
CQ BARS

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President's Corner

President – Still MIA

Secretary's Column

A big thank you to the folks at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Romeoville for inviting us to hold our July meeting at their facility. The tour after the meeting was AWESOME!!

OK, folks, it's HAMFEST TIME!! We need all of you to come and help us with the setup and other tasks required to put on a successful hamfest.

Remember, **free breakfast** for those brave souls who turn out at 4 AM to help with the set up on Sun AM. Details farther down. Just keep reading

Keep in mind that hamfest is our ONLY fund raising activity. We need full –participation to make it a success.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:10 hours by (W9V (Phil), Treasurer. Introductions followed. Officers present were: KA9SFW (Jim late arrival), KB9JLB (Barb), and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

KA9J	W9APR	NW9V
WB9PDD	N9LJY	K9JTB
KB9ZNX	W9KHX	N9GH
KC9GHB	KA9ZJJ	N9OZD
KA9SFW	N9VJV	

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by K9JTB (Bill), seconded by W9APR (Alvin) and carried.



The Treasurers report was presented by KB9JLB ((Barb. A motion to accept as presented was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by W9KHX (Dale) and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KA9J (Frank) reported that it's still working.

220/440 220 machine .still out for repairs. 440 machine working fine.

Net Control: No Report.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) will be discussing during new business.

Education: No Report.

VE: No Report.

Field Day: NW9V (Phil) reported we ran 2A for this year's field day. We gained 2 new members at the activity. Jim thanked KB9JLB and her grandson for helping with the cooking chores.

Public Relations: KA9ZJJ (Marti) reported that the field day article had appeared in the

newspaper.

Skywarn NW9V (Phil) reported that we have had another active month. He thanked all who participated, especially Toni. He's still trying to reorganize the frequencies monitored and cut down from 24 to 4.

Misc.: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close old business was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by N9LJY (Tom) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

N9LJY (Tom) reported that 37 out of 77 tables had been reserved. Food is committed. The ad appeared in QST. We'll be meeting at the usual restaurant (Larkin & Jefferson) for breakfast at 4 AM on Sunday. Setup will be 3-6 on Sat. Bring dollies and ladders.

A motion to close new business was made by N9GH (Gary), seconded by WB9PDD (Stan) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by K9JTB (Bill) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

ARLB021 ARRL Board Okays Volunteer Grassroots Lobbying Effort

The ARRL Board of Directors has formalized a grassroots congressional lobbying program with an initial focus on BPL. Acting July 16 during its second meeting of 2004 in Windsor, Connecticut, the Board acknowledged the need to "immediately begin a BPL grassroots lobbying campaign" this year.

To establish a coordinating structure, the Board created the positions of Division Congressional Action Chair, Congressional Action Coordinator and Congressional Action Assistant. The Board authorized the League's 15 division directors to appoint qualified volunteers to these positions.

Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who headed the Ad Hoc Committee on Grassroots Lobbying, sees the creation of a national "political machine" as a practical way to protect Amateur Radio spectrum. "We're going to use our members as constituents to talk to key legislators," Fallon said after the meeting. While the campaign will zero in on BPL in the near term, it eventually could expand to support bills dealing with spectrum protection with and deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and their impact on amateur antennas.

Fallon said member-constituent contacts can serve to open the door to later meetings between members of Congress or their staff members and League officials.

Under the plan the Board adopted, the Division Congressional Action Chair, one in each ARRL division, would be a cabinet-level volunteer with some experience in lobbying activities. There would be at least one Congressional Action Coordinator in each state, ideally selected in consultation with section managers. These volunteers also would be members of the director's cabinet. Working with the director, the Congressional Action Coordinator will designate and develop a number of Congressional Action Assistants to "accomplish the mission of getting the ARRL message to legislators," the ad hoc committee's report explained.

Fallon said the grassroots lobbying effort will fold into a comprehensive broadband over power line strategy, which the Board discussed at length but did not make public. The Board expressed the hope that the lobbying effort could be up and running by fall.

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

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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 EC'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 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 happy."

Pearce acknowledged that Progress Energy and Amperion 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>>.

Some articles in this issue courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter.