and interference have been documented."

The FCC's brief also attempted to justify its presumption that a BPL radiated interfering signal decays at a rate of 40 dB per decade of distance. "A 'decade of distance' is a factor of 10," Imlay ex-

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, August 14 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be about mobile antennas by Robert Young, NC4ME, owner of Tarheel Antennas. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

*The next board meeting will be August 30 at 7:30 PM at 631-B Dickinson Avenue - entrance at back of the building. All members invited.*

plained. "For example, if a victim receiver moves from 3-30 feet from the power lines (10 times farther away), that is one decade of distance. For each decade of distance, the FCC believes that there is a 40 dB signal decay. In the HF bands, however, the evidence in the record shows that the signal decay is closer to 20 dB than 40 dB per decade of distance from the power lines. The FCC's brief claimed that there was conflicting evidence on the subject, but ARRL's view is that the FCC merely avoided consideration of the overwhelming evidence favoring the more conservative decay factor."

Imlay said the ARRL has asked the Court to order the FCC to "rethink the rules governing BPL and for the first time to take into account the evidence on the record concerning harmful interference to Amateur Radio." ARRL's reply brief is due for filing with the Court July 28, 2007. There is no date set yet for oral argument before the three-judge panel in Washington, DC. - via ARRL Letter Online 7/6/07

## President's Corner, Dave Pulver, KG4CZV

It's that time of the year again to start looking ahead to next year and finding volunteers to serve as club officers.

The nominating committee met on Thursday, August 2 to discuss nominations for the 2007 Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club board. The nominating committee this year consisted of Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, Dave Langley, W4YDY, John McCoy K4KBB, and Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK.

If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact one of the committee members. Remember that all nominations must be made by the close of the September club meeting.

On the hurricane front, Dr. Gray has slightly lowered his hurricane forecast for the remainder of 2007. Although it has been slow going so far, we shouldn't let our guard down. The new forecast for the possibility of a major hurricane landfall on the east coast is 43%. This is down from the earlier forecast of 50%, but is still above the historical average of 31%.

The forecast follows the historical pattern of peaking in September. The forecast for September is for 5 named storms, 4 hurricanes, with 2 of the major.

What all of this means is that we must still keep alert and prepared for the

very real possibility of a storm making landfall here in North Carolina. It has been a few years since we have had one and we are overdue. Check your supplies and preparedness plan.

### Dave Pulver, KG4CZV

#### MS Bike Tour – Calling all Hams!

The MS Bike Tour needs you! We're looking for amateur radio operators to help be the eyes and ears of the MS Bike Tour in New Bern on September 8th and 9th. Ham's are a critical part of our communications and help ensure the safety of the more than 1,500 cyclists out on the route. We're looking for 30 operators to help us cover the course and the rest stops. You can register as a volunteer at [www.msbike.org](http://www.msbike.org).

For your hard work you will get a MS Bike Tour t-shirt and the satisfaction of a very meaningful job well done. The MS Bike Tour is the largest fundraiser for the National MS Society and our goal this year is to bring in more than \$1.2 Million toward a world free from MS. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Bruce Arnold at [brucen8uty@gmail.com](mailto:brucen8uty@gmail.com) or call Phoebe Coggins at 1-800-344-4867 if you have any questions.

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **August 17**. 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](mailto: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 \$14.00
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.

**Be sure to bring copies of your Amateur Radio license and / or CSCE if upgrading.**

## NC ARES Internet

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

## N8FF gets married!

It has been reported that Ken Graf, N8FF, a former BARC member, was married in Blountville, TN on August 5, 2007. Congratulations.

## In This Issue

<i>FCC responds to ARRL BPL Brief</i>	1
<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>MS Bike Tour request for operators</i>	2
<i>Next VE session</i>	2
<i>Yakkey-Dee-Yak from Dave</i>	3
<i>ARRL responds to FCC over BPL</i>	3
<i>Ham Ads</i>	4
<i>ARRL Objects to Ambient's BPL</i>	5
<i>April Meeting minutes</i>	6
<i>April Board meeting minutes</i>	6
<i>ARRL Board of Directors meet</i>	7
<i>Nets</i>	7
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	8

Look at the *Ham Chatter* title on page 1. That's BPL tears!

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

**Gail**, wife of Mac Manning, KD4AFL  
**K4SKI**, Charlie Wells  
**KC3X**, Hollis Thigpen,  
**WA4MOK**, Bernie Nobles  
**K4MHM**, Murray Merner's, **Mother**  
 Please inform Dan Drake, W4ISO, w4iso@arrl.net of any changes.



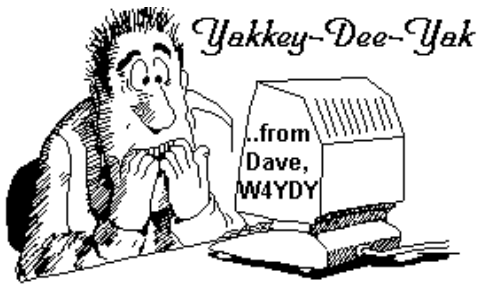
**Happy Birthday**

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

- 3 KI4URY Frank Silverthorne
- 14 KG4PZQ Scott LeMoine
- 17 W4WTM Taylor Miller
- 19 KS4YF Paul Fletcher
- 20 KV4CN Dave LeMoine
- 25 KE4NQP Tom McLaughlin
- 30 KE4LQQ Chester Robins

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 □ NON COPYRIGHT MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION □ PRESIDENT - DAVE PULVER, KG4CZV, 353-7161 □ FIRST V. PRESIDENT - DAN DRAKE, W4ISO, 717-2605 □ SECOND V. PRESIDENT - TAYLOR MILLAR, W4WTM, 756-2192 □ SECRETARY - MURRAY MERNER, K4MHM, 757-3429 □ TREASURER - RICHARD COX, K4CRD, 524-4089 □ BOARD MEMBER - TERRY MONDAY, K4ZYD, 756-6019 □ BOARD MEMBER - JOEL MUHALUK, KI4LMY, 756-6498 □ PUBLIC RELATIONS - PAT WILLIAMS, KG4NSC, 752-9281 □ W4AMC/W1VOA/W4UHS TRUSTEE & VE LAISION, TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 □ HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY, 321-2525 □ EMAIL ADDRESSES ON BARC WEB SITE □ OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BARC. □ CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE.



Pitt County's Amateur Radio operators worst fears were realized when they picked up the morning newspaper on July 19, 2007 and read the article that Greenville Utilities Commission is considering implementing BPL in 75 % of the county. They may be listening to flawed technology from those that can make a lot of money, no matter what the

results.

There are some systems that have been notched to reduce interference to Amateur Radio and other services. Also, there are new systems being developed for delivering broadband Internet that are more efficient. The following is from Wikipedia.org.

"Much higher speed transmissions using microwave frequencies transmitted via a newly discovered surface wave propagation mechanism called E-Line have been demonstrated using only a single power line conductor. These systems have shown the potential for symmetric and full duplex communication well in excess of 1 Gbit/s in each direction. Multiple WiFi channels with simultaneous analog television in the 2.4 and

5.3 GHz unlicensed bands have been demonstrated operating over a single medium voltage line. Furthermore, because it can operate anywhere in the 100 MHz - 10 GHz region, this technology can completely avoid the interference issues associated with utilizing shared spectrum while offering the greater flexibility for modulation and protocols found for any other type of microwave system."

The complete article is at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power\\_line\\_communication](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_line_communication).

Hopefully the Greenville Utilities Commission will listen to those that have had experience with the aspects of interference caused by some broadband over power line systems and make the right choice. - W4YDY

## FCC Commissioner Lauds BPL in House Testimony; ARRL Responds

On July 24, FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein testified at a House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing that "three of the many urgent priorities we face" include the need for "a national broadband strategy to ensure the ubiquitous deployment of affordable, high speed broadband infrastructure to this country." FCC Chairman Kevin Martin and Commissioners Tate, McDowell and Copps testified as well at the "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission" hearing.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, responded via fax on July 25 to Commissioner Adelstein's remarks. "I cheered silently when I came to your reference to the 'current anemic definition of high-speed' that includes service that is too slow to meet citizens' reasonable expectations," he wrote. "I was even more impressed with your statement in the next paragraph, 'We must take a hard look at our successes and failures.'"

Sumner, however, expressed "great disappointment" over Adelstein's reference to "broadband over power line" (BPL) as "a technology deserving of 'increasing incentives for investment.' None of your colleagues' testimonies contain a similar reference," he pointed out.

Sumner reiterated the ARRL's position with regard to BPL technology and "its propensity to interfere with radio communication, a flaw that is not shared

by other broadband delivery platforms. As long as interference is avoided," Sumner said, "it is of no concern to us whether private investment is devoted to BPL. However, we must object to your identification of BPL as a technology that is particularly deserving of favorable public policy treatment."

Calling the FCC's "inexplicable favoritism of BPL in the face of contrary evidence" one of the Commission's "failures," Sumner noted that according to the Commission's own latest figures, "of 64,600,000 'high-speed' lines, only about 5000 are BPL. This is a share of 0.008 percent, a share that actually declined in the six-month period between reports--and if an 'anemic' definition were not used, none of the 5000 or so BPL lines would qualify."

ARRL's concern, Sumner said, at the "prospect of an even greater encouragement of BPL, as your testimony suggests, is that--even at the very low level of deployment that exists to date--the FCC's enforcement efforts have proved to be woefully inadequate to address ongoing cases of harmful interference from BPL systems."

Sumner went on to note "one example of documented interference (Enforcement Bureau File No. EB-06-SE-083) has been caused by the Ambient Corporation's Briarcliff Manor, New York installation for more than three years without being corrected and with-

out penalty to the system operator...If the Commission is unable to protect its licensees from harmful interference from BPL now, it is difficult to imagine how it will be able to do so should BPL be more widely deployed in the future."

Sumner also attached a letter from William E. Burton, Chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Burton's letter described the interference BPL is causing to local Amateur Radio operators in the village of Briarcliff Manor. He stressed that the FCC "should require that...Ambient cooperate with the ARRL and its BPL technical experts forthwith...This would include both the current experimental system, as well as any future or 'second generation' technology."

Burton's letter went on to say that "the best way for the FCC to promote a new technology while protecting public safety...[is to] make clear that complaints concerning harmful interference are taken seriously."

Sumner concluded his comments: "We respectfully submit that BPL has not earned a place in the much-needed national broadband strategy to benefit all Americans. Resources are better devoted elsewhere, to more promising technologies that do not pose a threat to the Commission's radio service licensees."

- via ARRL Letter Online 7/27/07


# 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: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com) (no spaces)

**For Sale:** Jim Deutremont has a 60 foot (in the air) tower for sale. He's not a ham, but his dad was. The tower was used for an FM antenna to get Raleigh radio stations. If interested, call Jim at 752-1373.

**Wanted:** Top section of Rohn 25G. Richard Cox, **K4CRD**, Phone: 524-4089 - Email: [k4crd@earthlink.net](mailto:k4crd@earthlink.net)

**FREE:** 20 Meter full size 3 element beam with 24 foot boom. Remove it from the tower and it's yours. Charlie Wells, **K4SKI**. Ph: 355-5188

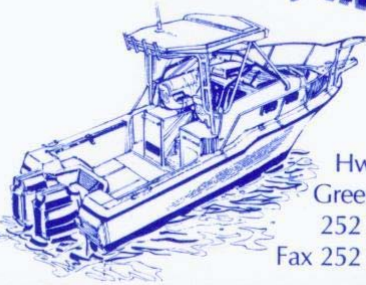


**HENRY J. PESZKO**  
AMSOIL DIRECT JOBBER

**WB4DWC**

[www.amsoil.com](http://www.amsoil.com) Synthetic Lubricants  
201 W. Berkshire Rd.  
Greenville, NC 27858  
252-756-4221  
E-mail: [hpeszko@aol.com](mailto:hpeszko@aol.com)  
Website: [www.lubedealer.com/hpeszko](http://www.lubedealer.com/hpeszko)

**MARK'S MARINE, INC.**



Mark Langley  
Mike Langley  
**KD4MTT**

Hwy. 33 East  
Greenville, NC  
252 758-3309  
Fax 252 758-1396

**H&R BLOCK** tax, mortgage and financial services

**Patrick Williams, KG4NSC**  
Office Coordinator  
Senior Tax Advisor 5

Stanton Square 2418 Stantonsburg Rd  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Tel 252 329 1099 Fax 252 695 0392

District Office Year Round Service  
6388 Arlington Greenville, NC 27858  
Tel 252 756 6883 Fax 252 756 2141 [hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com)

**K4KBB**

**J & P Machine Works, Inc.**



4291 US 264 East  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-758-1719 Fax 758-9031

Manufacturer of Swiss Screw Machine Products.  
Pins, Shafts, Rods and Spacers.

*Monday & Monday, CPA's, PA*  
Certified Public Accountants

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA  
**K4ZYD**

105-D East Victoria Ct. Phone (252) 321-6007  
Greenville, NC 27858 Fax (252) 321-2991

**Batteries for Home & Business...**  
*from laptop batteries to forklift batteries, we either have the battery you need in stock or we'll get it!*

>> **Business Class** and **Commercial Grade** accounts available for businesses. Get special pricing on product by opening a commercial account.

>> On site **Tech Center** that can custom build your rechargeable battery packs

**BatteriesPlus.**   
America's Battery Experts®

**GREENVILLE**  
740 SE Greenville Blvd Ste 500A  
(Next to McAlister's)

Phone **252.353.8143**  
Fax **252.353.8145**

**Store Hours**  
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 - 7:00  
Sat. 9:00 - 5:00  
Sun. closed

[www.batteriesplus.com](http://www.batteriesplus.com)

## ARRL Files Objection to Ambient's BPL Experimental Authorization Renewal Request

On July 25, the ARRL filed an Informal Objection to Ambient Corporation's request for a renewal of their nationwide experimental authorization that allows them to operate broadband over power line (BPL) operations anywhere in the country they choose. Ambient has been operating its BPL equipment under experimental authorizations for more than five years, an unusual amount of time for an experimental authorization. An Informal Objection is the procedure dictated by the FCC's Part 5 rules protesting the renewal of an experimental authorization. Currently, Ambient operates a BPL system in Briarcliff Manor in Westchester County, New York. Other installations have apparently been shut down by Ambient.

Ambient has been using experimental authorization WD2XEQ, issued in 2005, and its predecessor WB9XQT, issued on June 24, 2002. WB9XQT covered the BPL operation in Briarcliff Manor. It was replaced by WD2XEQ on July 28, 2003, a two-year authorization that was twice extended, most recently through August 1, 2007.

The ARRL states in its Objection that "since the issuance of the first experimental authorization, rules have been enacted for the regular Part 15 operation of BPL systems and there is nothing that has been filed by Ambient which could justify the continuation of experimental operation of this system rather than operation pursuant to the Commission's rules governing virtually all other BPL systems."

The ARRL filed complaints against Ambient and its BPL operation in Briarcliff Manor on October 12, 2004; December 17, 2004; January 7, 2005; March 17, 2005; January 6, 2006; March 29, 2006 and May 31, 2007. The Objection said that each complaint reported "ongoing, harmful interference caused by the unlawful operation of Ambient's BPL project at Briarcliff Manor in violation of the terms of the experimental authorization." These complaints, supported both by documentation by amateurs as well as tests made by ARRL staff, concluded that "this facility was, and now still is, causing harmful interference to Amateur Ra-

dio stations. As such, it is in violation of the terms of the experimental authorization."

The terms of Ambient's experimental authorization require that if "any interference" results from its operation, the holder of the authorization will be subject to immediate shutdown. The ARRL stipulates that harmful interference has repeatedly occurred, and such interference has even been witnessed and verified by a member of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau staff, yet the FCC has failed to take any action against Ambient in response to any of these complaints. The ARRL continued: "[i]t would be unconscionable for the Commission to further renew this experimental authorization in the face of these unresolved complaints of interference."

The ARRL does praise the FCC in the Objection, however, for "finally, after years of inaction, commencing an enforcement proceeding" against Ambient's operation in New York (Enforcement Bureau file number EB-06-SE-083). This proceeding is still under investigation, "making renewal of this experimental authorization completely inappropriate."

The Objection further states that the FCC's rules provide that "an experimental authorization will not be granted for a period longer than that which is required for completion of the experimental project." There is nothing offered in Ambient's pending renewal application that would justify the extension of the experimental authorization beyond the five years that it has been authorized to operate. Ambient's extension application offers "no justification whatsoever" for a sixth or seventh year of experimental BPL operation.

By mandating that Ambient operate in accordance with the with the "long-ago-enacted BPL rules rather than allowing it to hide behind an experimental authorization," Ambient would at least be subject to the FCC's regulatory plan for BPL, "however inadequate that plan is in terms of interference avoidance," the ARRL said in its Objection. If forced to comply with the Part 15 rules, as other BPL systems must do, "perhaps at least

some of the abundance of unresolved and unaddressed interference problems caused by Ambient would be reduced."

ARRL's Objection included a copy of a July 13, 2007 letter from the Chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, William E. Burton. In the letter, Burton identifies a number of ongoing concerns related to the interference potential of the Briarcliff Manor BPL system. He goes on to say he is concerned...to have recently learned that Ambient may be planning to request a renewal of its experimental program without making vitally important improvements in its technology...[and] there is no assurance that Ambient may not 'turn up the power' and again exceed emissions levels causing interference again after a license renewal."

Burton noted that at a committee meeting held March 5, 2007, "the representative from [Ambient BPL system sponsor] Consolidated Edison agreed to work with the ARRL to resolve the communications interference problems. That cooperation has yet to take place."

Burton's letter continued: "I am thus requesting that the FCC not renew the experimental Briarcliff Manor BPL license until my concerns about harmful interference are adequately addressed... The Commission should require that Consolidated Edison and Ambient cooperate with the ARRL and its BPL technical experts forthwith...By not renewing the Ambient experimental license until all these concerns are addressed, the FCC can make it clear that complaints concerning harmful interference are taken seriously."

The ARRL summed up the Objection by "respectfully requesting that the Commission deny or dismiss" Ambient's pending application for renewal or extension of its experimental authorization for Briarcliff Manor "and in other locations in the United States where it may be operating BPL systems."

The ARRL's Informal Objection can be read in its entirety on the ARRL Web site <[http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/Ambient\\_Informal\\_Objection2007jul\\_y25.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/Ambient_Informal_Objection2007jul_y25.pdf)> - via ARRL Letter Online 8/3/07

## BARC Meeting Minutes - July 2007

### Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting Minutes VFW Hall, July 10, 2007

**Call to Order:** President Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, called the meeting to order at 1930 hours.

There were 27 members present and visitor Mark Merner and are listed in the roll book.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the BARC membership meeting on June 12, 2007 were accepted as published in the July 2007 Ham Chatter.

**Secretary's Report:** A thank you card was received from Rachel Edwards for our memorial donation for Jack.

**Treasure's Report:** Richard Cox, K4CRD, gave the report. Further information is available to members upon request.

**Health and Welfare:** Mike, KD4MTT, noted that Hollis Thigpen, K63X, has been diagnosed with a serious illness.

**Ham Chatter:** Dave, W4YDY, reported

a new ad from Henry Pesco, WD4DWC for Amsoil.

**Publicity:** Pat, KG4NSC, had no report.  
**Volunteer Examiners:** Tom, W4TEP, announce that the next VE session will be 8/17 at 1830 hours at St Peters School.

**Equipment:** Mike, WD4MTT had no report.

**State ARES:** Bernie, KA4MOK not present to give report.

**Pitt County ARES:** Doug, K4ROK, thanked the Field Day participants. He announced had had acquired 3 or 4 sets of earphones for ARES use. There will be a staff meeting next week.

**Old Business:** No old business was discussed.

**Announcements:** No announcements

**New Business:** Dave, KG4CZV, noted that he had been contacted by a Pitt County Fair official to see if we wanted to do a display or an active station this year (September). We had a static display last year. No decision was made Dave will get more info.

Dave also reported a grant proposal that had been submitted to Pitt County for the needs of ARES and a Memo of Understanding had been written as the use and process of the expenditures of the funds if the grant was awarded to BARC. The grant can range for \$500 to \$7,500 – the requested amount was for \$7,500 for purchase of equipment and upgrade of equipment.

**50/50 Drawing Winner:** John Prokop, N8MPX

**Program:** Murray Merner and Terry Monday, K4ZYD, conducted a critique on Field Day.

Dave, W4YDY presented an 8 minute video on the Field Day.

Mike, WD4MTT, did a disaster preparation presentation

**Adjourn:** Dave Pulver adjourned the meeting at 2030 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Murray Merner, K4MHM*

## BARC Board Minutes - July 2007

### Brightleaf Amateur Radio club Board Meeting Minutes July 31, 2007

**Call to Order:** at 19:45 by President Dave Pulver, KG4CZV.

**Others in Attendance:** Richard Cox, K4CRD; Dave Langley, W4YDY; John McCoy, K4KBB; Pat Williams, KG4NSC; Murray Merner, K4MHM;

**Treasurer Report:** by Richard Cox: Report was made.

**Health and Welfare:** It was announced that Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, was diagnosed with a serious illness and is scheduled for an operation Aug. 10.

**Programs:**

- August - Tarheel Antennas – Robert Young
- Possible: September: ARES General Discussion / Training; Board Election Nominations
- Possible: October (Annual Meeting): PBL Raleigh, NC hams come to Greenville?

- November: Elections

**Ham Chatter Report:** No report

**Equipment Report:** No equipment issues.

**Secretary's Report:** No Report.

**Public Information Report:** No Report

**Old Business:**

There has been no word on the grant application submitted to Pitt County.

Exhibit at the Pitt County Fair: Dave Pulver sent Bob Sheck an e-mail for details. Pat Williams will take over the follow up.

MS Bicycle Race in New Bern: To be Sep. 8 and 9. They are short 20 operators of the 30 needed.

John McCoy is to review how another ARC handles their finances.

**New Business:**

The Nominations Committee is to be named by Dave Pulver.

BPL: Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, is

looking into getting help with the BPL issue. The Greenville Utilities Board meets on third Tuesday of the month. There are BPL videos available on the Internet.

**Announcements:**

Board minutes will be approved at the Board meeting rather than at the Membership meeting – both will still be published in the Ham Chatter

John McCoy: Ken Graff, N8FF is to be married August. 4, in Blountville, TN

John McCoy: We need a way to keep our Ham Chatter advertisers as advertisers. A short blurb (one sentence ?) in the Ham Chatter every so often about the advertiser could be considered.

Adjourned at 20:45

Respectfully submitted by

*Murray Merner, K4MHM*

## ARRL Board of Directors Acts on Background Checks, Digital Issues at July Board Meeting

The ARRL Board of Directors took action on two pressing matters -- background checks and emerging digital technologies -- at its second meeting of 2007, held July 20-21 in Windsor, Connecticut.

**Background Checks** - A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to function. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various served agencies.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks -- performed by law enforcement agencies -- are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

**Digital Technologies** - Digital communication was another topic up for discussion at the Board meeting. One question was the extent to which D-STAR systems fall within the FCC definition of "repeater." Some repeater coordinators do not consider D-STAR to be a repeater.

The Board also thanked existing VHF/UHF frequency coordination groups for their efforts "to promote orderly use of amateur frequencies." The Board requested that such groups "extend their efforts to coordinate digital systems such as D-STAR" and consider the bandwidths actu-

ally required for successful operation.

In a related action, the Board thanked those involved in digital networks that serve ARES and specifically the Winlink 2000 development team for creating a system facilitating Amateur Radio's ability to serve society's emergency communication needs. The League affirmed its desire to work with developers of digital systems including Winlink 2000 to improve efficiency, address control issues and enhance compatibility with other users of the Amateur Radio bands.

**Legislative Matters** - John Chwat and Janet Worthington, KB3PDS, of Chwat & Company, ARRL's Washington, DC legislative consultant, presented the Legislative Relations report. In this session of Congress, the firm hired Worthington, who with more than three years' experience on Capitol Hill, actively advocates on behalf of the League. Chwat & Company has continuously monitored and reported on congressional legislation and activities to the ARRL, and networks ARRL legislative priorities with House and Senate members and staff. They have also conducted targeted lobbying on the key issues of Broadband over Power Lines and antenna placement, assisted in the grassroots networking of ARRL Officers, Directors and members to contact their elected officials, as well as constant monitoring the legislative activities in all 50 states. Chwat and Worthington also work closely with General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on relevant legislative matters.

The report also discussed the status of two bills pending in the US Congress, HR 462 and S1629.

In January, Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-Arkansas), introduced HR 462, the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." It calls on the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL technology and report its findings back to Congress. It has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

In June, Senator Mark Pryor (D-Arkansas) introduced S1629, "The Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." This bill is currently pending in the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. - *via ARRL Letter Online 8/3/07*

## 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, W4YDY** or  
email [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com)

Help support *Ham Chatter* and the club.

**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 2000 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 Ahsokie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25
- ◆ 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

- ◆ 3.571 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

## Pitt County Repeater Association

<http://www.pcr.a.us/>

# BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 14	Regular Meeting	Nov 3/4	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Aug 17	BARC VE Session	Nov 13	Regular Meeting - Elections
Aug 28	Board Meeting	Nov 17/18	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
<b>Aug 30</b>	Ham Chatter Deadline	Nov 18 ?	Benson Hamfest
Aug 31/Sep 1/2	Shelby Hamfest <b>NOW 3 DAYS!</b>	Nov 24/25	CQ WW CW DX Contest
Sep 11	Regular Meeting	Nov 27	Board Meeting
Sep 25	Board Meeting	<b>Nov 29</b>	Ham Chatter Deadline
<b>Sep 27</b>	Ham Chatter Deadline	Dec 1/2	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Sep 29/30	CQ WW RTTY Contest	Dec 8/9	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Oct 9	Regular Meeting	Dec 11	Christmas Party
Oct 12	BARC VE Session	Dec 14	BARC VE Session
Oct 14	Maysville Hamfest	Dec 18	Board Meeting
Oct 27/28	CQ WW SSB DX Contest	Dec 27	Ham Chatter Deadline
Oct 30	Board Meeting		Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
<b>Nov 1</b>	Ham Chatter Deadline		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 1 V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S**



**August 2007**  
**Next Meeting**  
**August 14**

To:



**Ham Chatter**  
 Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club  
 PO Box 8387  
 Greenville, NC 27835