



Ham Chatter



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Meet The Member Ken Graf, N8FF



Ken, N8FF at 1998 Field Day

Born in Pigeon, MI and ending up in Lapeer, MI to go to massage school, Ken came to Greenville in Dec 7, 1997. He came here with his then girlfriend Catherine so she could be nearer her family. The thought of a warmer climate and the hope for steady work were added incentives.



Buster the Wonder Dog keeping cool at Field Day!

His mom and four sisters are still in MI. He has a distant cousin, Tim Eklin, KW8JJ who is a ham.

Ken has been sight impaired from birth. He can see only light (not images). While at first he thought this might hinder his CW work since he couldn't write what was being sent, it actually forced him to focus on the sound and memory. His CW copy speed is

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Next Meeting

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its annual Christmas Party at 6:30 PM at St. Peter's School on 5th Street. All members and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting is set for December 28 at 7:00 PM.

Four New BARC Members

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club has four new members. They are Gladys, KR4KE, and Randy, AC4ZF, Tallant from Grifton, Larry C. Dendy, KG4BTX, from Ayden and Cliff Kendall, N3LEX, from Greenville. They have all indicated they plan to be very active in the club. Larry, KG4BTX, completed the BARC Amateur Radio class last January.

Officers for 2000

BARC officers for the 2000 term were elected at the November club meeting. They were Murray Merner, K4MHM, President; Mike Langley, KD4MTT, First Vice President; Jim Smith, KF4VHH, Second Vice President; Lily Fainter, KV4AW, Secretary; Bob Fainter, KE4UGC, Treasurer; and Ken Graf, N8FF, trustee. Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, has another year on his term as trustee. Congratulations to all.

Annual Dues in January

Members of BARC are reminded that January is the time for the annual dues. The club voted an increase in February to start in January 2000. The new due schedule is as follows:

- Regular member \$20.00
- 17 years and younger (new hams) \$5.00
- 18 years and older (new hams) \$10.00
- Associate members \$5.00
- Family members \$2.00

Honorary members will pay the same, nothing! Members not paid up by the end of March will be dropped from the rolls and the Ham Chatter newsletter.

BARC Christmas Party One Week Earlier!

The annual BARC Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 7 this year, one week before the usual time. It will be covered dish with the club furnishing the beverages. It will be held at St. Peter's School in the library.



President's Corner - Murray,

It's Thanksgiving time, but I'm also writing this for the last issue of Ham Chatter for this year so there is a mixture of thoughts and emotions.

Many of our fellow North Carolinians have had a hard time the last couple of months so it's hard to express thanks in light of all they are going through. But, we do have a lot of things to be thankful for. The world continues to be in turmoil - people intolerant of others just because they're different - and while the United States has its own problems, we are still looked upon as being the beacon of freedom. We can speak, write, vote with confidence that the government is not going to arbitrarily throw us in jail. We live in a country of opportunity - education and hard work can get you a long way. Our limitations are the ones we impose on ourselves. This country, this freedom, this opportunity is very much like Amateur Radio. Our hobby is multidimensional (CW, SSB, RTTY, HF/VHF/UHF) and we tolerate each fairly well. We are free to express our opinion on the air within the bounds of civility and our level of licensure is our own personal choice. If you're a ham, that's a lot to be thankful for.

At our last meeting we participated in our own bit of democracy when we were able to vote for next year's leadership of BARC. I appreciate the opportunity to serve a second term as President. Next year will bring some changes - Mike, KD4MTT, will be First Vice President and Ken, N8FF, will join the Board as an additional Trustee. Welcome - we appreciate you coming forward and being apart of taking BARC into the year 2000.

2000 will bring challenges, failure and success...

Rick Niswander, K7GM, provided the program on contesting - it doesn't sound quite as imposing as I imagined - thanks Rick.

I was reading an old QST (Sep, 1987 to be exact) and came across this item in the "50 Years Ago" section. In 1937 the ARRL did a poll to find the average age of the ham was 27 with two modal peaks at 17-20 and 28-33. The editor postulates that, "... youthful enthusiasm takes a back seat in the early 20's to marriage and family and then a few years later the prodigal returns to brass pounding." Probably not too different from the

way things are today. Looks like we have to get them early in order to get them back later.

'Tis the end of the year. BARC is doing pretty good - our membership has stayed steady, attendance at the meetings is pretty good, we've continued our level of involvement and we were a life-saver during the hurricane season. The leadership and the members have pulled together to make this an enjoyable and progressive year. It has taken many hours of effort on the part of many people - some of those people have been out front and some have been behind the scenes, but make no mistake without that effort this club would be no where near what it is today it that effort hadn't been made. Thanks to you all for sharing the load.

The current Board members have tried to make this a good club to be a member of. Gary, KU4NQ, First Vice President; Jim, KF4VHH, Second Vice President; Bob, KE4UGC, Treasure; Lily, KV4AN, Secretary; and Wayne, KD4JPQ, Trustee have are to be commended. Dave, W4YDY, has done a yeoman's job with the newsletter and web

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Happy Birthday

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

2	W2YBN	John Mentha
2	W4YVY	Carlton Moseley
2	W4ZRA	Rick LaMonica
8	WB4SLF	Joe Melton
8	WD4JPQ	Wayne Ross
11	KG4CCX	Tod LeMoine
13	KC4RBE	June Highland
16	N8FF	Ken Graf
17	KF4MHV	Marlin Hardee
19	KB4FWL	Bob Connelly

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. *(I don't have all the birthdays in my database) - W4YDY*

Well Wishes

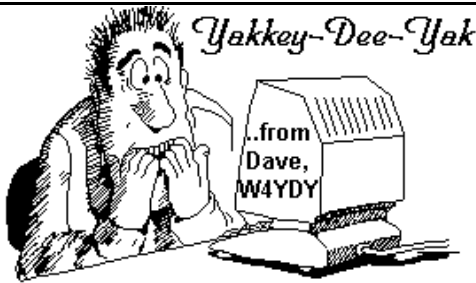
To Tom Parsons, W4TEP. Tom had a heart attack on November 16 and had a close call. He was fixed up and back home from the hospital on November 18. We all look forward to seeing Tom at the Christmas party. He said he is looking forward to it.

BARC Members Receive New Callsigns

David LeMoine, KE4SQI, upgraded to Advanced Class and was issued a new callsign, KV4CN, on October 30. Byron Highland recently received new callsign K4BMH to replace KA4KGZ.

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We hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party on December 7. Everyone always has a good time with the fellowship and good food. There are usually some door prizes and the annual awards will be presented. It's always a fun time.

I got in on the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest on the weekend of November 21. I operated for about 7 hours of the contest and worked 200 stations in 65 sections. I noticed that there were a lot of Extra Class callsigns. A quick count showed about fifty percent were Extra Class.

If you remember back a few months ago, I came in tenth in the NC QSL Party contest. Did I mention there were ten logs submitted! I did get a free tee shirt. The CQ 160 meter contest was the same weekend and the results are in the December CQ Magazine. I put up a makeshift antenna and came in eleventh. Did I mention there were eleven logs submitted! The November issue of QST has the results of the 1999 ARRL International DX Phone Contest. I came in sixth in the category I was in. Did I mention there were nine logs submitted!

I had a good time in all the contests. So far I have been able to work

over 30 new countries this year. I decided that it was time to get the WAC, WAS and DXCC awards, so I worked on getting the QSL cards. I now have the WAC and WAS and have 108 countries confirmed for the DXCC with 177 countries worked. I plan to apply for the DXCC the first of the year.

It's a great time for the new Amateur Radio operators getting on the air now. The sunspot curve will be at it's peak next year so there should be 2 or 3 more years of excellent conditions for DXCC. If one wants to work a lot of countries fast, just get in a couple of DX contests next year and it will surprise you. I worked 82 countries in just a few hours one weekend making 300 contacts in one contest.

The ARRL will have a new award next year, the DXCC 2000 Millennium Award. To receive this award, you must work 100 countries during the year 2000. Just get in a couple of contests and the award should be easy to

reach. Check out the December 1999 QST or go to the ARRL web site for the rules.

I mentioned last month that Ed Petrie, KB4IPD, assisted me at one of the shelters. It was someone else and I can't remember who it was, but thanks anyway. Somebody told me that the mind was the second thing to go, but I can't remember who told me or what the first thing was!

Merry Christmas everyone. - W4YDY



Joe Melton, WB4SLF, Donates Radio to BARC

A practically brand-new radio, a Yaesu FT-2500M 2 meter FM mobile rig was donated to BARC by Joe Melton, WB4SLF. It receives on 140-174 MHz and transmits on 144-148 MHz. Power output is 50 / 25 / 5 watts. It has CTCSS

encode, 31 memory channels and a DTFM mike. There will be a silent auction for the radio at the Christmas party on December 7.

Thanks to Joe for this great donation.

President's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

site - we all benefit from what Dave has done. Committee chairs and members, and other members who just showed up to lend a hand made our projects successful. Thanks.

We set out with some goals for this year and have met most of them and while I won't over them in detail, there still is the need for goals of any organization to keep it energized. I hope that we will be able to determine some aspirations for next year to keep our club alive. 2000 will bring challenges, failure and success I hope we will arrive at this time next year being better for them.

May you and yours have a safe and happy holiday season. See you at the Christmas Party Dec 7.

Ham radio, pass it on.

73,

Murray, K4MHM

(Reminder: Dues change for 2000: Regular Member \$20.00; New Ham (18 and younger) \$5.00; New Ham (19 and older) \$10.00; Associate Members \$5.00; and Family Members \$2.00. Think about paying those early in the new year.)

Novice / Technician Class

We've been able to have three more classes with Dave, W4YDY, presenting on RF Safety; Bernie, WA4MOK, presenting on antennas, and John, K4KBB on Practical Circuits (John had lost his lecture materials to the flood). Instruction continues to be first rate. There are two classes to go with David, KV4CN (himself a recent upgrade to Advanced) and Patrick, KD4NNA, on Dec 2 and Bob, KE4UGC, (he was actually the first presenter) on Dec 9. There will be a VE testing session after the class on Dec 9 which is open to all. (The regular VE session will still be Dec 17.) - K4MHM

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Meet The Member, Ken Graf, N8FF

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around 35 wpm. His limited sight has caused him not to be able to climb towers or read schematics, but he is able to do a lot with AR. Ken's constant companion is six year old Buster "The Wonder Dog" who has the honorary call sign W00F. Buster is Ken's third guide dog and he has had him for a little over five years.

A neighbor, Harold Britt, WB8IJY, interested Ken in AR when he would let him talk on the radio. He tried CB in 1976, but got his AR license Mar 7, 1977 as WD8JQL which he held to 1982. Other calls have included KD8BI and NA8G which he got in 1983 with his Extra Class license. He got the N8FF when the FCC opened the gate for Extras to get a vanity call.

His current equipment includes a Kenwood 255A and Radio Shack HTX 202 hand held and he uses the club's Yaesu FT 840 for HF. His antenna is an inspired creation of Bernie, WA4MOK. It is a mast connected to a utility box and is capable of handling four resonators. While not currently set up, before his recent move, Ken was able to get all over the world with it.

Past equipment included his first transceiver, a Heath Kit HW 16 with 75 watts on CW only on 15, 40 and 80 meters. He has also had a Heath Kit HW 101, a Kenwood TS 120, an SB 220 amplifier which could take him to the legal limit and a Yaesu 2 meter rig.

His past interests in AR have been National Traffic System, DXCC, and FISTS which he has gotten into recently. Ken nowadays prefers CW and does some phone and would like to get more active on HF and get some new DX countries. Ken's BARC activists include being the CW instructor for the new ham class (he recruited a student for the current class), Field Day, the International Festival, JOTA, ARES (he was a great help with hurricane Bonnie last year and with Floyd this year and is net control on the third Mon) and SET. His activities in BARC are to step up since he was elected as a Trustee this last Nov.

Among his claims to fame was his QSO with Roy Neal, K6DUE, an NBC news reporter and meeting Dick

Van Dyke when they were flying in the same plane.

He attended Saginaw Valley State College and graduated in 1984 with a bachelors degree in history and political science. A few years after that, Ken went to Little Rock, AR to be in an IRS training program for the sight impaired and returned to MI before coming to Greenville.

Ken is a trained masseuse. He does private work as well as working with the employee wellness program at the hospital. He spends much of his off hours with Juanita, KE4JWK. He is active in the Lions Club and was involved in the Toastmasters Club in MI.

There's an old saying, "Look before you leap" but Ken always jumps in there with both feet. As far as I know, he has never let his near blindness hold him back from getting involved in BARC activities. Ken is good for ham radio and ham radio is good for Ken. That's a good deal. Ken, thanks for being such an asset to BARC. - *K4MHM*

K4ZDH Will Attend RARSfest in April

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, is scheduled to present a Forum and speak at the Raleigh Hamfest on April 9, 2000. He has been drawing standing room crowds wherever he speaks. - *W4YDY*

Special VE Session December 9

A special VE session will be held on December 9 for the new ham class. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street. Exams will start after the class. - *KQ2V*

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 \$6.45

BARC October VE Session

The BARC VE session held on October 15 had two upgrades and one new licensee. BARC member, David LeMoine, KE4SQI, upgraded to Advanced Class and received his new call sign, KV4CN. Kevin Daniels, KG4EJT, Elizabeth City, NC, upgraded to General Class. Steven G. Spence, Jr. from Ayden qualified for the Technician license and he received his first call sign KG4FCE issued October 26, 1999.

Brother Simon Jaworski, KQ2V, headed the VE session and he was assisted by Bob Connelly, KB4FWL, and Dave Langley, W4YDY. The next BARC VE session is set for December 17.

BARC VE Sessions for 2000

The BARC VE session dates for 2000 will be as follows:

- * **February 18**
- * **April 14**
- * **June 16**
- * **August 18**
- * **October 20**
- * **December 15**

The FCC has approved an increase in the test fee. Starting January 1, it will be \$6.65. For more information, contact Brother Simon, KQ2V.

Next VE Session December 17

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on December 17. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. - *KQ2V*

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 \$6.45

"New" QST to Debut January 2000

The January 2000 issue of QST magazine, which should reach most members by mid December, will contain substantial style and content QST Jan 2000 Cover changes. The editorial revamp and redesign was based on the results of research conducted during the first half of 1999 by the QST editorial team.

The page design of QST was altered to improve readability, and to provide a more modern, attractive appearance. Three new columns will debut as well:

* "QRP Power"--a monthly column by Rich Arland, K7SZ--will track developments in low-power hamming, one of the fastest-growing areas of Amateur Radio.

* "Old Radio" by John Dilks, K2TQN, will focus each month on vintage radio collecting and restoration.

* "Radios to Go" by Roger Burch, WF4N, will be a bimonthly column highlighting mobile, maritime, aeronautical mobile and portable operating.

The highly successful "New Ham Companion" section of the magazine will have a new name and revised content. Beginning with the January issue it will become "QST Workbench." The new section will still contain long-time favorites such as "The Doctor is IN" and "Test Your Knowledge", and will incorporate "Hints and Kinks" as well. The content will still focus largely on popular "how-to" articles, but there will be more single-weekend or single-evening projects.

There will also be a new page titled "The Help Desk" that will offer reference information such as schematic symbols, band plans and so on.

Finally, Workbench will feature software and hardware accessory reviews under the title "Short Takes." According to QST Managing Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, the alterations were made in response to the changing needs and lifestyles of the ARRL members.

"Amateur Radio is undergoing a significant transformation, and license restructuring will only accelerate the process. The magazine must meet the

Vast Majority of Hams Not ULS-Ready

Even though registration has been available for approximately two years now, most Amateur Radio licensees have yet to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. The ULS Task Force reports that, as of mid-November, 682,212 amateurs still have not registered. This figure includes individuals whose licenses have lapsed but remain in the two-year grace period. The FCC recently said approximately 3% of US licensees had registered with the ULS.

The FCC deployed the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. Amateurs must be registered in the ULS in order to file applications with the FCC--

-including renewals, modifications, and vanity call sign requests.

Mean-while, the latest "good news/bad news" scenario from the ULS could go something like this: "Dear Amateur: The good news is that we have

granted your requested Group C vanity call sign which you sought 10 weeks ago when you were a General class licensee. The bad news is that when we granted your long-awaited vanity call, we also undid the Advanced and Extra class upgrades you accomplished while your vanity was pending. So, congratulations! You're a General once again."

The ULS Task Force says it re-

cently discovered that the bug occurs when several applications are pending (eg, a vanity application and an upgrade application). The FCC is attempting to straighten out the unintended downgrades and says it will have the operator class of affected licensees corrected within a week.

FCC personnel are currently testing the processing for club, military recreation, and RACES applications and hopes to act on pending applications before the end of the month. Up until now, those applications have been filed on paper and still must be manually keystroked into the ULS prior to processing.

Amateurs must be registered in the ULS in order to file applications with the FCC

The ULS Task Force also wants amateur applicants to know that if they apply too early for license renewal, their applications will be dismissed. A license renewal must be filed no sooner than within 90 days of expiration, even if cou-

pled with a license modification. This is only an issue for those filing paper applications; the electronic filing system will not let applicants file prematurely.

To register for the ULS, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration". Paper registration also is possible. For more information, call toll-free 888-CALL FCC (225-5322). - Via ARRL Letter Online 11/19/99

needs of 21st century amateurs who are, as our survey data indicated, extremely busy individuals who are hard pressed to integrate ham radio into their active lifestyles. They want QST to provide information that they can read and use quickly."

Does this mean that QST will no longer publish technically complex material? "Not at all," Ford responded. "There will always be a portion of the QST audience that is fascinated by the 'science' of Amateur Radio, as well as the more complex aspects of circuit design and con-

struction," he said. "QST will continue to serve that audience. In fact, there is an excellent article by John Devoldere, ON4UN, in the January issue that discusses the effects of the 1999 European total solar eclipse on HF propagation."

The January 2000 QST will feature a special "collector's cover" celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio and 85 years of QST. The lead article, "Amateur Radio: 100 Years of Discovery", is a historical overview by ARRL Pacific Division Director-elect Jim Maxwell, W6CF. - via ARRL Web Site, 11/24/1999

FCC Reaffirms Order to Keep North Carolina Ham Off HF

The FCC has reaffirmed its position that John A. Abernethy, K4OKA, of Hickory, North Carolina, will have to stay off the HF bands until January 22, 2000.

As a follow-up to a station visit last January and alleged malicious interference this past summer, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth notified Abernethy July 27 that the Commission was modifying his license to prohibit operation below 30 MHz for 180 days, effective immediately.

The FCC's July letter included a copy of a tape recording--supplied by complainants--of transmissions said to be of Abernethy's station on July 16. The FCC says the tape consists of deliberate interference on 75 meters and notes that Abernethy was warned about deliberate interference at the time his station was inspected.

Abernethy, 75, subsequently disputed the authenticity of the tape recordings and requested the modification be lifted or lessened. But Hollingsworth told Abernethy this month that the sanction stands.

"We will draw no conclusions from the tape recording, and even resolv-

...the FCC had received "numerous complaints" about profanity, obscenity, deliberate interference, and failure to properly identify.

ing the issue of the tape recording in your favor, we have no basis to rescind or change the modification of your license," Hollingsworth said in a November 3 letter to Abernethy.

FCC personnel inspected Abernethy's station January 21 and 22 in the

wake of what Hollingsworth has called "longstanding complaints from other amateurs and from our field offices regarding the operation of your station." In particular, he said, the FCC had received "numerous complaints" about profanity, obscenity, deliberate interference, and failure to properly identify.

In his November 3 letter, Hollingsworth said the modification to take Abernethy off the HF bands for six months was based on findings made during the station inspections "including a tape recording that you had played over the air and which you showed to the Commission engineer." He suggested the FCC could have begun license revocation proceedings against K4OKA but decided on the modification instead.

Complaints to the FCC alleged that Abernethy had aired something called the "Porkbutt Song," the FCC said. The FCC says its High Frequency Direction Finding Center in Maryland tracked the transmissions of the "Porkbutt Song" to K4OKA. Abernethy "voluntarily destroyed the tape recording" while FCC personnel looked on, Hollingsworth said.

Hollingsworth reminded Abernethy that violation of the modification order will lead to revocation of his Amateur license. Abernethy may continue to operate on amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. - *Via ARRL Letter Online 11/12/99*

VOA Says "Ooops!"

The Voice of America says a problem at one of its transmitters apparently was responsible for causing a spurious signal to appear in the top end of the 20-meter amateur phone band. Several hams had reported hearing a broadcast signal on 14.340 MHz in recent weeks, a second harmonic of the 7.170 fundamental. Responding to one of those who complained directly, Dan Ferguson, K4VOA, thanked the listener and said the problem apparently was related to a faulty harmonic filter at a VOA transmitter in the Philippines. Ferguson said he contacted the station prior to its October 26 broadcast, and the station has switched to an alternate transmitter until repairs can be made.--thanks to Martin Potter, VE3OAT - *Via ARRL Letter Online 11/19/99*

KLM Antennas Out of Business

KLM Antennas of Monroe, Washington, reportedly closed its doors as of October 31. Industry sources say that Bruce Scott will continue to sell parts--at least for the time being--by e-mail orders only to klm_antennas@msn.com. No other information is available at this time. - *Via ARRL Letter Online 11/19/99*

FCC Amateur Enforcement Info

The FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Log, a digest of the latest FCC Amateur Radio enforcement news, now is available to all on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org>. From the ARRLWeb home page, click on "News." Then, under "Special Interest Topics," Click on "FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Logs." - *Via ARRL Letter Online 11/19/99*

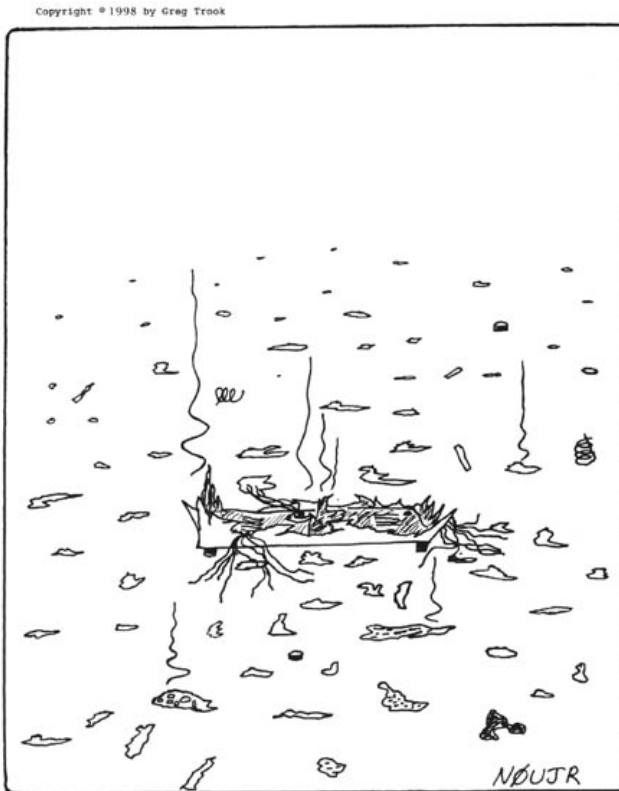


Fig. 3-2: Transceiver exploded view.

Thanks to Greg Trook, N0UJR
<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr/>

Amateur Restructuring Details Possible by Year's End

FCC Letter Includes Operating Reminders For Nets

Knowledgeable sources in Washington say the amateur license restructuring issue has moved to the front burner at the FCC, and a Report and Order could be released before the end of 1999.

The Amateur Radio community has been awaiting license restructuring--known officially as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143)--for nearly one year now. While no one has mentioned a hard-and-fast date to wrap up the long-awaited proceeding, reports from several sources suggest that the R&O draft is in its final stages and could be complete within a month or so.

During a recent a visit to top FCC officials in Washington, League officials pressed again for early action on the license restructuring rulemaking. They were assured that the issue was not stalled and that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau was "working very actively" to move restructuring along.

Whatever its final form--and no one has hinted at that--license restructuring poses significant implications for Amateur Radio and its future direction and growth. On August 10, 1998, the FCC proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place--Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific recommendations.

At its July 1998 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors--attempting to get the jump on restructuring--issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also calls for four license classes and for "refarming" Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional spectrum for higher-class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license remains unchanged, and the General becomes the entry-level ticket to HF operation. The

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FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth recently took advantage of an enforcement-related letter to issue some operating reminders for nets.

On November 3, Hollingsworth wrote Alan E. Strauss, WA4JTK, of Carol City, Florida, to follow up on earlier complaints about the "14.247 DX Group," for which Strauss serves as net control. The FCC had contacted Strauss earlier this year regarding complaints that the 14.247 DX Group monopolized that frequency and interfered with ongoing amateur communications. The November 3 letter

included correspondence the FCC received on August 4 that Hollingsworth said conflicts with Strauss's explanation of interference alleged to have occurred to the net in July. Hollingsworth said the case will remain open, and the FCC will continue to monitor net operations.

Hollingsworth used the occasion of the Strauss letter to again point out that amateur frequencies are shared, and no net has a greater right than any other ham to a given frequency and cannot take over a frequency unless it is voluntarily relinquished.

If the frequency is not relinquished, Hollingsworth said, amateurs must exercise "good Amateur practice" in choosing another frequency that does not disrupt existing communications. "A net 'taking over' a frequency from existing legitimate communications or deliberately operating disruptively close to existing legitimate communications will be considered to be engaging in de-

liberate interference," he wrote.

Hollingsworth also told Strauss that the practice of "identifying only by the last two letters of an Amateur call sign is a violation of Part 97" of the FCC rules and that such practice "must not be condoned by your group." Some amateurs had construed the statement--widely reported elsewhere--as a tightening of FCC station identification enforcement policy. Hollingsworth says that's not the case.

"All we said was that if only the last two letters are given, it doesn't meet Part 97," he said. He pointed out that if a calling station using an abbreviated ID is never acknowl-


...if a calling station using an abbreviated ID is never acknowledged and given a chance to give a complete call sign, a legal ID would be lacking...

edged and given a chance to give a complete call sign, a legal ID would be lacking for that communication. To be strictly legal, stations using a suffix-letter ID always must identify within the first 10 minutes of the communication (and each 10 minutes thereafter) with a complete call sign. Hollingsworth restated the requirements in a follow-up letter to Strauss on November 16.

Hollingsworth this week also reminded net control stations not to encourage rule violations by requiring check-ins to use two-letter IDs without allowing a legal ID at some point within the time limits of the rules. - *Via ARRL Letter Online 11/19/99*

K4KBB

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BARC Monthly Minutes - October 1999

BARC Minutes of November 9, 1999

Prior to the start of the meeting, some tributes to hams for their services during hurricane Floyd recorded by Doug, K4ROK, were played. Governor Hunt was among those expressing thanks.

The meeting began at 7:30.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Treasurer reported \$1317.17 in working capital and \$100.00 designated for Ham Chatter (total in checking account, \$1417.17).

The secretary reported 4 potential new members.

JOTA--Tom, W4TEP, reported participation was low, probably because of the weather; however, it was more successful than in past years. The council-wide camporees in conjunction with JOTA that Tom has been suggesting are finally going to be considered. The group was forced to leave the campsite at 2AM because of hurricane Irene's impending arrival.

The instructor group schedule is varying because of previous weather and the class will be extended to Dec. 9.

The Christmas Party is December 7 at 6:30 (eat at 7:00) in St. Peter's library.

Jim, KF4VHH, will check the trailer for utensils and handle the set-up. Jim is also asking for ideas for next year's programs. The next VE session is Dec. 17. Testing for the current class is Dec. 9.

Reminder from Dave, W4YDY, that BARC dues will increase to \$20.00 for regular members next year.

ARES--Doug, K4ROK, reported that eastern branch sections 1 and 2 will meet to discuss digital modes, APRS, and packet, followed by an ARES meeting, lunch and then the Columbia emergency repeater association.

He noted that the missing jump kit can probably be replaced and the bad receiver repaired by the hospital.

Bernie, WA4MOK, reported that 9 counties were represented at the last Eastern Branch meeting. The main operation will be moved to Kinston sometime between now and the spring and the

vanity call NC4EB will be used, replacing KG4ECQ.

OLD BUSINESS--

The Yaesu radio donated by Joe Melton, WB4SLF, will be the subject of a silent auction at the Christmas party. This is a practically brand-new radio, a 2 meter FM mobile rig costing \$299.99. Again, thanks to Joe for this donation.

NEW BUSINESS--

The matter of the current fee structure was discussed. It was suggested that we alter the fees for NEW members only as follows:

Full dues--Jan through March

75% of dues--April through June

50% of dues--July through September

25%--after September to end of year.

This was moved by Gene, KE4JZU, and seconded by Tom, W4TEP. Gary, KU4NQ, asked how long one had to lapse before being considered a new member. Answer, 1 year. Ken, N8FF, questioned whether the meaning was New hams or New Members. Answer, NEW Members. The motion carried. There followed some discussion on whether the by-laws need to be up-dated to reflect this change. This will be reviewed.

Byron, K4MBH, (formerly KA4KGZ) asked whether we wanted to have the W1VOA call sign added to the logo for digitizing for new shirts. There was discussion on where to put the extra call, whether we should add the date of the founding of the club, or whether to leave the logo as it currently is. Dave, W4YDY, moved that the logo be left as it is. This was seconded and the motion was carried with one negative vote. Juanita, KE4JWK, suggested adding a second logo at a later time.

Tom, W4TEP, still had Red Cross t-shirts to give out. If you didn't get one and your name was on the ham-helpers list for Floyd, please let Tom know as he is getting tired of lugging the box around with him.

FYI--Byron has a new call sign. He was formerly KA4KGZ and is now K4BMH. David LeMoine's new call is KV4CN.

Election results--the slate of officers was elected as on the ballots. Murray Merner,

K4MHM, President; Mike Langley, KD4MTT, 1st VP; Jim Smith, KF4VHH, 2nd VP; Lily Fainter, KV4AW, Secretary; Bob Fainter, KE4UGC, Treasurer; Ken Graf, N8FF, trustee.

Ken, N8FF, noted that he got a baseball-style cap with his name embroidered on it for \$8.00 and the Goldsboro Flea Market.

The program was presented by Rick Niswander, K7GM, on contesting. He gave out a nice handout that described the who, what, where and why of contesting. He has found it fascinating and enjoyable for over 30 years. Thanks to Rick for an enjoyable program.

Following Rick's presentation, Charlie Wells, K4SKI, gave a short talk laced with anecdotes on his career as a ham. Charlie is a charter member of BARC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectively submitted,

Lily Fainter, KV4AW



FCC Enforcement Log

BROOKLYN, NY [UPDATE]: The FCC notified Raphael Ayala on November 2, 1999, canceling his Amateur Extra class license, KC2ALT. On August 30, 1999, the FCC had requested that Ayala retake the Amateur Extra class amateur examination elements under the supervision of FCC personnel by October 15 or his license would be canceled. Ayala did not appear for re-examination, and the FCC canceled his license. The FCC warned Ayala that continued operation of radio transmitting equipment would be a violation of federal law and could lead to enforcement action. - *Via ARRL Web 11/15/99*

Ham Ads

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

For Sale:

Butternut "Butterfly" beam, HF-5B - 20,17,15,12,10 meter operation. Have manual. Lightweight, survived hurricanes on pushup mast. Asking \$150 or best reasonable offer. Gerry, K4IDD, 756-4102 evening or weekend. Also gclayton@greenvillenc.com.

Amateur Restructuring Details Possible by Year's End

(Continued from page 7)

ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

The restructuring debate generated more than 2200 comments to the FCC, many of them from individual amateurs. Once the FCC approves the Report & Order, a Public Notice will be issued, and the actual R&O will be released probably within a few days. - *Via ARRL Letter Online 11/12/99*

GeoCities.com Simplifies Web Site URLs

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club web site at GeoCities has a simpler and shorter URL address. This is a mirror site for the front main page with all other pages transferred to the QSL.NET site. GeoCities was taken over by Yahoo and changes were made. The new address is <http://www.geocities.com/w4amc> although the old address will still work with CapeCanaveral/4208/ still effective.

FCC Enforcement Log

EDEN PRAIRIE, MN: The FCC sent a Warning Notice November 2, 1999, to General licensee Darrell E. Berg, N0KED, citing evidence that the licensee had been "deliberately and maliciously interfering with the radio operations of other licensed Amateurs on 3.950 MHz." The alleged interference "has occurred at various times in the last several months and includes broadcasting and unidentified transmissions," said the letter from Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth warned that continued operation of the type described could result in a fine or license revocation proceeding, and he requested that the licensee contact him to discuss the allegations.

GLENDALE, WV: The FCC sent a Warning Notice November 9, 1999, to General licensee Roger L. Wiseman, KC8JBO, citing evidence that the licensee had been "deliberately and maliciously interfering with the radio operations of other licensed amateurs" on 20 meters. "This interference has occurred at various times in the last several months and includes broadcasting music and other unidentified transmissions," said a letter from FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth warned that continued operation of the type described could result in a fine or license revocation proceeding, and he requested that the licensee contact him to discuss the allegations.

AGOURA HILLS, CA: The FCC requested November 9, 1999, that Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, retake the Technician Plus class amateur examination elements under the supervision of FCC personnel in Hayward or Cerritos, California. Sorensen must appear for retesting by December 30, 1999, or his license will be canceled.

GOLDEN VALLEY, AZ: The FCC requested November 3, 1999, that David Aguilar Jr, W7EIB, retake the General class amateur examination elements under the supervision of an ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator team. Aguilar must appear for retesting by December 15, 1999, or his license will be canceled. - *Via ARRL Web*

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or email w4ydy@sprintmail.com
Help support *Ham Chatter*. Get some ads to offset the higher printing and mailing costs. Donations accepted!

NETS

VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz. (131.8 Hz Tone)
- ◆ Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ New Bern Amateur Radio Club/ Eastern NC 220 Association for the WD4JMS & WA4DAN Net, Monday, 2000 on 146.61 and 224.84 MHz
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.11 MHz and linked repeaters.
- ◆ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

HF

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

NTS CW Nets

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

BARC

December 3-5.	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	February 29	Board Meeting
December 7	Christmas Party - Club Awards	March 4	Ham Chatter Deadline
December 11-12.	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	March 4-5.	ARRL SSB DX Contest
December 17	BARC VE Session	March 14	Regular Meeting
December 28	Board Meeting	March 25-26.	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest
January 1	Straight Key Night	March 28	Board Meeting
January 1	Ham Chatter Deadline	April 1.	Ham Chatter Deadline
January 11	Regular Meeting	April 2	Down East Hamfest - Kinston
January 25	Board Meeting	April 11.	Regular Meeting
January 29-30.	CQ WW CW 160M Contest	April 25.	Board Meeting
January 29	Ham Chatter Deadline	April 29.	Ham Chatter Deadline
February 8	Regular Meeting		
February 19-20.	ARRL CW DX Contest		
February 26-27.	CQ WW SSB 160M Contest		

Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

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

W4AMC - W1VOA

December 1999
Christmas Party
December 7

To:



PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter