
CQ BARS

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President's Corner

Hello everyone, I would like to bring everyone up to date on several issues. First, we are going to proceed with the Hamfest; it will be on Aug. 2, 2009. Bolingbrook High School has been reserved and Mr. Isley has approved our ARRL Hamfest application. Also, I notified the Knights of Columbus and they will be there to provide the food. The flyer is done and we should see it up on the website shortly. I need everyone to check out the committees on the website and send an email to the Webmaster N9ABF and let him know which committee that you would like to be on. You can find the list of committees on the Hamfest page. Set-up for the fest will be on sat.Aug.1st from 2 pm-6 pm. We will need two-wheelers, hand carts and personnel to help with table setup and to unload vendors when they arrive. I hope you can help out on that day. On the day of the Hamfest we will meet at Denny's in Bolingbrook at 4 am for breakfast, then will go to the high school at 5 am. The club will pay for breakfast as usual. We are going need club participation to make this work and I'm counting on you!



Second, the echolink is up and running. I'm still making adjustments, so please be patient.

Finally, we should soon have PayPal up and working so you can pay dues, and so that people can buy tickets, vendors can reserve tables for the Hamfest, or you can give a donation to the club if you choose.

See you at the next meeting, March 16th, 7 pm.

Tom, N9LJY
BARS President

Secretary's Column

I've found a rather interesting web site:

Technology, History, and Commentary on Amateur Radio:
<http://fril.net>

You might want to explore a little. There's a little something for everyone there.

There's another interesting article in this month's newsletter from our Section manager. BPL is still out there threatening to raise its ugly head again. We all need to stay on top of this to protect both our portion of the radio spectrum but also that of our public safety agencies, who can be affected every bit as much as we can.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:00 hours by KB9LMK (Tom). Introductions followed. Officers present were: N9VJV (Don), and KC9JLK (Marianne). Also present at the meeting were:

W9KHX	N9LJY	WB9PDD
W9WRS	KC9OFG	N9ZMM
KC9JLK	KA9ZJJ	N9OZD
NE9G	KC9NWF	KC9BST
KC9GMD	N0QOB	WA9IL
N9VJV		

A motion to accept the minutes as published in CQ Bars was made by KB9LMK (Dale), seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti) and carried

KC9JLK (Marianne) presented the Treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: N9LJY (Tom) reported that the machine was working

220/440 WA9IL (John) reported that both the 220 and the 440 machines were working well. Echolink has been up and down on the 440 machine.

Net Control: N9ZMM (Archie) reported that checkins are getting better with 56 checkins (4 new). The opportunity is still available to become a net control operator. Contact Archie if interested.

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that the poll on the nets as to whether to have a hamfest this year resulted in 14 yes, 1 no, and 4 no response. Also the willingness to help was 9 Yes, 4 no, and 6 no response. A motion to hold a hamfest was made by N9ZMM (Archie), seconded by N9QOB (Ron) and carried. Will be on Aug. 2 with VE testing. Signup sheets were made available.

communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter.

Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

Around the Section

Courtesy KA9QPN (Tom Ciciora Section Manager)

**A combined effort is going to see an ARES@/RACES information table at the Tom Skilling Tornado & Severe Weather Seminars at the Ramsey Auditorium of Fermilab on 25 April. There hasn't been a ham presence at this affair since 2001 (I think), and even then not of this scale. The table will be staffed by folks from the area ARES@/RACES groups, to insure that interested parties will find a live body to speak with from their area. The Skilling Seminar is worth the trip. Come early so you can actually get a seat in the hall. Times are at noon and 6:00PM.

FCC HAS DONE "LITERALLY NOTHING" TO COMPLY WITH COURT RULING

On February 25 -- 10 months to the day that the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit released its decision on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/?nc=1>> --

ARRL General Counsel, Chris Imlay, W3KD, sent a letter to FCC Acting Chairman Michael Copps, requesting that the Commission "revisit the BPL rules without further delay, and to comply with the obligations placed on it by the Court"

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Feb2509_Letter_to_Copps.pdf>. In its April 2008 decision, the Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission. According to Imlay, "to date, literally nothing has been done by the Commission to comply with these instructions."

In its 2008 ruling, the Court did not vacate the Commission's 2004 BPL rules. Imlay said that the ARRL did not request the Court do so, as the current Part 15 rules governing BPL, "inadequate though they are, were slightly preferable to the general application of the Part 15 rules to BPL systems in terms of interference prevention." Imlay said that the FCC's "inaction" since the remand has "served neither BPL deployment, nor Amateur Radio, well."

Imlay pointed out to Copps that without such rules protecting the Amateur Radio Service, Amateur Radio operators have no protection from the interference from BPL systems: "While there are configurations of BPL systems which can adequately reduce the probability of interference ex ante and without significant constraints on BPL deployment, the current BPL rules do not mandate the use of these interference prevention mechanisms."

The Court demanded two things from the FCC in its ruling: release the redacted studies that the Commission relied on for its BPL findings, and provide a "reasoned justification" for an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade, or adopt another factor and provide a reasoned explanation for it.

Regarding the redacted studies, the Court ordered the Commission to "make available for notice and comment the unredacted 'technical studies and data that it has employed in reaching [its] decisions' [with respect to BPL]...and shall make them part of the rulemaking record." The FCC used five substantially redacted field studies that the Commission's Office

of Engineering and Technology (OET) staff conducted of BPL field trials. To date, these unredacted studies have not been released.

The Court also ordered the FCC to "either provide a reasonable justification for retaining an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for access BPL systems sufficient to indicate that it has grappled with the 2005 studies, or adopt another factor and provide a reasoned explanation for it." The 2005 studies refer to those conducted by the Office of Communications, the FCC's counterpart in the United Kingdom.

The ARRL submitted these studies to the Court, along with the League's own analysis showing that an extrapolation factor closer to 20 dB per decade was more appropriate, as part of the record in its petition for reconsideration of the FCC's BPL Order. The Court said that the FCC "summarily dismissed" this data in a manner that "cannot substitute for a reasoned explanation." The Court also noted that the record in the FCC proceeding included a study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that "itself casts doubt on the Commission's decision."

The extrapolation factor pertains to the rate at which radiated emissions from power lines carrying access BPL decay with distance from the power lines, and therefore the extent to which the radiated energy from the lines can interfere with licensed radio services, such as Amateur Radio.

Imlay said that since its 2004 rulemaking in Docket 04-37 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-245A1.pdf>,

BPL technology has "evolved," and the opportunity now presents itself to craft revised BPL rules that address the "actual interference potential of BPL systems while enabling BPL as a broadband delivery or grid management technology." He reminded Copps that eight months ago, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, met with representatives from the FCC's OET with a plan for BPL. "The revised regulations suggested by ARRL would be sufficient to reduce the potential interference to the point that it would be practical to address such instances on a case-by-case basis," Imlay said. "Compliance is achievable with present BPL technology without significant limitation on BPL deployment." Calling the Commission "long overdue" in complying with the Court's "very clear and specific" instructions, Imlay said that the Commission's inaction "cannot be allowed to continue. It is necessary to commence further proceedings in ET Docket 04-37 after making the requisite disclosures, and we respectfully urge the Commission to do so without further delay."

Imlay reminded Copps that on his inauguration day earlier this year, President Barack Obama placed a series of goals on the White House Web site. "Among these," Imlay said, "was the following: 'Restore Scientific Integrity to the White House: Restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best-available, scientifically valid evidence and not on ideological predispositions.'

The Commission has the opportunity to implement this goal in this Docket proceeding."

BPL Isn't Dead yet

Courtesy KA9QPN (Tom Ciciora Section Manager)

Rumors are swirling about BPL being somehow embedded in the current 'stimulus' package being debated by Congress. According to Dave Sumner K1ZZ, our League CEO, "BPL won't even meet the bill's definition of basic broadband service -- it's too slow". Our Central Division Director, Dick Isely W9GIG, echoes that sentiment, offering the thought that properly designed, non-interfering BPL would not be cost competitive with even the most basic coax-based system, which would offer higher throughput. There's enough to be concerned about right now without raising that old chestnut.

Some articles courtesy of the ARRL.