
CQ BARS

Volume XXIII Issue 01

January 2006

President's Corner

Our President is still MIA. Dale, we're over here!!

Secretary's Column

Echolink is HERE!! It's now up and running on the 440 machine. Complete access information is available on the BARS webpage, thanks to Jason, John, and Elden. If I've forgotten anyone else please forgive me. Please visit the web page at www.k9bar.org to review the documentation and give it a try.

We welcomed all to the annual Christmas party. It's amazing how many hams come out of the woodwork when there's food being served. How about coming out the rest of the year??

We have a new Hamfest location – Bolingbrook High School. Thanks to Mayor Claar for his assistance in securing that location the Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Association is going to be held where it belongs – IN BOLINGBROOK!! Since the event will attract customers to local businesses Mayor Claar also generously offered \$1000 toward expenses. It's a win-win for all parties. Thank You Mr. Mayor for your assistance and support!!

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by KB9LMK (Dale). Introductions followed. Officers present were: KB9JHV (Jason) KC9GHB (Mike), and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

KC9ERT	WD9IWC	KA9HZH
KB9LMK	KA9J	KB9JLB
KE7DST	WB9PWQ	N9LJY
KA9SFW	NW9V	KC9GSI
N9BJ	K2PAC	KC9GMD
N9QOB	N9OA	WB9PDD
KC9GHB	KC9IBU	KB9JHV

WA9IQL MA9YOR WA9IL
WX9WRN N9VJV



A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KA9HZH (Archie), seconded by N9LJY (Tom) and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by KB9JHV (Jason). A motion to accept as presented was made by WA9IQL (Elden), seconded by WA9IL (John), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: No Report.

220/440: No Report.

Net Control: No Report.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that a problem has arisen with the Joliet Park district location. They are erecting a new building and would require that we use the parking lot on the east side of the stadium. Tom is looking for alternative locations. Bolingbrook High School and Humphrey Middle School could be possibilities.. Mayor Claar offered \$1000 from the village if we could move the hamfest to a location in the village. He also offered to expedite our using Bolingbrook High School. Tom and Frank will coordinate with Mayor Claar. KA9ZJJ (Marti) will redesign the flyers to reflect the new location and map.

Education: KB9JHV (Jason) reported that EchoLink is up and running on the B9BAR 440

machine... Jason presented a brief outline of how it can be used. Instructions will be posted on the web site soon

VE: No Report.

Field Day: No Report.

Public Relations: WA9IQL (Elden) reported that the web site has been updated with everything up to date.

Skywarn: No Report.

Misc.: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NW9V (Phil) reported that the National Weather Service Special Event Station made 513 contacts using 26 operators. There were 63 folks taken on a tour of the facility.

A motion to close old business was made by N9QOB (Ron), seconded by KC9GMD (Cheryl) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KB9LMK (Dale) presented the annual awards:

Service – N9LJY (Tom)

Achievement - WA9IQL (Elden)

Ham of the Year – NW9V (Phil)

N9LJY (Tom) brought up the fact that folks interested in emergency communications should take the NIMS-700 on line

class. It may be accessed from the www.fema.gov web page and choosing the Virtual Campus link.

A motion to close new business was made by KB9JLB (Barb), seconded by N9LJY (Tom) and seconded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by WB9PDD (Stan), seconded by N9VJV (Don) and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY RESULTS

Well the totals are in and The Chicago land National Weather Office did very well. Our team made a total of 511 contacts. We came in 4th out of 65 other NWS stations reporting. We contacted 46 of the 50 states and contacted 48 other NWS offices. Not to shabby. Once again I would like to thank those members who helped to make this accomplishment possible.

73 DE NW9V

Support for injured Coal miner

There is an effort underway to send QSL cards to injured coal miner, Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, the lone survivor of the tragedy in West Virginia.

If you don't have a QSL card, a getwell card or a note of support would be nice. Please indicate your callsign and your county on the QSL or the card.

If you have an email address for someone who is not on this list, PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE ON.

His address is:

Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435.

Attention Builders

Ever feel guilty about throwing those mint tins in the trash? Thought maybe there was a better use for them? Well for about \$20 and a little effort you can make a nifty little Pocket Amplifier. So get that soldering iron out and have some fun.

Follow the link below – thanks to Rick Kolinek.

<http://tangentsoft.net/audio/cmoy-tutorial/>

WEEKENDS BEST TIME TO CATCH NA1SS ON THE AIR

The best time to catch International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, on the air from NA1SS is during a weekend. Now about halfway through his six-month duty tour, McArthur already has more than 300 casual contacts in his log, and he's eager to up the count. "Weekends seem to be Bill's favorite time to operate," says Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "The weekend has few scheduled activities, so the crew may operate anywhere from 0800 until 2200 UTC." But Ransom says McArthur also operates in his free time on weekdays, and that includes his lunch hour, scheduled around 1200 to 1400 UTC. "Bill has occasionally operated in this time during the week," he told ARRL. The crew's work day ends about 1930 UTC, but McArthur and crewmate Valery Tokarev usually stay up for another couple of hours. The crew sleeps from 2130 until 0630 UTC.

McArthur recently completed Worked All Continents (WAC) from space, including the "traditional ARISS" requirement to work Antarctica. "We clearly share a lot in common," McArthur told Chuck Kimball, N0MHJ, at Palmer Station's KC4AAC during their 2-meter contact December 17. "You know, we have this bond. Just our hostile environments are a little bit different."

McArthur's still trying to earn Worked All States (WAS) and DXCC from space and as 2005 drew to a close already had logged 37 states and 38 DXCC entities.

Responding to questions regarding the legitimacy of a DXCC earned from a spacecraft circling 220 miles above Earth, ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, concedes that while McArthur's efforts don't have that much to do with traditional DXCC, they won't devalue the efforts of those earning

the award from Earth either.

"While rules are very important, particularly in defining the DXCC program, other concepts can, and often do, transcend mere rules," he said. "Think of this as more of a public relations opportunity."

In addition, McArthur has been averaging two ARISS school group contacts as his schedule permits. Not since Expedition 3--when there were three people aboard the ISS for each crew increment--has a crew member done this on a regular basis.

The NA1SS worldwide voice and packet downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz. In Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific), the voice uplink is 144.49 MHz. In Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa), the voice uplink is 145.20 MHz. The worldwide packet uplink is 145.99 MHz.

When NA1SS is in crossband FM repeater mode, the worldwide downlink is 145.80 MHz, and the uplink is 437.80 MHz. All frequencies are subject to Doppler shift.

The Science@NASA Web site provides location information for the ISS <<http://science.nasa.gov/temp/StationLoc.html>>.

RESPONSE TO BPL COMPLAINTS AN "ILLUSION" OF RESOLUTION. ARRL SAYS

In a strongly worded letter to the FCC, the League has once again asked the Commission to shut down the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system because it's still causing harmful interference to Amateur Radio and otherwise does not comply with FCC Part 15 rules. The December 19 letter from ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was in response to a November 30 letter from Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey, who suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system. Imlay said more meetings and discussions about ongoing interference are no longer productive while "this hopelessly flawed BPL system" is allowed to continue operating. "These meetings have not produced any solution to the interference problem but have, instead, created the illusion that the problem is being addressed," Imlay wrote. Ham radio complaints of interference from the BPL system date back to early 2004. "This system should have been taken off the air long ago, pending reconfiguration or re-engineering of it," he added, "and the only operating that it should be doing is for purposes of interference testing."

Communication Technologies (COMTek) operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid using Main.net equipment on frequencies between 4 MHz and 30 MHz. The League said the FCC has not discharged its "most fundamental obligation" to prevent or resolve interference issues involving the Manassas system, which, the League charged, only remains operating "because the Commission, for political reasons, has consistently refused to enforce its rules with respect to BPL." The League told Casey that the only solution at this point is to order the Manassas BPL system--an unlicensed RF emitter permitted to operate only on a non-interference basis--to cease operation except to test for interference. The Part 15 BPL rules the FCC adopted in October 2004 require a BPL operator informed of harmful interference to "investigate the reported interference and resolve confirmed harmful interference . . . within a reasonable period," Imlay pointed out. "No reasoned examination of this case could produce a finding that this rule has been complied with in Manassas," he added.

Imlay says that at a December 13 meeting, COMTek and the City of Manassas "openly acknowledged the interference to amateur stations" but claimed that until a month or so earlier, they had been unable to "notch" amateur allocations because they didn't yet have the equipment to do so. "By the admission of COMTek, the capability of reducing interference in this system does not exist," Imlay noted.

Previous meetings between the complaining radio amateurs and the BPL operator "produced no measurable results," Imlay contended, referring to the response of Donald Blasdel, W4HJL, to Casey on December 9. At one point in the system, interference was reported at S9 plus 40 dB on typical ham gear. "That level

precludes virtually all Amateur Radio communications," he asserted.

Imlay took the opportunity to again point out that the Manassas BPL system is out of compliance with §15.615(a) because its operator failed to provide full information to the public BPL database by the November 19 deadline. "ARRL again requests that the BPL facility at Manassas, Virginia, be instructed to shut down immediately," the League's letter concluded, "and that it not resume operation unless the entire facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions; with the non-interference requirement of Section 15.5 of the Commission's rules; and not in any case until thirty days subsequent to full compliance with Section 15.615(a) of the rules."

Field tests conducted by Manassas radio amateurs established that the city's BPL system "was an interference generator at distances of hundreds of feet from the modems on overhead power lines," the ARRL told the FCC October 13. "It was also, incidentally, determined that the system was susceptible to interference from nearby radio transmitters operating between 4 and 20 MHz," the League added.

ARRL RENEWS INTERFERENCE COMPLAINT AGAINST AMBIENT CORP BPL INSTALLATION

In the wake of continued FCC inaction in response to several previous complaints, on January 5 the ARRL filed a renewal of the complaint against the Ambient Corporation's Broadband over Power Line system in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The BPL system is operated by Ambient, on power lines owned and operated by Consolidated Edison, under an experimental FCC authorization.

The latest communication points out that the FCC, without adjudicating ARRL's repeated complaints about interference throughout the amateur 20 meter band, renewed Ambient's experimental license for an additional term, from August 1, 2005 to August 1, 2007. "The Briarcliff Manor BPL system currently (still) causes harmful interference to Amateur Radio communications and it is not compliant with applicable FCC part 15 regulations," according to the ARRL complaint. "Neither," it continues, "is it compliant with the terms of the experimental authorization granted by the Commission, most recently on August 1, 2005."

It continues: "ARRL reiterates its request, now more than a year old, that the BPL facility be instructed to shut down immediately; and that it not resume operation unless the facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions and with the non-interference requirement of the Commission's Rules and the terms of the experimental authorization. Finally, information about it must be listed in the BPL publicly accessible database."

Appended to the January 5 complaint letter was a 25 page engineering report entitled "Additional Testing of BPL System in Briarcliff Manor, NY." ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, wrote the report after conducting further tests at the site December 5, 2005. The report points out that he had conducted similar tests twice before during 2005, and three times during 2004. In this earlier testing, Hare found significant violations of FCC rules regarding Part 15 emissions limits.

The January 5 ARRL complaint, entitled "Continued Request for Immediate Cessation of Operation," was signed by ARRL Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD, and was sent to the FCC's Joseph Casey, Bruce Franca and James Burtle. Casey is Chief, Spectrum Enforcement Division, while Franca serves as Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, and Burtle is Chief, Experimental Licensing Division. A copy was also sent to the counsel for Ambient Corporation.

For more about BPL, see the B PL pages on the ARRL Web <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

CANADIAN AMATEURS TO LOSE 220-222 MHz

Barring an outpouring of "compelling arguments to the contrary," Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-

225 MHz from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-220 MHz subband on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts."

ARLB001 W1AW 2006 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time Mode Days

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)

1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri

2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu

2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily

2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily

0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri

0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu

0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily

0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily

0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily

0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri

0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu

0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555

RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows. Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays. In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 98 in the January 2006 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.