

HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

August 2005 -Issue 235

Ham Happenings

More BPL

The ARRL has cited Conclusions from a UK study of BPL to call for the FCC to “reconsider, rescind, and re-study” the rules for broadband over power lines(BPL) it adopted last October.

Studies of BPL systems in Scotland which were conducted by Ofcomm, the UK’s telecommunications regulator concluded that “Although efficient for their primary purpose, electricity supply

cables are not designed, screened, or balanced for high frequency use and in this application they produce significant leakage emissions.” They added that the emissions can potentially interfere with the radio communications services, including short wave services.

From ARRL Letter Vol.24 No. 27

Senator Promotes Amateur Radio Value

In *The Hill*, ___ a magazine for and about congress ___ Senator Michael Crapo (R - ID) wrote an article “Amateur Radio: a voice in the storm” to promote the value of Amateur Radio and his efforts to preserve ham radio spectrum.

He has introduced the US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005, S1236. It is identical to the House version, HR 691, introduced by Rep. Michael Bilirakis of Florida.

The ARRL has asked Hams to urge their congressional representatives to sign on as sponsors. To expedite deliv-

ery, the League will hand deliver correspondence to members of Congress. Send letters to your representatives as attachments to e-mail sent to specbill@arrl.org. Look for sample letters at the arrl.org/govrelations web site
From ARRL Letter Vol. 24 No. 27

Vanity Call Signs

As of July 7, the FCC says that the cost of vanity calls will go up to \$21.90 later in the year.

New Form 605

As of July 18 a new Form 605, “Quick Form Application for Authorization in Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted, and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services” is in effect and must be used for renewal of license. The change is a new question 13 that deals with the sale or transfer of control or the license. Of course this has no meaning in the amateur service but amateurs should answer “No” to question 13. You can’t leave it blank or it is considered an unfinished application.

(Former) Amateur Sentenced

Sixty-nine year old Jack Gerritsen, formerly (briefly) **KG6IRO**, was sentenced to 120 days in jail

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and 3 years probation for threatening another operator and his daughter via a local repeater.

Gerritsen was arrested for violating the terms of a temporary restraining order to stay off the local repeater.

These were state charges. He still faces a federal criminal complaint brought by the FCC.

FCC Proposes Eliminating CW

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the recommendation in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Changes to Part 97 that the FCC proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur

spectrum.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, **K1ZZ**, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the Morse requirement altogether, although the League had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

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From the Section Manager

The following is excerpts from the monthly letter from John Covington, **W4CC**, SM.

Jim Rogers, **N4FHM** is now the Net Manager of the North Carolina Evening Net (3923 kHz, 6:30 PM). Thanks to Jim and to outgoing NM Chuck Wright, **K4NYS** for his service also.

Passing traffic is not hard, and it is necessary when messages must be relayed or are important enough to require that it be written and signed. Don't be afraid of giving it a try. If you are unfamiliar with the format, it's OK to ask for help or to ask for something to be repeated. Accuracy is more important than speed (that's true for tactical traffic also). Digital modes will continue to grow,

The Rowan Amateur Radio Society
P. O. Box 593
Salisbury, NC 28145

The Rowan amateur Radio Society exists to secure for its members the pleasures and benefits of associating with persons commonly interested in amateur radio in any and all its facets. Its purpose is to facilitate the exchange of information, radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency among members. Society programs and activities are intended to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the general community.

The Society is a nonprofit organization and seeks no payment for services it provides the community's agencies.

Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all applicants who express a willingness to abide by the Society's Constitution and By-laws. Persons may apply at regular meetings and are considered elected when approved by two-thirds of those members present

Meetings

Regular meetings are held on the second Monday night of the month at 7:00 PM at the Ruffy-Holmes senior Center at 1120 S. Boundary Street

2004 Officers

President - Bobby Lewis
WD4IJX, 704-857-1403
rlewisr2000@yahoo.com

Vice-Pres. - Bob Yarbrough
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Harmonics, the club newsletter is published monthly, mostly. Submit articles, complaints, corrections, or comments to the club Secretary. Material may be reprinted provided proper credit is given.

Editor - Ralph Brown, WB4AQQ

but old-fashioned voice traffic will not be obsolete any time soon. Be flexible enough to work with whatever is available at the time.

We have several VHF traffic nets in the state which provide an opportunity for most operators to get proficiency in passing traffic. Our main traffic nets are:

Central NC Traffic Net, 146.82 (Wilkesboro), 9:30 PM.

Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, 146.88 (Raleigh), 9:00 PM.

Eastern NC Traffic Net, 146.685 (Grifton), 8:30 PM.

Southeastern NC Traffic Net, 147.045 (Lumberton), 8:00 PM.

In addition, there are many club and ARES nets on VHF which might offer an opportunity to pass traffic.

If you are interested in practicing traffic on CW, we have the Carolinas Slow Net which meets nightly on 3695 kHz at 8:00 PM. Speeds are typically 5-8 WPM. I should remind you that all of NTS Cycle 4 takes place using CW, so this is still a useful skill, and besides, it's fun.

Claude Chaffin, **K4CWZ** became a silent key just before Field Day. Claude was manager of the Tarheel Emergency Net (THEN, 3923 kHz, 7:30 PM) until about a year ago. Claude encouraged all net participants to learn new techniques, practice them regularly and to be ready in case they were

needed. He will be greatly missed, but because of him, many more of us were ready when disaster struck than would have been otherwise.

I also regret to report that Jim Williamson, **NQ4T** of High Point became a silent key. Jim was manager of W4VEC VEC for many years; coordinating exams that many of you took.

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Upcoming Hamfests

Fayetteville Saturday August 13th.

Shelby is Saturday-Sunday, September 3rd and 4th.

1 Oct 2005 + ROCK HILL HAMFEST 2005

York County Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.ycars.org>

Talk-In: 147.030 (neg offset)

Contact: Robert Bacharach, **WA2EMF**

1627 Bridal Trail

Rock Hill, SC 29732

Phone: 803-327-2634

Fax: 803-324-8659

Email:

WA2EMF@ARRL.NET

8 Oct 2005 + Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

<http://w4nc.org>

Talk-In: 145.47 (PL 100) &

146.64 (PL 100)

Contact: Woody Kinney,

KF4PLQ

PO Box 11361

Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361

Phone: 336-723-7388

Email: w4nc@triad.rr.com

October 29, 2005
 South Carolina State ARRL
 Convention
 Grand Strand Amateur Radio
 Club
 Conway National Guard Armory
 1621 16th Ave
 Conway, SC
<http://www.w4gs.org>

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Pilots vs Air Traffic Controllers

This is for those who might fly or are interested in flying. It does involve radio communication. I got it from the January 2001 ARNS Bulletin.

During taxi, the crew of a US Air departure flight in Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. The irate ground controller (a Female) lashed out at the US Air crew screaming "US Air 2771, where are you going? I told you to turn right on "Charlie" taxi way; you turned right on "Delta." Stop right there. I know it's difficult to tell the difference between C's and D's but get it right."

Continuing her lashing to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically, "God, you've screwed everything up; it'll take forever to sort this out. You stay right there and don't move until I tell you to. You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about a half hour and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you. You got that, US Air 2771?"

The humbled crew responded "Yes ma'am." Naturally, the "ground control" frequently went terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air Flight 2771. No one wanted to engage the irate ground controller in her current state. Tension in every cockpit at LGA was running high. Shortly after the controller finished her admonishment of the US Air crew, an unknown male pilot broke the silence and asked, "Wasn't I married to you once?"

From a British Airways 747 after landing at Frankfurt: "Top of the morning Frankfurt, Speedbird 206 clear of the active runway."

Ground: "Guten morgen! You vill taxi to your gate!" (Short tempered air controllers at Frankfurt expected everyone to know not only one's gate parking location but how to get there without assistance.)

The big British Airways 747 pulled onto the main taxi way and slowed to a stop.

Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know vare you are going?"

Speedbird 206: "Stand by a moment ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."

Ground (with some arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, haff you never flown to Frankfurt before?!?"

Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, I have, in 1944. In another Boeing. I didn't stop"

A DC-10 had an exceedingly long roll out after landing with his approach speed just a little too high. San Jose Tower: "American 751 heavy, turn right at the end, if able. If not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off of Highway 101 and make a right at the light to return to the airport."

O'Hare Approach Control: "United 329 Heavy, your traffic is a Fokker 100, one o'clock, 3 miles, eastbound."

United 329: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this ... I've got that Fokker in sight."

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Last Joke

Remember how your Mom used to tell you to put on clean under ware when you went out? Here is why!

The Sydney Morning Herald in Australia reports this story of a couple who drove their car to K-Mart only to have the car break down in the parking lot.

The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car. The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection she saw a pair of male legs protruding from under the chassis.

Although the man was in shorts, his lack of under-

pants. turned private parts glaringly public ones.

Unable to stand the embarrassment she dutifully stepped forward and tucked everything back into place. On regaining her feet she looked across the hood and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly by.

The mechanic, however had to have three stitches in his head.

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Project?

Is anyone interested in a battery rejuvenation project? If a couple or more of you tell me yes, I'll print an article I got from the New Bern newsletter and Al Parker, W8UT. I know it is concerning lead acid storage batteries and maybe other types. I have to check.

Speaking of projects anyone want to report work on anything for this year's contest?

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August Meeting

Just a reminder that tomorrow (as I type) is the magic time. Don't know what's up but I'm sure there is going to be one. This reminder is just for your with e-mail. I'll try to call those who don't have it to remind them..