

Feedline



www.qsl.net/n4nc/
N4NC@arrl.net

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

July 2003

CARC FEEDLINE

Editor -- Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ
w4kaz@arrl.net

The deadline for submission to the Cary Amateur Radio Club FEEDLINE newsletter is the second Thursday of the month. Information should be forwarded by e-mail to the editor at w4kaz@arrl.net.

The FEEDLINE newsletter is published monthly by the Cary Amateur Radio Club. Permission is granted for reproduction in whole or in part to all ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs, provided credit is given to the Cary Amateur Radio Club and to the author of the reproduced material. All other permissions for use should be obtained by contacting the editor in writing.

CARC Officers for 2003

President Clare Owens, N2RJB
Vice Pres. --open--
Secretary Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ
Treasurer Herb Lacey, W3HL

2003 Volunteers

N4NC Trustee : Will Harper, K4IWW
Swapfest Czar: Alf Johnson, KQ4FP
Field Day Czar: --open--
Listserv admin: Will Harper, K4IWW
Website admin: Susan Jones, WA4AKB

CARC Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Cary ARC
P.O. Box 53
Cary, NC 27512
E-mail: n4nc@arrl.net

Web site: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>

Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

Whew....Has it only been a month?

One more Field Day is under the belt, as is another Swapfest.

Field Day 2003 was truly an emergency test. Unlike many groups who extensively plan and plot strategies for field day, Cary ARC this year put off any planning until the very last minute. But a 1A station was set up and on the air for the duration of the event, with Will, K4IWW logging several contacts right at the wire to finish up on an upbeat note to boot.

The word from the treasurer Herb, W3HL, is that Swapfest was a financial success (i.e., we covered all of the expenses, plus a small as-yet-unknown profit).

This is pleasant news, as the continuing, ongoing, incomplete city construction project was causing heartache for all involved in Swapfest planning. Wild "heard on the repeater" rumors were swirling at the last minute....fortunately the wildness of the rumors did not match the reality of the Swapfest.

The new policy of admitting newly licensed hams seemed to me a smashing success (I was selling tickets at the door). The new hams taking advantage of the admission policy were mostly younger Technician license holders, with a couple of older gents mixed in. At least 4 were youngsters under 18(one a general class!), and although I was derelict in keeping a tally, there were probably about 20 to 30 who took advantage of the bargain. Hopefully they all had a good time checking out the goodies, and felt welcomed.

Wouldn't it be great if this gesture were to become a widespread policy?

Another one bytes the ether....

Danny Hampton, K4ITL, Wins 2002 ARRL Technical Service Award!

Congratulations to Danny!

The Technical Service Award

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/07/23/3/?nc=1>

Wade D. "Danny" Hampton Jr, K4ITL, of Raleigh, North Carolina is the recipient of the ARRL 2002 Technical Service Award. Hampton is the architect of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network, established in the early 1970s. Today the network sports more than 40 machines in North Carolina.

The system is heavily used for public service work. Hampton has enhanced the network's utility with custom audio processing boards and RF components. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Management and SKYWARN have recognized the network's vital role in emergency communication. Recently, Hampton helped coordinate the development of a local hospital-based Amateur Radio emergency repeater system that ties 10 facilities together.

A ham since 1958, Hampton is SouthEastern Repeater Association (SERA) technical committee chairman as well as ARRL North Carolina Section Technical Coordinator. "Danny's extensive knowledge of the two-way and broadcast radio industries in this state have enabled him to assist many repeater owners," said North Carolina SM John Covington, W4CC. "His advice in resolving RFI problems between repeater and commercial services, and other technical matters, has been extremely valuable to the Section."

The winner of the Technical Service Award receives a \$100 ARRL gift certificate and an engraved plaque.

Coming Cary ARC Events

August 2003 CARC Program

--undetermined at presstime--

Other Area Events

Upcoming Hamfests

Fayetteville --Saturday August 9th,
Shelby -- August 30th-31st.

Cary ARC Minutes-June 26th 2003 Meeting

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The June meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, June 26th, at the usual meeting place in the basement of the White Plains Methodist Church. The meeting was opened right on time (one minute late), at 7:36 P.M.. Introductions were given, there were 11 members in attendance.

Reports

Secretary Report- Keith, W4KAZ briefly reviewed minutes.

Treasurer report- Herb, W3HL noted that the club was solvent going into the Swapfest season, and that the Town of Cary was still owed the balance of the rental fee on the facility for the fest.

Old Business

Swapfest

Swapfest open issues were discussed, including:

- Parking, or lack thereof, due to construction. This is a tailgating issue also.
- Problem with the loading dock, and paved access to the loading dock being covered with construction debris.
- Town of Cary has let us know that it is 20 tables short. (They have 120.) Need for renting 20 tables.

Will, K4IWW noted that table sales were good for this far in advance of the Swapfest.

It was generally agreed to hold the July meeting early, on 7/17/2003, in order to plan for last minute Swapfest problems.

Field Day

A last minute proposal to set up a "1A" station at Bond Park was floored, with operator present able to choose the band/mode.

Club members present volunteered to bring various specific station items, and as luck would have it, a full station was created on paper.

New Business

None

Announcements

Herb, W3HL, announced that the club had been given a gift donation by Marti, NY4H, in appreciation to those club members who had assisted with selling her ham gear.

Program

There was no program beyond the discussion for field day.

Cary ARC Minutes-July 17th 2003 Meeting

W4KAZ, Kaz—Scribe

The July meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on Thursday, July 26th, at the usual meeting place in the basement of the White Plains Methodist Church. The meeting was opened right on time (one minute late), at 7:36 P.M.. Introductions were given, there were 10 members in attendance.

Reports

Secretary Report- Keith, W4KAZ briefly reviewed minutes.

Treasurer report- Herb, W3HL noted that the club was solvent going into the Swapfest season, and that the Town of Cary was still owed the balance of the rental fee on the facility for the fest. All other outstanding bills had been paid, but several new expenses were expected (table rental, etc.)

Old Business

Swapfest

Swapfest open issues were discussed, including:

- Parking: Larry, KD4HSL, presented an excellent detailed plan for handling both the tailgating and parking, for which he required two additional persons besides himself. Herb, W3HL and Lee, N4AJF volunteered to assist with traffic/directions.
- Herb, W3HL, reported that the Town of Cary city engineer had promised the loading dock and access road would be cleared by the afternoon of the 18th, and we would have access to the loading dock.
- Other job assignments were assumed by club members present for talk-in, front door sales, table sales.
- Volunteers were gathered for transporting tables from Holland rental.

Will, K4IWW noted that all tables had been reserved.

New Business

None

Announcements

Program

There was no program beyond the discussion for field day.

ROHN To Be Delisted By NASDAQ

W4KAZ, Kaz

Better buy those extra tower sections you might need while they are available.....I don't know if waiting for the fire sale is a good idea.

http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/030718/cgf013_1.html

Fuel Cell Ready for Rollout

W4KAZ, Kaz

NEC is set to begin selling laptop computers that can be powered by alcohol. It would appear that the Japanese companies are doing pioneering work in bringing this technology to market first. This story from Fox News indicates that NEC has a prototype, and is expecting production of commercial quantities to begin within a year. The first models will have fuel cells capable of powering a laptop for up to 5 hours, but NEC indicates that they expect this to improve to up to 40 hours within 2 years.

Then you just give it another swallow of rubbing alcohol, and you are set for the next work week.

So if this is real, and not marketing department "blue sky", this will be great. Also, I'm sure there will be all sorts of inventive ways created to make a couple of ounces of denatured alcohol worth 40 bucks.

Hey, I've got it! Lets just call it "toner" or "inkjet refill"! With a nice proprietary cartridge to fit in the oddly molded cavity!

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,90776,00.html>

Nebraska Commercial Tower Failure

W4KAZ, Kaz

The 1300 foot KETV tower in Omaha, Nebraska has a spectacular failure on the Evening of July 4th. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. The cause of the structures failure is unknown, but the tower was being readied for the addition of HDTV equipment before its collapse.

http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_np=0&u_pg=36&u_sid=789337&PHPSESSID=7f4f4c53434fef3fdbd2d41ec732f751

picture: <http://www.nomad.vcisp.net/downtower.jpg>

WIFR, in Illinois, reports their 731 foot tower was dropped by 100 mph straight line winds on the morning of Saturday July 5th. There were no injuries in this incident either.

Pictures:

<http://www.wifr.com/news/headlines/379652.html>

FCC rules local RFI Zoning rules invalid.

W4KAZ, Kaz

Well this is an interesting tidbit, and an interesting precedent. The FCC on July 7th released an "opinion and order" overriding a local counties zoning regulations pertaining to RFI, saying "For the reasons stated below, we find that the challenged provisions of the County's Ordinance regulate RFI, not traditional zoning functions, and therefore are preempted by federal law." In effect, the FCC has maintained its role as the sole arbiter of RFI issues.

I wonder if the legal eagles might be able to extend that to include ones antennas?

For the dry legal document in its entirety.....see:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-2196A1.pdf

No Morse Code Controversy At WRC-03

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 26, June 27, 2003

Whatever else happens at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), there's no mystery about the delegates' direction regarding the Morse code requirement. Morse code proficiency will disappear as a treaty obligation for high-frequency access when the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-sponsored gathering under way in Geneva concludes July 4.

"One matter on which there appears to be no disagreement is the Morse requirement," said International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary (and ARRL CEO) David Sumner, K1ZZ, in a report <<http://www.iaru.org/rel030623.html>> on the second week of activity at WRC-03. "It is clear that the outcome will be to leave it to administrations' discretion whether or not to have a Morse receiving and sending requirement." He said no administration participating in the sub-working group spoke in favor of retaining the Morse code treaty requirement.

The modification of Article 25.5 of the international Radio Regulations cleared Working Group 4C on June 24. Working Group 4C is dealing with this and other proposals relating to Article 25. The modified text says, "Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall prove the ability to send and receive texts in Morse code signals."

It's possible but unlikely that the text would be tinkered with further at the committee level or even in the Plenary, which considers items for adoption. Sumner said delegates continue to wrangle over other aspects of Article 25, which defines Amateur Radio operation.

Adoption of the Article 25.5 modification would not mean the immediate disappearance of the Morse requirement to operate on the amateur bands below 30 MHz. Each administration, including the FCC, would then decide whether or not to drop the requirement from its domestic regulations. Some countries have indicated a desire to retain a Morse code requirement.

Sub-working groups this week funneled their reports to larger working groups assigned to tackle various pieces of the huge WRC-03 agenda. More than 2600 delegates and other participants are attending the four-week conference. For WRC-03, the IARU has fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade.

There's less consensus on efforts to secure a "harmonized" 300-kHz-wide amateur allocation at 7 MHz. Sumner said initial discussions in Sub-Working Group 4C1 "were spirited and reflected sharp differences of opinion" between those advocating realignment and those favoring no change out of deference to the disruption that any realignment would cause broadcasting services now occupying 7.1 to 7.3 MHz in Regions 1 and 3, and the fixed services above 7.3 MHz that would be affected by any upward shift in broadcasting. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 enjoy a 300-kHz allocation from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz, but hams in the rest of the world, Regions 1 and 3, have only 7.0 to 7.1 MHz.

Three alternative proposals have been passed on to Working Group 4C. "The largest group favored realignment in two stages," Sumner explained. That group included the US, CEPT, CITELE and the African Telecommunications Union. The two steps would expand the band in Regions 1 and 3 by 100 kHz in 2007 and add the remaining 100 kHz in 2015. Other plans put forth contained longer time lines. By week's end, Sumner said, the issue could be passed on to Committee 4 and then to the Plenary, where items need two readings for ultimate WRC-03 approval.

The issue of an allocation for satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars (SARs) in the 70-cm band (432-438 MHz) also appears well on the way to resolution. "While it appears very likely that there will be an allocation, it will be secondary," Sumner explained.

Full reports on WRC-03 activities are available on the IARU Web site
<<http://www.iaru.org/news-releases.html>>.

Radio History Is Made At WRC-03 With 7-Mhz Realignment Compromise

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 27, July 11, 2003

In a historic move, delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary--and ARRL CEO--David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the "carefully crafted compromise" calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, and eventually with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. It cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but the next conference will not consider further changes to 7000-7200 kHz.

As expected, WRC-03 also dropped the international Morse code requirement for HF access, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency requirement (Switzerland already has dropped the requirement). In addition, the conference adopted a number of improvements to other international regulations for the Amateur Service. Delegates also agreed to allow a secondary allocation for satellite borne synthetic aperture radars at 70 cm and, in an Article 19 change, made amateur call sign assignments more flexible.

Michael Owen, VK3KI, a member of the IARU team at Geneva, has provided a detailed explanation of Article 25 changes in the article "New Regulations for the Amateur Services." It's available on the IARU Web site <<http://www.iau.org/rel030703att3.html>>.

More than 2600 delegates and other participants attended the four-week-long conference, chaired by Dr Veena Rawat of Canada. For WRC-03, the IARU fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade. In addition to Sumner and Owen, the team--led by IARU President Larry Price, W4RA--included Bob Jones, VE7RWJ; Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM, and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. More than a dozen other amateurs were present on national delegations or in other roles for the IARU, its regional organizations and member-societies.

Changes to Articles 19 and 25 took effect on July 5, 2003. In general, the other Final Acts take effect on January 1, 2005.

FCC Opinion Bolsters Federal Preemption Over RF Interference Matters

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 28, July 18, 2003

An FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released earlier this month bolsters the doctrine of federal preemption over local efforts to regulate radio frequency interference (RFI). The ARRL had commented in the proceeding, WT Docket 02-100, which could have implications for Amateur Radio. The proceeding stemmed from efforts by Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to require telecommunication service providers to certify their facilities would not interfere with the county's public safety communication system.

"We find that federal law preempts provisions of the Anne Arundel County, Maryland, zoning ordinances involving radio frequency interference," the FCC declared in granting Cingular Wireless' Petition for a declaratory ruling and denying the county's motion to dismiss. ARRL had supported Cingular's position in the proceeding. Cingular asserted in its petition that Congress had established a "pervasive regulatory scheme" that grants the FCC exclusive jurisdiction to regulate RFI, and that the Anne Arundel zoning amendments conflicted with the Commission's rules regarding resolution of RFI cases. The FCC also said it expected all parties to continue cooperating to resolve remaining RFI issues.

Anne Arundel County in January 2002 adopted zoning amendments requiring commercial telecommunication providers to demonstrate that their facilities would not degrade or interfere with the public safety radio system. The amended ordinance gave the county the authority to revoke a zoning certificate if such interference or degradation occurred or if telecommunication service providers did not certify their systems to be in compliance with FCC standards and guidelines.

The FCC said it found that the county's zoning provisions went beyond traditional zoning functions and attempted to regulate RFI. The FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-2196A1.doc>.

What To Do About The Morse Requirement Post-WRC-03?

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 29, July 25, 2003

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 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."

North Carolina Section News

Section Manager: John M. C Covington, W4CC, July,15 2003

Field Day was a blast. I drove 1,095 miles total through 32 counties to visit 15 sites, mostly along the I-40 corridor through the state. I saw everything from simple class F stations to elaborate field deployments. All were a pleasure to visit, and I thank each of you for putting up with me while I was there. There were many more sites I could not visit during the short time available. It takes around an hour to go from one site to the next, and it takes 20-30 minutes to visit at each site once I'm there, so I was pretty close to the practical limit on the number of sites I could have visited. I also received 29 Field Day radiograms this year. Thanks to all who participated. Whether it was operating, raising antennas or making coffee, your participation helps make it all possible.

I'm also very pleased with the recently published 2002 SET results. We do well every year because we have good participation and good reporting of results. I will discuss the SET in more detail next month.

We provide a lot of public service event communications in North Carolina. These events can be a lot of fun, and you meet some great people at them. Central Carolina Helping Hams has a listing of public service events in their area and links to many clubs in North Carolina providing public service communications. For more information, check it out at: <http://www.hampublicservice.org>

Many thanks to those of you who keep me posted on public service events via newsletters and Public Service Activity Reports. ND4MR, N4YYL and KG4CXY have been very regular in providing the PSAR reports to ARRL HQ. These reports are used to document our activity so that government officials and others can see just how valuable our volunteer service is. A web version is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd-157-online-form.php>

There should be an interesting session of the Tar Heel Emergency Net (7:30 PM, 3923 kHz) on Tuesday July 22nd. Jeff Orrock, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Raleigh, will present a training presentation entitled "Hurricane Season 2003" for the benefit of amateur radio operators involved in providing emergency communications. It's my understanding that this presentation may also be covered on some of the PCRN repeaters as well. Many thanks to K4CWZ, WA4MOK, K4ITL, N4TAB and KG4HDT, among others, for their work in bringing this presentation to us.

A lot of new information is now available on ARRLweb that should be of interest to club officers. It's called the Active Club Online Primer and combines much of the information that used to be in The Club President's Workbook and the Special Service Club Manual. Even if your club is not affiliated or not a Special Service Club, you should find some helpful ideas there. The new site is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/cpw/>

August hamfests: Fayetteville Saturday August 9th, Shelby August 30th-31st. I plan to be at both, please drop by the ARRL table and say hello. Still remaining in July: Cary Saturday 19th, Waynesville Saturday 26th.