



# Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub  
1733 Gihon Rd. Parkersburg, WV 26101

## ARRL URGES INFORMED COMMENTS IN FCC BPL INQUIRY

The ARRL is urging amateurs to file well-thought-out, informed comments when responding to the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The FCC published its NOI on May 23. The NOI asks how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals. While the FCC has dubbed this technology Broadband over Power Line, it's more commonly known as Power Line Carrier or PLC.

BPL would use building and/or overhead power lines to conduct HF and low-VHF digital signals to network computers. The FCC has expressed its unabashed enthusiasm for BPL, which it views as a competitive Internet access point. Utilities consider BPL as another means to use existing infrastructure to generate additional revenue.

The NOI is not asking if BPL technology should be permitted. Under existing FCC rules, BPL systems may be built and used in the US right now. The FCC is asking how the rules might be changed "to promote and encourage new BPL technology," in the words of the NOI.

Present FCC Part 15 rules say that carrier-current systems--including

BPL/PLC--need to meet the general radiated emission limits for unlicensed "intentional emitters." While the rules permit BPL at significant power levels, utilities would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels. BPL systems under development and in field trials use spectrum between 1.7 and 80 MHz, but the NOI also asks whether BPL should operate on other parts of the spectrum as well.

As of mid-June, nearly 1000 comments already had been filed in the proceeding. The ARRL has urged amateurs who comment to outline the important uses they make of Amateur Radio and the impact strong interference from BPL could have at HF and low-VHF amateur frequencies.

Electric utility companies will operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL members who have had experience dealing with power line interference and utilities' responses to complaints also may want to describe those experiences in their comments to the Commission.

Amateurs filing comments to the FCC NOI might want to consider these topics and points:

\* Amateur Radio is a valuable resource that must be protected.

\* Describe the uses you make of Amateur Radio, especially those with a public service or emergency communication aspect.

\* The present FCC Part 15 limits for this technology already can result in substantial interference potential to amateur frequencies.

\* BPL systems that radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and occupy entire neighborhoods have greater interference potential than localized systems, such as switching power supplies or electric motors.

\* The FCC has promised to protect licensed users of the spectrum. We must hold them to that promise.

For more information, see "Understanding the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/06/19/2/>>. An ARRL white paper, "Calculated Impact of PLC on Stations Operating in the Amateur Radio Service" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/C63NovPLC.pdf>> provides technical details. The ARRL's Broadband Over Power Line resource page contains links to worldwide studies and other resources.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund cam-

paigned to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site

<<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>

The complete NOI is available on the FCC Web site

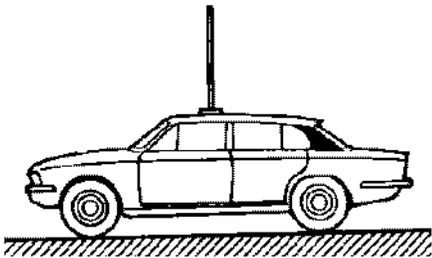
<[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc)>.

Comments are due on or before July 7, 2003. Reply comments are due on or before August 6, 2003.

Interested parties may submit electronically filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

<<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required field. Comments may be typed into a form or you may attach a file containing your comments. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.



## 60-METER RULES ADD NEW RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENT

When the five new 60-meter channels become available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight

(12 AM) local time on July 3, the rules will impose a new record-keeping requirement for hams. The requirement applies only to those using something other than a simple half-wave dipole for an antenna on the 5-MHz allocation.

According to §97.303(s), a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation will be presumed to have a gain of 0 dBd. "Licensees using other antennas must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain," the newest addition to the FCC's Amateur Service rules says.

Because the new rules also require hams to run no more than 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) on the new channels, the choice of antenna becomes an important compliance factor. The FCC rules stipulate, "For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP will be multiplied with [sic] the antenna gain relative to a dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels."

If you use a half-wave dipole--about 87 feet 3 inches for the "middle" channel according to the formula--setting your transmitter's power output power at up to 50 W peak envelope power (PEP) should ensure compliance.

Under no circumstances may amateurs on 5 MHz radiate more than 50 W ERP in any direction, so those choosing to employ gain antennas will have to "do the math" and calculate their ERP. They also will have to keep a record of such antenna gain calculations on file. This might include documentation such as output from a computer modeling program for a homebrew antenna design. For example, an amateur using an array for 5 MHz

exhibiting a calculated or modeled gain of 3 dB would have to cut power to 25 W PEP to comply with the new rules.

Operating on 60 meters is the subject of the July 2003 QST "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/07/01/1/>> by ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "If we demonstrate that we can use [the 60-meter channels] responsibly, cooperatively and in the public interest, there is no reason we cannot seek expanded access at an appropriate time," Sumner wrote. "If your personal operating practices are inconsistent with that, please do yourself and everyone else a favor and confine your operating to the traditional bands."

The FCC Report and Order in ET Docket 02-98 is available on the FCC's Web site

<[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc)>.

The ARRL has posted a list of frequently asked questions concerning 5 Mhz operation on the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty>>

## HAM'S TICKET SET ASIDE AS FCC INVESTIGATES ALLEGATIONS OF FALSE DISTRESS CALLS

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has set aside the nearly month-old Technician-class license of a California man while it looks into allegations that the now-former licensee may have made false marine distress calls. In a June 3 letter, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth notified Michael V. Swift of San Ramon of the WTB's action--taken on the bureau's own motion. The FCC granted Swift the call sign KG6QOB on May 1 and canceled his ticket May 29.

In his letter, Hollingsworth said the cancellation was "based upon evidence that you made numerous false distress calls on Channels 16 and 22A Marine frequencies." Hollingsworth warned Swift that in view of the WTB's action, he had no authority to operate Amateur Radio transmitting equipment.

Hollingsworth told ARRL that agents in the FCC's San Francisco office--in cooperation with the US Coast Guard--reportedly tracked transmissions on the marine channels to Swift's residence, where they interviewed him.

The FCC also sent a Warning Notice May 30 to Ronald E. Shapiro, N2CQT, of Kerhonkson, New York, citing information alleging that the licensee "deliberately interfered with and harassed operators on 3.906 MHz" on May 24.

"It appears that you were operating under some type of impairment,"

Hollingsworth wrote, "and during the transmissions played music, made transmissions to no one in particular and deliberately transmitted on top of ongoing communications." The FCC alleges the transmissions, which began at about 1 AM, continued for almost an hour.

Hollingsworth gave Shapiro 20 days to explain the circumstances of the operation detailed in the Warning Notice.

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### April Minutes

THE PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB held their April 14th meeting at the BONANZA RESTAURANT on Pike Street. President Blaine Auville called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Lloyd Boston won the 50/50 drawing of \$9.50.

There was an introduction of 21 members and guests. The Secretary's minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was given as being \$3,780.61.

Connie Hamilton donated 2 repeater directories to be presented as door prizes. Harold Dooley and Jim DeSouza won the directories.

President Auville said Tiny Phillips had reserved the FIELD DAY SITE at Ohio Valley College for June 28 and 29th. Blaine said he would check with Andy McGuffey about the price for putting up a tent for the KLUB on FIELD DAY or he (Blaine) could rent a large tent and be "put up" by the KLUB.

Curt Fouse reported there was not enough interest in people purchasing KLUB jackets. The project was dropped.

Connie said she had FORUMS AT DAYTON BAMFEST if anyone as interested.

Art Ellis said he had purchased a SMALL RADIO kit from the April QST Magazine. He said he would put it together and present it as a SHOW & TELL at the May meeting.

Lloyd said Ron had learned the letter B.

Ray Bodie said he was taking Jep's place and motioned the meeting adjourn. It was seconded by Jerry Yancey. Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Georgia Milhoan Secretary

### June Minutes

#### PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their June meeting at the Bonanza Steak House on Pike Street with President Blaine Auville presiding.

There was an introduction of 21 members and guests. Lloyd Boston won the 50/50 drawing of \$19.50.

Curt Fouse gave a "MEMORY REPORT" of the Secretary's minutes as he misplaced the minutes.

The Treasurer's report was \$3,890.61.

Little John, Jep, Ray Bodie, Dick Wilson, Jay Stowe and Jack- Ha mowed the Repeater Site today. Jep said the grass was very high.

Connie reported on the Dayton Hamfest.

President Auville said Plans for FIELD DAY are being finalized. Lloyd Boston said there would be 2 stations. He needs volunteers to help run the stations. Ray Bodie will help with the logs. Georgia and Irene (with Peggy's help) will co-chair the picnic. The Picnic will be Saturday 28 at 6PM. The Club will furnish the meat and drinks. Please bring a covered dish and your chair. Blaine has a tent and tables for the picnic.

The President said he received a phone call from Pat Mitchell saying she has an antenna tower for sale. Asking price is \$75.00.

Danny Graham presented a film on Scuba Diving in Key West. The VCR ate the tapes Danny will show the film at a future meeting.

Jep motioned the meeting adjourn. Danny seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Georgia Milhoan, Secretary

**FOR SALE** via KB9EFB

From: "Larry"

&lt;n2ocw@intrepid.net&gt;

To:&lt;3905chatgp@yahoogroups.c

om&gt; Sent: Friday, July 04, 2003

2:16 PM Subject: [wvarrl] Sale

Items

Hello, I am totally revamping my shack and offer all of the following and more to come for sale; Most items preferred pickup Berkeley Springs, WV

Cushcraft A4S \$ EL Tri-Band beam Up 3 yrs in NJ, shed stored last 7 yrs. Needs new trap caps \$250.00

Cushcraft 13B2 13 El 2M Beam \$75.00 Just taken down

Cushcraft A220-7S 7 El 220 Beam \$35.00 Not down yet

Cushcraft A270/10S 2M/440 5 EL Beam each band \$50.00 Not down yet

Rohn HBX40 Free Standing Tower w/TB-3 Thrust Bearing Up 3 yrs in NJ, stored last 7 yrs. No Base Stubs \$200.00

American 40' Tower 4 sections \$ B/O Still standing

EZ-Way RBS-40 w/Ground Post 40" Foldover Crankup Tower \$500.00

2 - Alliance HD-73 Rotators w/ Control Boxes \$125.00 each AEA PK-232MBX VHF/HF TNC Original not upgraded \$100.00

Hy-Gain 4 EL 6M Beam \$65.00 Just taken down

Create 9' Aluminum Roof Tower w/rotor base plate & thrust bearing \$150.00

KLM Satellite Antennas 2m & 440 pair \$B/O

Heathkit SM-102 SWR/Power Meter \$35.00

Heathkit SB-614 Station Monitor Scope \$100.00

Astron RS-35M 35A Power Supply \$100.000

ICOM 32AT 2m/440 Dual Band HT2 High Capacity Batt's, one Nicad, one Nimh W&W Dual Cup Drop-in Charger Icom Speaker Mike Quantum Battery With ICOM Adapter \$300.00

Solarcon Antron 99 10M Vertical Antenna \$40.00 Still up

Cushcraft ARX-2B 2M Ringo \$45.00 Still up

Kenwood TH-315 220mhz HT w/2 High Capacity Batt's Kenwood BC-7 Drop-in Charger \$175.00

Diamond DPGH62 6M Vertical Antenna \$50.00 Still up

ICOM 820H 2M/440 Allmode Radio \$650.00

Kenwood TM-241A 50W 2M Radio \$125.00

Alinco DR-1200 2M Radio \$100.00

10-160M G5RV \$25.00

Devilbiss 4KW Generator w/wheel Kit Very few hours use \$400.00

ICOM 751A HF Rig Power Supply problem, think it's the regulator gone As is \$250.00

Motorola S1327A Communications Service Monitor \$500.00

Radio Shack Pro-43 200 channel handheld scanner \$100.00

MFJ-422B Keyer on black base bencher paddles \$45.00

MFJ-1270 TNC \$50.00

AEA PK-88 TNC \$50.00

All items posted as still up should be down by the end of the weekend. 7/7/03 The list may still grow a bit more as I look around.

All inquiries to n2ocw@intrepid.net or call on call-phone after 9PM Eastern time 301-707-9644.

Thanks, Lawrence Ashton  
N2OCW Manager Direct Email  
List 40M RTTY Net Coordinator

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