



The Feedline

March Meeting Wrap-up

Hi NKARC members.....Thanks for attending last month's meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hands on approach to the meeting. Copper pipes were sweated, resistors were soldered and plastic pipe was welded. Actually, it was fun to see everyone participating. This months presentation will be on electrical safety. There will be a short video and then a question/answer period.

Your Board of Directors are busy with a multitude of behind the scenes type of work, and we're finding we are going to need some help. Think about your ability to lend some of your valuable time to a club project. If each club member can help out in one area of the club that needs attention, we'll have a great year and continue our club into the years to come. We all have a lot of interests pulling for our attention. I'm only asking you to consider helping out. Many of you already have difficulty making it to club meetings, much less spending additional time on a club project. Thank you for coming to the club meetings. You make my life better by letting me know you. If you can help the club with an hour a month spent on a repeater

committee, budget committee, fund raising committee, special projects committee, field day committee, Paddlefest committee, interference committee, etc, it would be very helpful. Maybe you can make a phone call to a fellow member to invite them to field day or paddle fest. Maybe you can help find circuit diagrams on the internet for our repeaters. Again, I'm only asking for you to consider helping.

Your field day committee is getting into full swing. Make sure you mark the 4th weekend in June on your calendars. Plan to at least come by field day and see what is going on. Its fun to work the stations and just as fun to sit and watch. If you want to work or participate in the fun, contact Joe, KI4QG or Mark, AI4BJ.

Paddlefest is also quickly approaching. Saturday July 8th will be our day to shine as a Special Service Club.

Directors will be meeting Wed April 5th at LaRosa's at 6:45pm. Call one your directors if you want directions. See you all on Monday the 10th at Turkeyfoot Middle School.

73, Tony AI4IP

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 10—Membership meeting
- May 8—Membership meeting
- June 12—Membership meeting
- June 23-25—FIELD DAY
- July 8—Paddlefest
- July 10—Membership meeting
- August 14—Membership Meeting

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Repeaters — K4CO

147.255+ 444.350+ Edgewood, 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights
Nets

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255+/s

—WEB Site—

WWW.K4CO.ORG

Membership meetings on the **2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

Board meetings are at 6:45 PM on the same night.

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the

Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions should be of 500 words or less, and **in electronic format**. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Brian Clark W4SOU:

385 Green Acres Rd, Owenton, KY 40359 — Email: w4sou@bellsouth.net

March Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were not available at press time. This issue has some photos taken by Dann, KI4AVO of the meeting activities.



March Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
3/7/06	KB4VKS	8	31	0
3/14/06	WA4QMV	14	20	0
3/21/06	KI4QG	6	19	0
3/28/06	KB4VKS	8	20	0
TOTALS		36	90	0

Weaver's Words

BPL PROGRESS

The FCC finally took notice of ARRL's repeated protests against the Manassas, VA BPL operation and directed the City of Manassas to prove it is not causing interference to amateurs. Amateurs were also requested to provide further data to support the claim of interference. BPL, which operates under FCC part 15 rules, is an unlicensed device. Unlicensed devices are not permitted to interfere with licensed operations such as Amateur Radio, fire services, rescue services, police services and the like.



What does the FCC action mean? If its demand is sincere, this is FCC's first step to accept its responsibility for protecting licensed services from poorly designed and implemented BPL systems. If nothing else, the demand means that Manassas will need to provide credible data showing their system is not dirty. It means the city must divert attention from other tasks and, very possibly, a portion of its tax-derived income from other uses to defend its BPL system.

For us as amateurs and for ARRL, the FCC action gives hope that the Commission under its new Chairman and revised membership will do the job it is charged with doing under Federal Law. It also means our battle against interference from BPL may be paying off and that the League is winning on behalf of hams throughout the country.

Postscript: Please recognize that ARRL has never been anti-BPL and still is not anti-BPL. We have always been and remain against interference caused by it. Where BPL is made free of interference, we have no problem with it. This seems to be the case with the Current Technologies system being tried in Cincinnati and the newer Motorola system that is a combination of wireless and wired technology.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT KATRINA

It is no secret that the entire country was taken by surprise over the huge, destructive impact of Hurricane Katrina and its immediate successors. Let's face it; humans generally learn through experience whether this experience is favorable or unfavorable. Trying to blame everything bad that happened in the aftermath of Katrina on individuals is an exercise in futility, exasperation . . . and maybe mostly of reality and vindictiveness. On the other hand, it is the wise person who learns from oversights and mistakes. This is precisely what the ARRL Board of Directors is doing.

The January Board of Directors meeting directed that a new, blue ribbon committee be established to study what went wrong with and what went right with the Katrina disaster relief operation . . . and to prepare against future, similar situations. This emergency communication study Committee is directed to submit interim reports throughout its existence and its final report at the Board of Directors meeting in January 2007. The charge to the Committee is to make changes that will improve our ability to respond effectively to major disasters and to avoid repeating problems that occurred after Katrina. The Committee is to plan for wide area and even nationwide disasters. Local disasters are generally being handled well; however, relevant improvements made by the Committee can be expected to find application to local operations as well.

The new committee has been formed and is organizing its work. Its members are a veritable who's who of Amateur Radio emergency communication. This is no "top brass only" committee. It includes good representation not only of the "brass" who can get things changed, but also of people who have a lot of experience "where the rubber meets the road." These folks have been there and done that when it comes to disaster relief . . .

Please see "Weaver", page 12

CERT and Amateur Radio

The more I investigate the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept the more I see a need for amateur radio to be involved. Let us take a look at how important it is for hams to take a part in CERT to make our family, neighborhood and the community safer during times of an incident to the area. You might not be interested in the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), but might see a need to be involved in CERT.

CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family and your community in the event of a disaster. When there is mass chaos in an incident (event) and emergency services might not be able to get to you for hours maybe days, this is where you could make a difference. The training covers basic skills that are important to know when a disaster strikes and trained emergency personnel are overwhelmed or not available. With training and practice and by working as a team, we will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number after a disaster, while protecting ourselves from becoming a victim.

The damage caused by natural disasters and manmade events such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, flooding and terrorism can affect all elements of society and government. These events severely restrict or overwhelm our response resources, COMMUNICATIONS, transportation and utilities. Individuals and neighborhoods are often cut off from outside support and emergency personnel.

Community based preparedness planning allows us to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. As individuals and hams we can prepare our homes and families to cope during that critical period. Through pre-event planning, neighborhoods and community groups can work together to help reduce injuries. Loss of life and property damage community preparedness will enhance the ability of individuals and community groups to reduce their emergency needs and manage their existing resources until professional assistance becomes available.

Studies of behavior following disasters have shown that groups working together in the disaster period perform

more effectively if there has been prior planning for disaster response. These studies have shown that organized grassroots efforts may be more successful if they are woven into the social and political fabric of the community, our neighborhoods, community groups AMATEUR RADIO groups and clubs, schools, workplace, places of worship and other existing organizations.



Effective response therefore requires comprehensive planning and coordination of all who will be involved. This includes AMATEUR RADIO, government, volunteer groups, private business, schools, and community organizations. With training and information, AMATEUR RADIO, individuals and community groups can be prepared to serve as a crucial resource capable of performing many of the emergency functions needed in the immediate post-disaster period. The CERT program is designed to help communities prepare for effective disaster response through training planning.

The training involved will probably take you between 20 and 30 hours and you will learn the basics in; disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, CERT organization, disaster psychology and terrorism and CERT. With AMATEUR RADIO we can be the missing link during a disaster by communicating with the EOC and/or local dispatch center with information on injuries or lack of, deaths or lack of, fires or lack of, property damage assessment and any other information that may be needed to make the neighborhood safe. AMATEUR RADIO could be the only means of contact to the outside world during an event so we need to make use of our resources and our hobby. Think about it and when the CERT program comes to your area make sure to become part of it. Your family and community need your help.

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Kentucky Section Manager
Great Lakes Division

FCC CLARIFIES RENEWAL PROCEDURES FOR VANITY CALL SIGN HOLDERS

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 10

With the renewal window about to open for the first Amateur Radio licenses assigned vanity call signs in 1996, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has attempted to clarify filing procedures. The WTB says vanity call sign holders whose licenses expire on or after June 4, 2006, must file electronically or on paper via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> to renew their licenses. Amateur Radio renewal applications may only be filed within 90 days of the license expiration date.

"Licensees of stations assigned vanity call signs have the option of keeping the vanity call sign or requesting that it be changed to a sequentially assigned call sign," the WTB points out. Those opting to keep their vanity call signs for the new 10-year license term must pay the current regulatory fee, now \$21.90, when renewing (the vanity call sign regulatory fee may change in August or September). If the licensee no longer wants to keep a vanity call sign, no fee is required, and the applicant should request a sequentially assigned call sign instead.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do not have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

To renew electronically via the ULS, licensees should log into ULS License Manager <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> Online Filing (click on "Log In") using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Anyone doing business with the FCC must supply an FRN on any application.

To keep a vanity call sign, licensees should select "Renew" under the "Work on this License" option. Fees for electroni-

cally filed applications may be paid online or mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, PO Box 358835, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5835.

Online filers choosing not to renew a vanity call sign should select the "Systematic Call Sign Change" option from the "Work on this License" list. To obtain a new call sign, licensees should answer "No" to the question "Your license is eligible for renewal. Renew call sign (vanity call sign)?"

Doing this will result in the issuance of a renewed license bearing a sequentially assigned call sign.



Licensees filing on paper must use FCC Form 605 (main form), and--if a fee is required--Form 159 (remittance advice). Licensees wishing to keep their vanity call signs should enter "Renew" under "Purpose" on Form 605 and enter the present call sign in item 5. Manual filers choosing not to renew their vanity call signs must file Form 605 (main form) Schedule D in order to obtain a new systematic call sign. The "Purpose" on the main form must be "Renewal/Modification," and the "Systematic Call Sign Change" question on Schedule D must be answered "Yes."

If no FRN is provided on the main form, an FCC Form 160 (registration) is also required for manual filing. All forms are available via the FCC Forms page <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>.

For more information on how to renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign, visit the FCC Help & Support page <http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm> or call the ULS Customer Support Hotline, 877-480-3201 (TTY 717-338-2824).

The ARRL handles routine non-vanity renewals for members free of charge. At this time, it does not process renewal applications for post-1995 vanity call sign holders, but ARRL plans to add that capability in the near future.

Yet another DX record claimed on 134 GHz:

Inveterate microwave enthusiast Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, says he's once again topped his own claimed world DX record on the 134-GHz band. On February 26, Justin, operating as WA1ZMS/4 in EM96ur, and Pete Lascell, W4WWQ, in FM07fm--both in Virginia--exchanged reports on FSK-CW (copied by ear) over a distance of 114.4 km (approximately 70.9 miles). That beats his previous world DX record of 79.6 km (approximately 49.35 miles) set in December.

-The ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 10

Field Day Site Announced

Field Day will be held Saturday June 24 and Sunday June 25 at Eng-land-Idlewild Park on Idlewild Road (State Route 338) Northwest of Burlington in Boone County. We will be using shelter house #1

which is at the park entrance sur-
rounded by mature trees. Our an-
tennas will have a clear shot to
the horizon in all directions.
More details next month.
Joe, KI4QG

DX Still King For 90-Year-Old Radio Amateur

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 10

Veteran DXer and contester John Thompson, W1BIH, has been largely out of the game since disposing of his tower, antennas and linear and moving into a retirement community in Massachusetts last year. But the DXCC Honor Roll member held onto his transceiver and his desire to work the few rare ones he lacked. When the 3Y0X Peter I DXpedition got under way in February, Don Greenbaum, N1DG, did his older friend a good turn by taking Thompson to his station February 9 for a crack at 3Y0X. During the last two Peter I Island DXpeditions, Thompson was at his winter home, PJ9JT, so Peter I has been among his most

wanted. It only took about 30 minutes for W1BIH to make himself heard through the fray on 15-meter SSB and ex-
change reports. "We got him!" Thompson exclaimed seconds after the quick QSO. Greenbaum captured the occasion on video
<<http://005d89a.netsolhost.com/videos/videos/w1bih.wmv>>.
Once confirmed and submitted to DXCC, the 3Y0X QSO will elevate W1BIH into a tie for second place in the DXCC stand-
ings at 390 entities--including deleted entities--or 335 current enti-
ties. W1BIH subsequently worked 3Y0X from his retirement community station on 20-meter CW while running 100 W into a G5RV strung from his window some 20 feet above ground.

Motorola White Paper Epitomizes BPL-Amateur Radio Rapprochement

The ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 10

A new Motorola white paper, "Practical, Proven Broadband over Power Line," describes how its Powerline LV BPL system "passes muster with Amateur Radio operators." Motorola and ARRL have coop-
erated in tests of the system, which the League has cited in FCC filings as one that minimizes radio frequency interference--both from and to the sys-
tem--by design. "Motorola's white paper bears out that the ARRL is not op-
posed to the deployment of well-engineered BPL systems designed with interference avoidance in mind,"

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, commented. "We are opposed to BPL interference." Sumner said the League remains opposed to deployment of BPL technology having "an inherently high probability of causing harmful interference to radio communication." The Motorola white paper includes a summary of the company's experiences af-
ter installing a Powerline LV system at ARRL Headquarters and W1AW, as re-
ported in November 2005 QST
<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0511085.pdf>>. The Powerline LV system avoids putting digital signals on medium-
voltage power lines and incorporates enhanced ham band notching.

VOLUNTEER RADIO AMATEURS "PART OF THE SOLUTION"

The ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 10

Addressing the FCC independent panel reviewing Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication networks, ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, praised Amateur Radio's ability to get the job done. Speaking before the panel March 7 in Jackson, Mississippi, Sarratt said Amateur Radio volunteers were tremendously effective in their ability to re-establish communication links using their own gear or by building systems from scratch.

"Amateur Radio operators themselves were part of the solution, providing experienced communications operators to replace and supplement local public service communications personnel in the devastated area," Sarratt said. The volunteer radio amateurs and their equipment proved "very effective" in supporting emergency management, the Red Cross, the Southern Baptist Convention, The Salvation Army and many other organizations, he told the panel.

For 37 days following Hurricane Katrina, Sarratt--working at an American Red Cross disaster relief staging area in Montgomery, Alabama--headed the volunteer effort to process Amateur Radio volunteers headed to the Gulf Coast to assist recovery operations. Sarratt told the FCC panel that his operation processed and deployed more than 200 ham radio volunteers from 35 states and Canada to devastated communities in Mississippi. Volunteers set up communication facilities at kitchens, shelters, emergency operations centers, distribution centers, warehouses and various command and control centers, he said.

"In each town we set up a high frequency (HF) Amateur Radio station to communicate out of the area to Montgomery and the outside world," Sarratt explained. "We also set up a communications network connecting every Red Cross facility in a town on a local short-range radio frequency. Our network included fixed and mobile disaster vehicle stations."

Sarratt told the FCC panel that interoperability is the most important thing Amateur Radio can bring to the table in emergency and disaster communications. "Amateurs demonstrated their adaptability by communicating successfully with a multitude of amateur, commercial, public service, EMA, Salva-

tion Army and Red Cross radio systems and personnel," he said.

"Radio amateurs bring a wealth of resources to the public service and emergency communications table," Sarratt summed up. "The ARRL and Amateur Radio will continue to prepare, train, practice and test ourselves for the next event," he told the FCC panel. "Public service is a large component of the charter of the Amateur Radio Service." He suggested installing permanent Amateur Radio stations in federal, state and local emergency operations centers as well as at selected public service, Red Cross chapters and other served agencies.

Sarratt offered some recommendations for the FCC panel to consider, suggesting that the Commission and the ARRL:

- * collaborate to issue FCC credentials to the ARRL for Amateur Radio responders.
- * be key partners in an Amateur Radio awareness program for multiple government agencies and the first-responder community.
- * continue working together on critical frequency spectrum protection and interference-avoidance issues.

"The disasters of 2005 have proven the worth of Amateur Radio Service and its selfless cadre of operators; we were tested as never before," Sarratt concluded, adding "we must assume the next 'big one' is just around the corner."

ARRL provided a written report to the independent FCC review panel. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, recently named Sarratt to serve on the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee.

Dave Vincent, the station manager of WLOX-TV in Biloxi, Mississippi, also praised ham radio in his remarks before the FCC panel. He said WLOX was lucky to have a ham operator at its studio. Without the help of Amateur Radio, Vincent said, "it probably would have been a couple of days before we would have known whether the persons in our two bureaus had survived the storm."

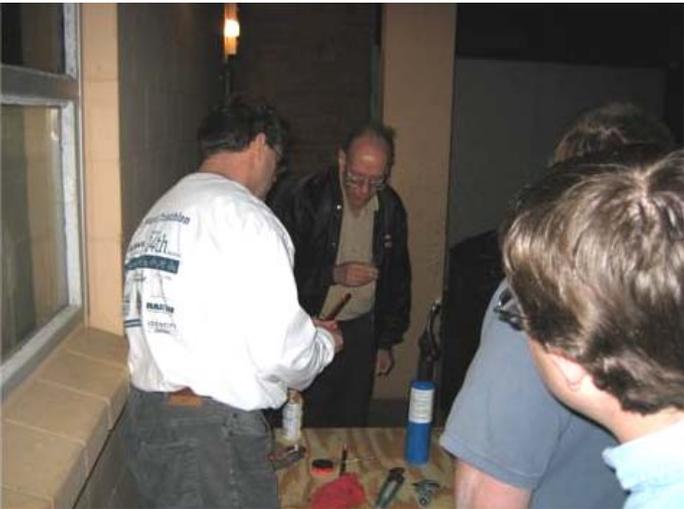


WANTED

Your articles, news, ideas pictures and opinions to fill newsletter space.

Contact Brian Clark, W4SOU at w4sou@bellsouth.net

March Meeting Photos



"HELLO" CAMPAIGN PROVIDES RALLYING POINT TO PROMOTE AMATEUR RADIO

The ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 11

The first components of the ARRL's "Hello" Amateur Radio public relations campaign now are available. "This campaign will give hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to non-hams and influence their perception of Amateur Radio," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, who conceived the campaign and is its principal Headquarters contact. The "Hello" campaign is aimed at recasting Amateur Radio in the light of the 21st century and focusing on its universal appeal. At the same time, it will mark the 100th anniversary of what many historians consider the first voice radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald Fessenden.

"For years, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) and others interested in promoting Amateur Radio have been looking for leadership and a rallying point from which we can join together in a major promotion for ham radio," Pitts said. This is it! Tools include a distinctive "Hello" Web site <http://www.hello-radio.org/> and radio and TV public service announcements.

Based on the word "Hello," which Pitts calls "possibly the most pleasant word in any language," the coordinated campaign will set "a positive, upbeat tone that highlights the international capabilities of Amateur Radio," he explained. The "Hello" Web site is designed for non-hams to learn a little bit about Amateur Radio and to arouse more interest. The site points prospective Amateur Radio licensees to groups that have indicated they will provide a warm welcome to newcomers. The national "Hello" campaign can bring curious people into contact with ham radio groups, but it will be up to local radio amateurs to make them truly welcome, Pitts maintains.

"The key to creating a new ham operator is to develop a relationship with a current ham operator," says Pitts. Behind the effort is "an army of dedicated, truly motivated PIOs and others who want to see ham radio flourish."

A series of 30-second radio public service announcements (PSAs) <http://www.arrl.org/pio/pr.html> has been developed for the "Hello" campaign. "You can help by downloading the

PSAs from the ARRL Web site onto a CD and taking it to your own local radio station," Pitts suggests.

A broadcast-quality video for the "Hello" campaign will be available in April.

Copies of the special four-page "Hello" brochure <http://www.arrl.org/pio/hello/Hello-Campaign-Brochure.pdf> are available from ARRL Headquarters for use during presentations to non-ham groups. (Full details on the "Hello" campaign plus a pull-out copy of the brochure are available in the April issue of QST.) The brochures are suitable for talks to schools, clubs, displays and other venues promoting Amateur Radio to the public. There is a space on the back page to add local club info.

"For 100 years, the magic of the human voice over radio has brought imaginations to life. It opened a whole new era of human communication," the brochure declares, urging, "It's your world. Get on the radio and say 'Hello.'"

To obtain copies, e-mail the "Hello" campaign hello@arrl.org. Donations are welcome (make checks out to "ARRL") to help cover return postage to ARRL, Public Relations, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"Hello" logo bumper stickers will be on sale through the ARRL on-line catalog <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9731>. Buttons for the "Hello" campaign will be available at Dayton Hamvention and at other major Amateur Radio events. Banners for the "Hello" campaign will be flying at Dayton Hamvention and at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in April. After that, they will be made available for use at major events in 2006.

"ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was correct in stating that the Main Street of today is not the same as the Main Street of yesteryear," Pitts says. "To reach out today, the very first requirement is that Amateur Radio operators be perceived as friendly and trustworthy. That's a true public relations goal and the primary focus of the campaign."



FCC AFFIRMS \$21,000 IN FINES LEVIED ON MAINE RADIO AMATEUR

The ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 13

The FCC has affirmed a total of \$21,000 in fines it proposed last year to levy on Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The FCC's Forfeiture Order (NoF), released March 29, comes nearly 10 months after a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the case. The FCC has alleged that Baxter violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.

"The noted violations of the rules involve interference with the ongoing communications of other Amateur Radio stations, failure to exercise station control, transmission of communications in which Baxter had a pecuniary interest, and transmission of communications that constituted impermissible broadcasting," the FCC said. The NoF reiterates specific allegations outlined in the NAL last June.

The FCC also has concluded that Baxter "apparently willfully and repeatedly" failed to file required information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive. In two warning notices in 2004, FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth directed Baxter to provide information on how K1MAN was controlled and the identity of the station's control operator.

"The Boston [FCC] Office found that Mr. Baxter's statements that '[n]o correction actions are necessary' and '[n]o changes are needed with regard to station control' failed to comply with the Bureau's demand for station information, the FCC said in the NoF.

Replying to the June 2005 NAL, Baxter denied any liability for the forfeiture amount, the FCC said. According to the Commission, Baxter cited the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution and requested "all documentation regarding the alleged apparent liability" and "a trial like hearing before the full Commission." Baxter did not submit "any substantive responses" to the alleged violations recited in the NAL, the Commission said.

The FCC denied Baxter's request for a hearing. According to the Communications Act, the FCC said, providing a hearing is at the Commission's discretion, and a hear-

ing is "not normally utilized when only monetary forfeiture matters are involved."

Its procedures, the FCC noted, do not deprive Baxter of his right to due process, because the Communications Act provides that any forfeitures issued in accordance with its procedures are "ultimately subject to a trial de novo in federal district court" should Baxter not pay the fine beforehand. A

licensee's decision to forego presentation of arguments and evidence in response to an NAL "does not create a right to a hearing," the Commission contended in the NoF.

The FCC further noted that the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution "address the rights of defendants in criminal cases" and said Baxter's reliance on those amendments to support his hearing request "is misplaced."

"Baxter received notice regarding the legal and factual bases for the apparent violations and proposed forfeiture and has been afforded an opportunity to respond 'why no such forfeiture penalty should be imposed,'" the FCC said. According to the NoF, Baxter, while denying any liability, "has chosen not to present any specific exculpatory arguments or evidence in response to the violations set forth in the NAL."

Baxter has 30 days from the release of the order to pay the \$21,000 or appeal. If the forfeiture is not paid within that time, the FCC can refer the case to the US Department of Justice for collection. A copy of the NoF is on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-663A1.pdf>.

Baxter's Amateur Radio license expired last October 17, but according to the FCC, he has continuing operating authority since he filed a timely renewal. His renewal application remains under review based on complaints filed and on FCC correspondence regarding the operation of his station. The forfeiture action is separate.

WEAVER (from page 4)
including Katrina.

Don't get the idea that no progress will be made until after the Committee formally reports its findings next January. Improvements will be made as it becomes obvious they will be useful. The interim reports will be used to develop these timely changes.

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTERS/E-MAIL

Thanks to the approximately 500 or you who wrote your US Representatives in support of H.Res. 230. You are having considerable impact. Here is what is happening as a result of your effort.

First, replies from Congressmen/women show areas in which our Lobbyist can educate our Representatives. We now know what misunderstandings many of our Representatives are working under. Time spent in education during lobby visits can be very helpful in correcting these misimpressions.

Second, there is considerable thought among some Representatives that the basic provisions of H.Res 230 should be incorporated into the new US Communications Act that is being drafted. This would be even better for us than getting H.Res. 230 passed. Don't back off of promoting H.Res. 230, though. Support for the Resolution is support for the concept regardless of the form Congressional action will take.

Don't want to be involved in politics? The only way to avoid politics is to live as a hermit and have no contact with family or other people. Politics is how we interact with others.

GEORGE IS DOING IT

On the way to Toledo from the swap at Marshall, MI, Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA and I visited Past Director George Race, WB8BGY in Albion, MI. George had attended the swap earlier in the day. His principal interest in Amateur Radio currently is PSK-31. If you know George at all, you know he must keep busy with challenging projects to fill his time. In addition to lending an occasional helping hand to his wife, Bar-

bara, WB8UWX with cards coming in for the 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau, George is building an airplane. Barb has been a dedicated Letter Sorter in the Bureau for a number of years.

But, much of the considerable time George previously devoted to Amateur Radio as Great Lakes Division Director is now occupied with flying. I don't mean models such as I used to fly. George is building a unique, STOL (short take-off and landing) airplane that he can fly from his side yard.

Go for it, George! Oh, and thanks for all you've done for Amateur Radio in Michigan, the Great Lakes Division and the entire US.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

That is, what's in it for you to be active in ARRL? Why should you want to promote ARRL?

The bottom line simply is that if you enjoy Amateur Radio, if you want Amateur Radio to survive for another generation, if you have invested in Amateur Radio equipment . . . you will get personal benefit from taking an active role in ARRL. What are the problems and how can you help?

I'll discuss just one of these problems today. Others will covered in future issues.

ARRL membership is dropping. There are several reasons for this. Lack of awareness of the facts is probably the most prevalent reason.

Simply stated, most non-members have not taken the time to learn what ARRL is and what it does for each of us radio amateurs and for Amateur Radio.

We who understand the reasons we belong need to spread the word. We need to let non-members know why they will want to become ARRL members. Yes, I said, want to become members.

ARRL is the only effective game in town when it comes to promoting Amateur Radio nationally. To be sure, there are other **Please see "Weaver", page 14**

Low-Frequency Experimenters Seek Reports, Crossband Skeds

The ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 13

The next round of LF transpacific testing between ZM2E, Quartz Hill, New Zealand, and VA7LF, S Pender Island, British Columbia, will take place April 3, 4 and 5. Testing will begin shortly after sunset at VA7LF (approximately 0630 UTC) and will continue until sunrise (approximately 1400 UTC). The frequency will be 137.7890 / 137.7886 kHz (0.4 Hz shift) using FSK90. Following a schedule with VA7LF, ZM2E will continue with R6L until sunrise in New Zealand.

Reception reports via the reflectors are encouraged, and the VA7LF site will be Internet equipped. "If we are able to get things set up smoothly, we may be on the air for testing on Sunday night, April 2," said Steve McDonald, VE7SL. "Since we will be at our maximum ERP limit, we hope to have some time available to attempt some crossband HF-LF CW-CW QSOs or QRSS-CW contacts in our early evening hours (0300-0600 UTC)." Interested stations should contact McDonald via e-mail, <jism@gulfislands.com>.

Cubesats Get OSCAR Numbers

The ARRL Letter Vol 25, No 13

AMSAT-NA has issued OSCAR designations for two Japanese cubesat Amateur Radio satellites. XI-IV (pronounced "sai four"), launched in 2003, will be known as CUBESAT-OSCAR-57 or CO-57. XI-V (pronounced "sai five"), launched with SSETI Express in 2005, will be known as CUBESAT-OSCAR-58 or CO-58. "AMSAT-NA and I wish to congratulate you and your entire team for the successful construction, testing and launching of these innovative spacecraft," said

AMSAT's Bill Tynan, W3XO, in announcing the designations. "Your pioneering work certainly inspires others to follow your lead." The satellites were built and launched by the University of Tokyo Cubesat Team. Both satellites have similar payloads. CO-57 has a CW beacon on 436.8475 MHz and a 1200 bps AFSK packet downlink on 437.490 MHz. CO-58 has a CW beacon on 437.4650 MHz and a 1200 bps AFSK packet downlink on 437.3450 MHz.

Remember to check in to the NKARC Net at 7:30 PM on Tuesday nights on the 147.255 repeater.

WEAVER (from page 12)

groups that promote Amateur Radio, but none of them are organized well enough and are big enough to get the job done.

Anyone who wants Amateur Radio to have strong representation before the FCC, in the US Congress and in our State governments will want to belong to ARRL. This is the only organization that can fight effectively for Amateur Radio through the International Amateur Radio Union in promoting our great service before governments worldwide.

Amateur Radio would not exist today if it was not for the strong defense given it by ARRL. We would have no frequencies -- LF, HF, VHF, UHF or any other.

The bottom line to what's in it for you is that the larger membership ARRL has, the greater impact it can have on regulators and legislators at all levels. The greater the impact ARRL wields the more ARRL is able to do for you and Amateur Radio. The more ARRL does for you and Amateur Radio, the more bang you get out of your membership dollars. It is just this simple.

Why not go recruit a new member or two?

60 METERS

The 60 meter (5 MHz) band is a good one and is enjoyed by many amateurs. The problem is we have use of only five, highly defined channels and can use only relatively low-power USB on them. ARRL thinks we ought to have a wider band and be able to use still more means of transmission. This is where the US Government's equivalent to the FCC, the NTIA, which in turn governs the civil users of the radio spectrum for the US. Amateur Radio shares its 5MHz frequencies with critical government users. Therefore, ARRL needs to convince the NTIA that hams will not interfere with these government communications. NTIA representatives appear to be receptive to the idea of sharing more frequencies with us . . . so far. Although we on the Board have our collective fingers crossed, it will be considerably longer before our 60M fre-

quencies may expanded -- if they are expanded. Things are promising, though.

THINK ABOUT IT

ARRL is dedicated to defending and promoting Amateur Radio -- all of Amateur Radio. In contrast, some individual hams focus sharply on a very narrow aspect of ham radio. Having a special interest is fine. Nearly all of us have special likes and dislikes. However, it is detrimental to Amateur Radio overall when members of any special interest group come to look upon themselves as being part of the total organization and begins seeing themselves instead as the reason the rest of the group exists. There is room in Amateur Radio for hams to pursue any form of operation that is legal. To believe that only specific forms of technology are worthy of amateurs to pursue is arrogant and selfish. Such a belief is an example of extreme elitism.

SPEAKING OF TAKING THINGS AWAY

I'm not certain if this has ever been said quite so openly as this, but the members of the ARRL Board of Directors are human. Yep. Downright fallible. We make mistakes. We work very hard to avoid these, but every now and then a dozy creeps in. One such mistake occurred a number of years ago when Incentive Licensing came into existence.

It is not that Incentive Licensing, itself, was a mistake (in my opinion). The mistake was the manner in which Incentive Licensing was implemented. To make incentives possible, some frequencies were taken away from General Class licensees to give back to Advance's and Extra's. To say the least, this was not good.

Folks, read me well. We will not take anything away from amateur privileges in rules we propose.

Yet, even today, there are groups and individual members who keep demanding that the Board take action to abolish some form of Amateur Radio operation that the FCC has found to be legal.

Please see "Weaver", page 15

WEAVER (from page 14)

What are these? AM and semiautomatic digital are two of them.

Wouldn't it be far better to find a way to work together so each of us can enjoy our particular niche in hamming?

FOCUSED PUBLICITY

Greg Wilkins, WD8JCT of Cincinnati is an over-the-air reader for the Reading Radio Service (RRS). As such, he has the freedom to choose at least part of the news he will read over the air. It just so happens that Greg chooses to include notices about Amateur Radio classes that will be offered within a radius of about 50 miles of the Queen City of the West (as Cincinnati was referred to by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). With Amateur Radio being a particularly desirable hobby for sight-impaired people, making announcements about pending ham classes to his largely sight-impaired audience makes a lot of sense.

Do we have any other RRS Readers who can lend a hand with promoting our great service?

Nice job, Greg.

MF/HF BAND PLANNING

As I've said before, the next step along the path toward Regulation by Bandwidth

is to develop a band plan. This is the document that will set-aside different sub-segments of our bands for our many forms of operation - e.g., CW, SSB, various digital, semi-automatic control, ATV, etc. - similar to the way our bands are divided today. The band planning effort is just beginning.

Phase I will involve reviewing the current band plan and determining what is good, not so good and maybe poor about it. Phase I will also involve developing the strategies for subsequent work.

Active participation of any amateur interested in doing this will be key to the final success of the band planning project. Because of this, amateurs will be kept informed of progress in the project and invited to contribute ideas and suggestions to it.

One thing I can guarantee even this early is that the Board of Directors will not recommend removing any operating privilege (e.g. semi-automatic operation, AM, FM, SSB, CW, etc.) that exist in current FCC rules from the coming band plan.

Stay tuned.

73,
Jim, K8JE



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