
CQ BARS

Volume XX Issue 08

August 2003

President's Corner

Jim found his computer but lost his calendar. It looks like this month's article will make it to next month's newsletter!!

73
Jim KA9SFW

Secretary's Column

Hamfest!! Hamfest!! Hamfest!! And I say again, HAMFEST!!

It's that time, folks. N9LJY (Tom) is also our Hamfest Chairman and is going to be looking for folks to help. He needs a rest, gang, so let's turn out in force to make it easy on him. If each of do a little we can pull it off again this year without exhausting anyone. We're going to need help to set up on Sat (8/23). We've had a tradition of helping the inside vendors with their setup, and believe me, those vendors appreciate it!. We've been told over and over that no other hamfest treats their vendors as well as we do. That's why they keep coming back even though our 'fest isn't as big as others. On Sun AM we're going to be meeting at 4:00 AM for breakfast and then heading for Inwood to open it up. We'll be looking for people to help at the gate, parking, and security. Get volunteered for your spot early before all the good ones are taken!!!

Also I still have advance tickets and Tom has flyers. Get 'em while there hot!!

It's membership renewal time again. I've enclosed a membership application in this month's issue. Please, even if you're a live member, fill it out and return it. I use that application to create the mailing list for next year. Also, we want to use electronic delivery for the newsletter, so please add your E-Mail address anywhere on the form.



No application means no newsletter, and I'm sure you'll really miss this prose!!

The Aug meeting is important for yet another reason, and that is officer nominations.. The elections will be held at the Sep meeting, but we need to get a slate of nominees put together. Nominations will be open until the Sep meeting.

73's for this month

Don - N9VJV

Last Months Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:30 hours by KA9SFW (Jim), President. Introductions followed. Officers present were: NW9V (Phil), KB9JLB (Barb), and N9VJV (Don). Also present at the meeting were:

	KA9J	KB9JLB	K9JTB
KA9SFW	N9LJY	KB9OEX	
KC9BST	AB9EE	N9OZD	
KA9ZJJ	KB9QMB	KB9LMK	
WA9IL	N9GFZ	NW9V	
WG9L	WB9PDD	N9VJV	

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last month's issue of CQ BARS was made by KB9LMK (Dale) and seconded by KA9ZJJ (Marti). The motion was carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by KB9JLB (Barb). A motion to accept the report as presented was made by N9LJY (Tom), seconded by KC9BST (Lisa), and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 meter: KA9J (Frank) reported that the repeater was working fine. He has adjusted the squelch.

220/440: WA9IL (John) reported that both are working fine. The PL has been turned off. KA9J and WA9IL will be redoing the electric.

Net Control: No Report

Hamfest: N9LJY (Tom) reported that 372 envelopes have been sent. 32 tables have been reserved out of 70. The food vendor has been contacted and is ready. Chairs and tables have been reserved. Help will be needed for security, parking, and gate. Setup will be 3-6 PM on Sat.

Education: No Report.

VE: N9LJY (Tom) reported that the session after Field day had 6 candidates..

Field Day: N9LJY (Tom) reported that we ran 5A and had 11 visitors. We got 700 points for media coverage and had a total of 4980 points.

Public Relations: No Report.

Skywarn: NW9V reported that we've been VERY busy this season. N9LJY (Tom) reported that we need to tighten up[the procedures a bit. A procedure book has been placed with the Station 5 . equipment. We need to be sure that station 5 is manned and used. It was suggested that the net should be operated from station 5, but the main goal was to get the net up and operational during severe weather.

Misc.: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

A motion to close Old Business was made by N9LJY (Tom) and seconded by KC9BST (Lisa). The motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KB9JLB (Barb) reminded us that the new officer election will be held at the Sep meeting. Nominations will open at the Aug meeting.

KA9J (Frank) presented an interesting session on the 2 Meter machine.. The equipment is at the water tower on 83rd and Janes with the electronics in the tower base. The antenna is 143' AGL with the coax running up thru the center core of the tower to a 37 watt transmitter. Donations to the repeater would be appreciated..

With no additional new business items raised, KA9ZJJ (Marti) moved to close New Business; WA9IL (John) seconded; and the motion was carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by WD9AKO (Willie), seconded by KB9JLB (Barb), and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don, N9VJV
Secretary

AMATEUR COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO POTENTIAL BPL THREAT

Members of the Amateur Radio community have responded to the potential threat posed by Broadband over Power Line (BPL) by opening their wallets in a most generous fashion. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, says BPL has hit a major hot button with amateurs, but more help is needed.

"We' re now up to nearly \$193,000 from more than 3690 donors," Hobart said as July drew to a close. The goal for the special Spectrum Defense campaign is \$300,000 by August 31.

Possibly equally significant is the fact that the number of donors to the BPL campaign substantially exceeds the number of individuals and organizations--approximately 1900--who filed initial comments in response to the FCC' s Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on BPL earlier this year. While the deadline for initial comments has passed, the FCC this week extended the reply comment deadline to August 20 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-2590A1.doc>.

The League filed a 120-page package of comments and technical exhibits <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>> on July 7, and it plans to file reply comments.

A form of power line carrier (PLC) technology, BPL would use existing electrical power lines to deliver high-speed (ie, broadband) Internet services to homes and businesses. Because it would use frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz, HF and low-VHF amateur allocations could be affected if such systems are deployed. Proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets. Although FCC rules already allow BPL, industry proponents want the FCC to relax radiation limit, which could further increase the interference potential to Amateur Radio operations.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, is continuing his efforts to assess and quantify the effects of BPL on HF amateur allocations. Just back from a more than 1300-mile trip to evaluate the effects of BPL systems now in the testing stages, Hare described the interference he monitored on the HF bands as "devastating." Meanwhile, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and members of the ARRL Technical Relations Office staff have been working to build the Amateur Radio case against BPL in Washington.

In a recent solicitation focusing on the BPL issue, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said no prior threat has posed a challenge more serious. "The threat is as close as the power lines right in your neighborhood," Sumner said in

3

issuing a call to action to all amateurs. "Only by joining forces financially will we be able to educate government officials quickly and effectively on the impact of this new threat to Amateur Radio spectrum."

BPL technology already has been deployed in some European countries, and amateurs there have experienced interference from the systems. Responding in part to concerns expressed by its amateur community, Japan last year decided not to adopt the technology because of its interference potential.

For additional information on BPL, visit the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. Hobart invites donors to visit the ARRL Spectrum Defense campaign page <<http://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE MORSE REQUIREMENT POST-WRC-03?

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse code to operate below 30 MHz. While Morse exam elements remain on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have apparently become the first countries to delete their Morse requirements for HF operation. In the US, however, the FCC is unlikely to act on its own motion to simply make the Morse testing requirement go away.

"There isn't an exception in the Administrative Procedures Act that I am aware of that would permit the Commission to issue an administrative fiat changing the license structure or exam-requirement rules," said an FCC staffer who's closely involved with Amateur Service rules. Other countries can do this because they have different laws and procedures, the FCC staff member observed, adding that even if it could be done here, "that still leaves unanswered the fundamental question: What do you want the new rules to be?"

In its December 1999 Report and Order restructuring Amateur Radio licensing, the FCC stopped short of revising the rules to sunset the Morse requirement automatically if WRC-03 deleted Morse proficiency from the international Radio Regulations. The FCC also acknowledged "a clear dichotomy of viewpoints" on the Morse code issue within the amateur community.

The ARRL's policy for several years has been that Morse should be retained as a testing element in the US. At its July 18-19 meeting in Connecticut, however, the Board said it would solicit and review input from members on the Morse testing requirement and other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03.

The first move on the Morse code question in the US is for someone to file a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC seeking a rule change. No Code International (NCI) <<http://www.nocode.org/>> has spearheaded the battle to

CQ BARS

eliminate the Morse requirement and would be a likely organization to file such a petition. NCI Executive Director Carl Stevenson, WK3C, said late last week that NCI was still studying the matter and had not yet made a final decision on a plan of action. An ARRL member, Stevenson says he hopes personally that the League would join NCI in actively encouraging the FCC to eliminate the Morse exam element as soon as possible.

Hopes for a quick resolution to the Morse question could be wishful thinking, however. Once a petition to drop the Morse exam element is filed, the FCC will put it on "public notice" by assigning an RM number and soliciting comments. If more than one such petition is filed, the FCC is obliged to invite comments on each. When that process is completed, the FCC may determine that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is in order. The Commission at that point could incorporate all Morse-related rule making petitions into a single proceeding. The NPRM would get a docket number, and the comment process would begin anew.

Further complicating and extending the process, the FCC most likely would incorporate other pending Amateur Radio-related issues into the same NPRM. At the end of the comment and reply comment periods, the FCC would issue a Report and Order (R&O) that includes its decision on the Morse code requirement and any other issues incorporated into the proceeding. The whole process could take a couple of years, perhaps longer.

Ratification of the WRC-03 Final Acts by the US Senate does not appear to be necessary before the FCC can act or begin the rule making process. Following World Administrative Conference 1979 (WARC-79) which resulted in three new HF amateur bands, the FCC acted in 1982, prior to Senate ratification of the conference's Final Acts, not only to initiate the rule making process but to give amateurs limited access to 30 meters.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has advised hams in that country that the Morse qualification requirement remains in effect for operation below 30 MHz, "pending a review by Industry Canada of the impact of the WRC-2003 regulatory changes on the Canadian radio regulations, policies and procedures."

OK Barb - Go For It!!