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# 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.1<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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://frri.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.

**Education:** No Report.

**VE:** W9KHX (Dale) reported that the next session will e Feb 20, 10 AM to noon at station 5. Cost is \$15.

**Field Day:** N9LJY (Tom) reported that the plan is to hold it in the same location as last year (Meyer Park). He wants to run 6A again this year. Volunteers will be needed. Dates are June 27-28.

**Public Relations:** KA9ZJJ reported that an article was in the paper about the annual awards.

**Skywarn:** No Report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

N9ZMM (Archie) brought snacks. Contributions are welcomed

N9LJY (Tom) reiterated that he (or his designate) is the liaison for BARS. KB9LMK is the same for ARES. The purpose of this is to avoid confusing NWS personnel with possible conflicting information.

A motion to close old business was made by KC9JLK (Marianne), seconded by W9KHX (Dale) and carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

A motion to close new business was made by KA9ZJJ (Marti), seconded by WB9PDD (Stan) and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by W9KHX (Dale), seconded by N9QOB (Ron) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don, N9VJV  
Secretary

**WWV voice Silent key** (courtesy of KC9GRH (Bryan))

The person behind the recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has passed away. Announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch, passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

**Paul Harvey Plugs Ham Radio's Emergency Communications**  
Courtesy KA9QJG (Don)

Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey on March 19 offered some kind words for amateur radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment program: "America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies -- amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes. After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public." The commentary's enigmatic and mysterious final sentence -- typical of Harvey's habit of leaving his listeners hanging -- apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status as hostilities get under way in the Middle East.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Harvey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Harvey)

#### **WANTED**

Net Controllers and someone that can run Newslines. The hours and pay is great! Where can you find a job that lets you pick the day you want to work, with only one hour to be on call. What about the pay? With the hour you put in you get so much back by helping the team. As the advertisement says...Priceless. You say your not good at be the net? How about running Newslines? If you have a computer with sound or just a CD player you can do it. Just ask me how. Contact me at my email: [N9ZMM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:N9ZMM@sbcglobal.net).

February was up from last year with six check-ins and one new check-in. We are averaging about 13 check-in per week.

Archie Bolingbrook                      Hawley,                      N9ZMM  
Amateur                      Radio                      Society  
\*NET Control Coordinator

#### **WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO RECOGNIZE AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE IN DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS**

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <<http://www.iaru.org/>>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10186/?nc=1>> chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in voice, text, image and data modes. They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks -- or when existing communications infrastructures have just been disrupted or destroyed by such events -- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide

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.arrrl.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.arrrl.org/news/files/Feb2509\\_Letter\\_to\\_Copps.pdf](http://www.arrrl.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](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.