
CQ BARS

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President's Corner

Our fearless leader is in the midst of moving, and the last time I spoke with him his computer was suffering from a terminal illness. Hopefully it'll be well before next month's column.

Secretary's Column

FREE FOOD, FREE FOOD, FREE FOOD.

Now that I have your attention, here's how to earn a free breakfast. The club has a tradition of treating those members who come out early on Hamfest morning to help with the setup to a free breakfast at one of our local restaurants, known for their fine dining. This isn't White Castle, folks, it's a real restaurant. To find out the wheres and hows you're going to need to make to the next meeting. Hamfest time is upon us!!

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

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

WD9IWC	N9QOB	KC9GMD
KA9SFW	KC9GHB	KB9JHV
N9LJY	KA9J	KB9JLB
KC9JQW	KC9JLK	N9VJV

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by N9QOB (Ron), seconded by WA9IL (John) and carried

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JHV (Jason). No Approval required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: No Report.

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported that the village still can't get us admission to the tower. The 220 machine is still experiencing problems..



Net Control: WD9IWC (John) reported good checkins.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that more tables have been sold.. The club mailing labels have not been received yet.

Education: No Report.

VE: No Report.

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported the setup crew will meet for lunch at the Family Square Restaurant at noon on Fri (6/22). The equipment will be delivered from the village at 1 PM. Will be using K9BAR as the call. Bring ice and laptops

Public Relations: KC9GHB (Mime) reported that the message board needs to be used. The newspapers have been contacted for Field Day.

Skywarn: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

N9LJY (Tom) is going to need help taking 3 towers down for members widows. KB9SFW (Jim) reported that KA9CAI's widow till be having a getage sale after Field Day.

A motion to close old business was made by KC9JQW (AJ), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb) and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KA9SFW (Jim) asked for a head count for Fri night supper at Field Day..

A motion to close new business was made by N9ljy (Tom), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb), and carried

A motion to adjourn was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

FCC Responds to ARRL's BPL Brief

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.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "The FCC misrepresents the ARRL's position as being that the FCC has no authority to allow unlicensed devices that pose any risk whatsoever of causing interference to licensed services. That's not our position at all. Our position is that the FCC possessed clear evidence, at the time it made its BPL decisions, that the limits it was adopting would allow the deployment of BPL systems with a near-100 percent probability of causing harmful interference to radio receivers hundreds of feet from the power lines. Yet, despite this evidence it characterized the likelihood of harmful interference as 'low.'"

The brief goes on to say that, in the FCC's view, mobile stations and fixed stations are protected against harmful interference from BPL. But with respect to mobile stations complaining of interference, the FCC requires only that BPL operators reduce the radiated emission levels to 20 dB below the Part 15 maximum levels for radiated emissions. This, in the HF bands, still permits BPL noise at levels that preclude communications entirely. It offers mobile stations no protection whatsoever, Imlay stated.

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 explained. "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.

Newsline Trivia Prize

The word is out about the Newsline Trivia prize and people want to know "What the heck is the prize". I could wait till the meeting on July 16th, but I'm going to be a good sport.

The prize is a Callsign / Name plaque (some with logo) it has magnets on the back so you can display it near your shack.

Here are the two winners prizes.

It's easy to win, just listen to Newsline, and wait for me to ask the trivia question. First person to check in with me with their call, and answer the question correctly will win. One time prize...no more chances to win. Well unless I come up with something else.

Signs are made from plastic cross stitch matting. All colors are picked by me. Logos are created by me. Signs take from one to two weeks to make. I will mail to winner, but will show signs at meeting.

OK....so check in, listen and win!

73s
Archie, N9ZMM
Net Control-BARS

Kenwood Purported to Merge with JVC in 2008

A consumer electronic magazine, This Week in Consumer Electronics (TWICE), reports that Kenwood has agreed to merge in 2008 with Victor Company of Japan (JVC) under a holding company. JVC is owned by Matsushita Electric Industrial Company. Japan's Nikkei business newspaper reports that the final details should be worked out by the end of the month, and that under the plan, Kenwood will buy 20 billion yen (\$161,469,466) in JVC shares as early as this summer, raising its stake to 13 percent. Matsushita will also sell part of its 52.7 percent of JVC to Kenwood's top shareholder, the Sparx Group. When JVC and Kenwood integrate operations under the holding company in 2008, Matsushita will sell the rest of its JVC shares to the holding company to complete the transaction. The holding company's stock will be listed instead of Kenwood and JVC, according to Nikkei. Combined, Kenwood's and JVC's sales are \$7.3 billion dollars annually for their fiscal year that ended March 31 .

ARRL Update on Red Cross Background Investigations

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 16, 2007 -- In March, the ARRL posted its position statement regarding the American Red Cross background check policy for volunteers. This updates information the League has obtained about that program.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met March 20 at American Red Cross offices in Washington, DC, with two attorneys from the Red Cross General Counsel's office and two

management-level staff members from Red Cross Disaster Services.

ARRL asked the Red Cross staff if ARRL ARES volunteers would be subject to the American Red Cross background check if they are providing communications for more than seven days. The position of the Red Cross is that ARES volunteers would not be permitted to provide communications at a disaster site for more than seven days without submitting to the Red Cross background check procedure.

Discussion was then held regarding the Red Cross announcement that credit checks and mode-of-living checks would not be conducted. ARRL's stated concern was that the ARC background investigation consent form states that a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report -- which includes certain credit checks and includes mode of living checks -- will be obtained on the volunteer signing the form.

The ARRL team asked if the Red Cross would be willing to modify the consent form so that it limits the authority granted by the person signing the form to criminal background checks only. The Red Cross representatives did not indicate a willingness to modify the consent form.

The ARRL team also suggested alternatives to the Red Cross investigation firm, MyBackgroundCheck.com. ARRL was given an indication that the Red Cross is also unwilling to accept background checks conducted by other entities, because the Red Cross would be required to compare the methodologies of its selected entity with those of the alternative background-check provider.

ARRL reiterates its recommendation that members carefully review any consent document permitting a private organization to conduct a background investigation on that person. The current Red Cross background check consent form does include permission, without further consent from the volunteer, to conduct a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report. The Federal Trade Commission and Federal statutes define investigative consumer reports as including a mode-of-living check as well as certain credit checks.

ARRL will not suggest what organizations or agencies should or should not be supported by volunteer Amateur Radio communications. ARRL does wish to facilitate the provision of volunteer services, however.

M-11306 Confusion About CW Sub-Bands

All ARRL officers and directors are starting to receive email messages about the recent ex parte discussion ARRL had with the FCC about RM-11306; the ARRL's proposal to regulate Amateur Radio Service HF sub-bands by bandwidth. Because of what amounts to a clerical oversight, a number of amateur radio licensees are concerned, even angry, about what appears on the surface to be another move to curtail the use of Morse code communications. This is not the case and those who insist on saying it is, either don't know all the facts or have other motives for making their complaints and threats.

What follows is a summary history of RM-11306 provided by ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. All the words are his with the exception of the lead-in sentence in the last paragraph.

In July 2002 the ARRL Board of Directors adopted the following policy: "At the next practical opportunity the ARRL shall petition the FCC to revise Part 97 to regulate sub-bands by signal bandwidth instead of by mode." The Board's objective was to update rules that were written long before the development of the current generation of digital modes so that digital emissions can be appropriately regulated in the future, while impacting traditional modes as little as possible.

Turning that statement of principle into a detailed petition proved to be no easy task. The Board received input from an ad hoc committee as well as staff, and twice solicited input directly from the ARRL membership. Hundreds of comments were received each time and helped inform the Board's discussions. Finally, at

its July 2005 meeting the Board concluded its review of a draft petition and authorized its filing, following final review by the Executive Committee. The resulting petition was filed on November 14, 2005 and was designated RM-11306 by the FCC, after which additional comments were filed by individuals directly with the FCC.

Once the FCC had dealt with two outstanding proceedings, WT Dockets 04-140 and 05-235, we realized that the bandwidth petition was the next major Amateur Radio item in their hopper. On reviewing the RM-11306 petition, the comments, and the rules changes adopted in Dockets 04-140 and 05-235 it was apparent that some of the proposals contained in the petition had been affected by the changes adopted in the other two proceedings. It was also apparent that some aspects of the petition remained controversial.

After reviewing the situation at its January 2007 meeting, the ARRL Board authorized General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD to determine what changes to the petition had to be made to align it with the new FCC rules, as well as which aspects of the petition were not controversial and could reasonably be expected to be included in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making. Chris did so, and a meeting was held with FCC staff on February 13. As are all such meetings, this was made a matter of public record by the filing of a notice with the FCC Secretary that immediately became part of the on-line record in RM-11306.

The FCC staff was provided with a shortened list, or subset, of proposed rule changes from that contained in RM-11306. The list is included with the notice of the meeting. Because the proposals affecting the bands above 28 MHz had not aroused much controversy, they were retained in the shortened list. Regulation by bandwidth rather than by mode of emission remains controversial below 28 MHz because of perceived potential impact on established operating patterns, so these proposals were removed from the list with one narrow exception. The exception is necessary because, as discussed on page 11 of the RM-11306 petition, under the existing rules there is presently no effective bandwidth limit on HF digital operations. Digital emissions using multiple carriers, such as OFDM, can be designed for any bandwidth while staying within the existing rules. So, the subset of proposed rule changes given to the FCC on February 13 includes a bandwidth limit of 3 kHz on RTTY and data emissions below 28 MHz. It is important to understand that this does not increase the allowed bandwidth for RTTY and data emissions; it actually represents a new limitation that accommodates existing practice but prevents future monopolization of large segments of our narrow MF/HF bands by a single digital station. Also, the limit would not apply to phone emissions.

Some confusion has resulted from an item that, through oversight, was not deleted when the list of proposed rule changes was shortened. Because RM-11306 had proposed that bandwidths in most of the band segments now used for CW and RTTY be limited to 200 Hz and 500 Hz respectively, the existing 500-Hz bandwidth limit that applies to certain automatically controlled RTTY/data stations was redundant and could be dropped. However, because the subset of proposed rule changes does not substitute regulation by bandwidth for regulation by mode of emission, the 500-Hz limit needs to be retained. General Counsel Imlay has filed an erratum with a corrected list of proposed rule changes that makes it clear there should be no change to the existing Section 97.221. We regret the error.

Some amateurs have observed that the subset of proposed rule changes provides less protection to CW, RTTY and other narrowband modes than was afforded by the ARRL's proposals in RM-11306. This is true. However, it is not true that less protection is afforded than is the case with the existing rules. In fact, protection against interference from wide digital modes would be increased, not decreased, by adoption even of the subset.

The ARRL Board, having studied the situation literally for years, continues to support the principles of regulation by bandwidth that

are contained in the original RM-11306 petition. Regulation by bandwidth provides a better regulatory framework, not only for the introduction of future digital emissions but for the protection of traditional narrowband modes as well. By providing the FCC with a subset of the modifications proposed in RM-11306 the ARRL has offered an alternative that, it is hoped, will make it easier for the FCC to move at least part of the way in that direction.

And for the truly paranoid or perhaps those who are not familiar with the FCC's table of authorized emissions in Part 97, here is specific information about the CW sub-band allocation. CW is not listed in the table of authorized emissions ONLY because it is covered by the blanket statement in 97.305(a): "(a) Except as specified elsewhere in this part, an amateur station may transmit a CW emission on any frequency authorized to the control operator." This isn't mentioned in RM-11306 or in the appendix to the ex parte statement because no change is proposed.

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ARRL VEC Team Keeps Busy!

July 23 marks the 5 month anniversary of the FCC's elimination of the 5 WPM Morse code exam requirement. Since February 23, the ARRL VEC reports that test session registration and attendance has been steady and strong. The average number of test sessions per month is up from last year (602 in 2007 compared to 472 in 2006), as is the average number of examinees per session (8 candidates in 2007 compared to 5 candidates in 2006). Of the nearly 700 test sessions registered for June, more than 600 sessions have been received and processed by the VEC staff. ARRL booth traffic was brisk at the International Ham Radio Exhibition held June 22 to 24 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. More than 18,000 people from 36 countries attended. An ARRL VEC exam session was held on Saturday morning at the convention. Thirty-one exams were given, with 25 achieving an upgrade or new license. Packages were mailed last month to more than 900 ARRL VEC volunteer examiner teams. These teams have now been provided with test materials. The packages contained the new General Class Element 3 exams to be used at test sessions beginning July 1. For ARRL VE teams who are using the ExamWin Software, the updated version was released on June 18 and is available on our ExamWin Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examwin>>. A VE Express Newsletter was emailed on June 18 to more than 5500 subscribers. To view the current VE Newsletter or to view previous editions, visit the "ARRL VEC News Briefs, Announcements, Newsletters" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/announcements.html>>.

Get Ready for the IARU HF World Championship.

July 14-15: Participation in the IARU HF World Championship has grown steadily for the past four years, despite solar activity trending in the wrong direction. The creation of Low Power and QRP categories has contributed to increasing both the popularity and the competitiveness of the event. The ARRL administers the HF World Championship on behalf of the IARU. At its May 2007 meeting the IARU Administrative Council discussed various issues related to the event and asked that the ARRL devote the resources necessary to maintain a high standard of adjudication. A condition of entry in the IARU HF World Championship is that each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions of the announced rules, by the regulations of his/her licensing authority, and by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee acting for the IARU International Secretariat. Leading competitors should expect their entries to be carefully scrutinized. If exceptional results are claimed, entrants must be prepared to explain how they were achieved. Reminder: In addition to the zone and "HQ station" multipliers there are four additional multipliers available

per band by contacting members of the IARU Administrative Council and the regional IARU executive committees. Administrative Council members may send "AC" instead of their zone, while regional executive committee members may send "R1," "R2" or "R3" as appropriate. See <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/iaru.html>> for more information

Solar Flux to Bottom Out in July as Cycle 24 Gets Closer

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Space Environment Center (SEC) released their monthly forecasts of sunspot number and 10.7 cm radio flux, including high and low bounds to their forecasts. The SEC forecasts that the smoothed sunspot number reached its low value of 11.7 in March 2007, and predicts that the solar flux will reach its low of 75.4 this month. This is the fourth month in a row that the SEC predicts the solar flux will bottom out in July. Based on the SEC predictions, this is probably at the bottom of Cycle 23 and extremely close to the beginning of Cycle 24. Two events will mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle: The observation of the first opposite magnetic polarity sunspots compared to Cycle 23 sunspot polarity, and the observation high solar latitude sunspots -- the Cycle 23 sunspots are now very near the solar equator. The SEC predictions table <<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/weekly/Predict.txt>> and sunspot number and solar flux prediction graphs <<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>> are available on the SEC's Web site.

Here's a neat web site that has an application that will help you calculate line loss for various kinds of coax. It will also help you design your own dipole and inverted Vee antenna. Brought to you by those fine folks at the Orchard City Amateur Radio Club in Kelewna, British Columbia. The URL is:
<http://www.ocarc.ca/coax.htm>

Magic Band Opens Wide to Allow Cross-Band Transatlantic Contact:

On Monday, June 25, there was a big opening to Europe on 6 meters (50 MHz), also known as the "magic band." In most areas, the opening started in the local US mid-morning, lasting until dark. According to QST column author of "The World Above 50 MHz" Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, "Many areas of the country that do not normally work Europe, including the Midwestern states, West Texas and Colorado, worked stations in Europe. At one point near the end of the opening, stations on the East Coast of the US were working stations in Hawaii on the Big Island." In this opening, Mike Smith, VE9AA, in New Brunswick was on 50 MHz when he worked Nigel Coleman, G7CNF, on CW cross-band; Coleman was on the 70 MHz band (4 meters) in England. Zimmerman said, "Though a few cross-band contacts were made via F2 propagation during the sunspot maximum period in the 1970s, this is believed to be the first 50/70 transatlantic cross-band contact ever made on multi-hop sporadic-E propagation." RSGB VHF/UHF Manager David Butler, G4ASR, concurred: "It certainly isn't the first United Kingdom-North America 4 meter/6 meter cross-band QSO, but it probably is the first via multi-hop sporadic-E." In North America, 70 MHz is channel 4 on television sets. Watch a YouTube video of the contact posted by VE9AA at <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVIVWPJWcPo>>, and G7CNF's version with some audio enhancements at <<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=X0wel14KAD0>>.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.