
CQ BARS

Volume XXII Issue 8

August 2005

President's Corner

I think the July meeting set a record for participants for this year. It is really great to see so many people getting interested in amateur radio and also in our club. I know we had several visitors and many actually joined the club. Welcome aboard to those new members. What we need to do now is meet their expectations by assisting them in passing the radio exams or supporting them in any way possible.

We now have to focus on creating a successful Hamfest. I'm sure if we work as a team we can make it happen. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Saturday the 20th from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM. On Sunday morning we will need help with Security, Ticket sales, Helping vendors get unloaded, And various other assignments. Sunday is usually a pretty long day, but we hope to be out of there by 4:00 PM. Dale will need as many extra volunteer examiners as he can get so they can take shifts and enjoy the festivities themselves. Hopefully we will have good weather and things will run smoothly. If you have anything you want to try to sell the club will have a table so you can display your wares. Please if you do submit any articles put your asking price on the item and mark it clearly so the members manning the table know the asking price. Hope to see everyone at the August meeting so we can make final hamfest plans.

73 DE NW9V

Secretary's Column

Hamfest, Hamfest, Hamfest. We're almost there, but (as always) we need volunteers. All positions are open – Gate, Parking, Unloading/Loading, Security. One thing that REALLY impresses out vendors is that we always help them unload, setup, and reload what's left at the end of the day. I can't count the number of times we've been told that this is what keeps them coming back year after year. We'll be meeting for breakfast (on the club) early Sunday AM and then head for Inwood. The restaurant is on the corner of Larkin and Jefferson. I can testify from personal experience that the omelettes are outstanding!!

Yes, it's also membership time. I've again enclosed an application with this newsletter. Extras are available if you know of a ham who might not get our newsletter because they aren't a member please let me know and I'll give you an application for them. Remember that someone once invited YOU to a meeting or gave you a membership application!! Live members, please fill out an



application so that we know your current information.

It's going to be as short newsletter in order for me to get the application attached. We'd really like to get everyone of the electronic mailing list as possible. Remember – electrons are cheaper than stamps and delivery is a LOT faster!!

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by NW9V (Phil). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KB9JLB (Barb) and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

KA9J	KB9JLB	K9JTB
KA9SFW	WD9IWC	KC9BST
KB9JHU	KB9LMK	KC9EWY
KC9ERT	KC9GRH	KI9HUA
WA9IL	KC9GHX	N9ZMM
WA9IQL	KC9GHB	KA9CRV
KC9GMD	N9QOB	N9GH
W9KHX	N9VHV	NW9V

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by K9JTB (Bill) and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). A motion to accept as presented was made by KC9BST (Lisa), seconded by W9KHX (Date), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: NW9V (Phil) reported that the machine is working fine.

220/440 220 WA9IL (John) reported that the 440 machine was working very well. The 220 machine is also working but not getting a lot of usage.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins are increasing and Newline is available, but they are having financial problems. They could use some support. Checkins have been averaging 10-14.

Hamfest: NW9V (Phil) reported that volunteers will be needed for sat (8/20) to help with setup. Tom has done an outstanding job considering his recent surgery. The web page needs to be updated. The hamfest date has been seen in QST and World Radio.

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Education: KC9GRH (Brian) reported that he has a class of 5 all ready to start. Phil reported that he may have some more who are interested.

VE: W9KHZ (Dale) reported that the next exam will be at the Hamfest. Cost will be \$14 He will need some VEs to help him. He can't do it alone!!

Field Day: KA9SFW (Jim) and NW9V (Phil) thanked all those who were able to be there. The scores were unavailable. We had originally intended to operate 6A and told contacts that we were 6A. Since we were unable to actually operate 6 stations it was decided not to submit our logs to the ARRL as 6A. Instead they will be sent with a letter of explanation so that other stations who contacted us will get the credit for the contact. We will volunteer to disqualify ourselves and let the ARRL make the final decision as to our status.

Public Relations: KC9BST (Lisa) reported that the web site is in the process of being updated. WA9IQL (Elden) volunteered to help Lisa with the web site.

Skywarn NW0V (Phil) reported that the new antenna, coax, and rotor has been installed at the NWS. The converters are yet to be installed. It will be operational in a few days.

Misc.: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close old business was made by KC9BST (Lisa), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close new business was made by W9KHX (Dale), seconded by WA9IQL (Elden) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by WA9IQL (Elden), seconded by W9KHX (Dale) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

FCC PROPOSES DROPPING MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Dropping the Morse code requirement or any other changes to Part 97 would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM&O consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community. Several petitioners simply asked the FCC to drop the Morse requirement, but some--including the ARRL--also proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on what the FCC calls "our tentative conclusions" in its NPRM&O.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

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To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the code altogether, although the League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner also expressed dismay that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road." Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM&O and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM&O, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able to upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said it already addressed some other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140. The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf> A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM&O in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.

Local Special Event Station

Members of the Plainfield Radio League will operate in Plainfield, Illinois on 8/27/05 from at least 1500 to 2300 UTC using the special call sign W9P in memory of the 29 people who died and the 350 people who were injured in the F5 Plainfield Tornado on August 28, 1990. This was the most severe tornado to strike the Chicago metropolitan area.

Stations will operate on 7.260 MHz LSB phone and 14.260 MHz USB phone. In addition, the 40m station will make some CW contacts and the 20m station will operate on-again/off-again PSK31 on 14.070 MHz and SSTV on 14.230 MHz. A certificate will be available by sending a SASE to The Plainfield Radio League, P.O. Box 682, Plainfield, IL 60544-0682 U.S.A.

Visiting emergency communications operators who volunteered in the aftermath of the tornado 15 years ago are welcome. Operating site will be announced at a later date. Address any questions by e-mail to Rob Sobkoviak/K9NYO at k9nyo@arrl.net.

ARRL CITES "ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES" TO BUTTRESS BPL RECONSIDERATION PETITION

The ARRL has cited the conclusions of a UK study and of the FCC itself to further support its call for the Commission to "reconsider, rescind and re-study" the broadband over power line (BPL) rules it adopted last October. In its Petition for reconsideration last February in the BPL proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, the League argued that in permitting unlicensed Part 15

devices such as BPL, the Commission's main obligation is to establish a radiated emission level low enough so that the devices "will predictably not interfere" with licensed services.

"Unless this conclusion can be fairly reached, the Commission has no statutory authority to permit the facilities to operate on an unlicensed basis," the League maintains in a Citation of Additional Authority (Citation) filed July 8. Furthermore, the League says, the FCC itself affirmed the ARRL's argument in another proceeding. The League cited a Commission conclusion in last December's Second Report and Order and Second Memorandum Opinion and Order in the Ultra-Wideband (UWB) proceeding, ET Docket 98-153. The FCC held in its UWB Order that a reasonable reading of Section 301 of the Communications Act would limit licensing to "any apparatus which transmits enough energy to have a significant potential for causing harmful interference." The FCC, the League asserts in its Citation, cannot authorize BPL--(although it's an unintentional radiator due to "acknowledged (and field-proven) substantial interference potential to licensed services." The solution, the ARRL said, is to establish radiated emission limits at a level that would make the chances of interference negligible.

Accompanying the Citation are studies of BPL systems in Scotland conducted by Ofcom, the UK's telecommunications regulator. Ofcom says concern over signal leakage is one reason for BPL's small UK market share compared with DSL and cable. "Although efficient for their primary purpose, electricity supply cables are not designed, screened or balanced for high frequency use, and in this application they produce significant leakage emissions," the Ofcom study said, adding that the emissions potentially can interfere with radio communication services "including short wave broadcasts."

In its Citation, the ARRL again argues that the FCC "incorrectly rejected" the League's recommendation for a 20 dB extrapolation factor in measuring BPL signal decay on HF based on distance from the signal's source. Instead, the FCC opted to apply the existing--and less stringent--40 dB/decade factor in Part 15.

"The existing Part 15 standard is clearly inapplicable and underestimates the BPL field strength by up to 11.5 dB," the ARRL said, pointing to the Ofcom studies to support its assertion. The League called the FCC's adopted 40 dB/decade factor "inappropriate." The ARRL also said the Ofcom studies clearly show that notching is ineffective to mitigate interference and that certain BPL systems cannot even meet the FCC's "overly liberal" Part 15 field strength.

The League further noted that the FCC already applies a 20 dB/decade standard to measure signal decay of Part 18 Industrial, Scientific and Medical devices that can operate below 30 MHz.

In last October's BPL Order, the League pointed out, the FCC stated that if new information became available auguring in favor of alternative emission limit/distance standards or extrapolation factors, it would revisit the issue.

"There is no time like the present," the ARRL urged. A copy of the ARRL's Citation is on the League's Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/BPL-Reconsideration-Citation-of-Additional-Authority.pdf>>.

SPECTRUM PROTECTION BILL SPONSOR'S ARTICLE PROMOTES AMATEUR RADIO'S VALUE

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 sponsor Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID) this week promoted the value of Amateur Radio and his bill's efforts to preserve ham radio spectrum in a July 13 article in The Hill--a magazine for and about Congress. Crapo introduced the US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005, S 1236, in June with bipartisan support in the 109th Congress. It's identical to the House version, HR 691, introduced earlier in the session by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida. In his article, "Amateur Radio: a voice in the storm,"

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Crapo says that in an era of increasing demand for spectrum, Amateur Radio's allocations must be preserved.

"Today, Amateur Radio still serves a vital purpose, especially in our post-Sept. 11 world," he wrote. "Acting as volunteers, Amateur Radio operators provide assistance in numerous disaster-relief efforts, from the terror attacks in New York and Washington to floods in Texas, hurricanes in Florida, earthquakes in Seattle and California and fires in the West and in my home state of Idaho."

Crapo points out that since 1982, Amateur Radio has lost 107 megahertz--"the equivalent of 18 television channels"--and another 145 megahertz "is in danger of being reallocated." Calling Amateur Radio "one of the pioneers of modern communications," he notes that even today's communication systems, such as cellular telephones, can fail or may be primary targets, while ham radio operators have a demonstrated history of being able to provide vital communication under adverse circumstances.

"The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act will ensure the success of this vital link in our security communications infrastructure while continuing to encourage the innovation and creativity that is the hallmark of this field," Crapo asserts. The Senate and House legislation would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services in the event of reallocation to other services of primary amateur spectrum or the diminution of secondary amateur spectrum.

The bill also would cover additional allocations within Amateur Radio bands that "would substantially reduce" their utility to Amateur Service licensees.

"It maintains spectrum allocation flexibility by only requiring that the basic amount of spectrum allocated to Amateur Radio operators be maintained," Crapo explained. "Together with my colleagues Sens Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Kit Bond (R-MO), Max Baucus (D-MT) and Conrad Burns (R-MT), I look forward to working toward this bipartisan solution to the problem of lost spectrum for Amateur Radio operators."

S 1236 has been referred to the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee of which Burns is a member. HR 691 has been referred to the US House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"Amateur Radio: a voice in the storm" appears on The Hill Web site

<http://www.thehill.com/thehill/export/TheHill/News/Frontpage/071305/ss_crap_o.html>. The Hill circulates to all members of Congress and their staff members as well as to much of "official Washington."

Efforts continue in both chambers of Congress to attract additional cosponsors for S 1236 and HR 691. The League encourages its members to urge their congressional representatives and senators to sign aboard. More than 100 lawmakers in both houses agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress. A sample letter

<<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr-691-sample-letter.html>> for HR 691 and a sample letter

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/s-1236/>> for S 1236--are available on the ARRL Web site. Members may want to use these as guides in writing their members of Congress to seek their support.

To expedite delivery, send all correspondence bound for Members of Congress--preferably as an attachment--to specbill@arrl.org or fax it to 703-684-7594. The ARRL will bundle correspondence addressed to each Member of Congress for hand delivery.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.