



# Ham Chatter



Volume XXXII Issue 8 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication August 1998

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Contributing Editor: Murray Merner,

## Meet The Member Ed Petrie, KB4IPD



Ed listens intently at BARC meeting

Ed is one of our more quiet members, but is active in BARC. He attends our meetings and participated extensively in the latest Field Day. He has had a long term interest in amateur radio going back to the 1930's in Chicago. In his neighborhood there was a teenager who was a ham - Charles Dawson, W9CUW, (he's still listed in QRZ). Ed was fascinated with Charles' contacts all over the country using Morse code and a home brew transmitter. Later Charles moved and with him Ed's contact with amateur radio.

Later, WW II brought Ed in touch with electronics as a radar repairman, reporting and gunlaying equipment. He even went to code school and served in a Signal Corps monitoring company. At the end of the war he was in training for the assault on Japan's home islands in a Joint Assault Signal Company. Ed notes that he was, "Saved by the bomb."

(Continued on page 3)

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting on August 11 at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. All members and guests are invited to attend. The next board meeting is tentatively set for August 27. The meeting is open to all members.*

## Amateur Radio Equipment Stolen!

- Kenwood 742AD Transceiver - Serial # 8500031, 2 meters/440 MHz plus 220 MHz Unit
- Kenwood Backlit Mike - NC53
- Diamond Antenna - CR320A
- Diamond Trunk Mount - K600M
- Diamond Triplex Multiplexer - MX324D

On July 9, 1998, an auto belonging to Rose Wainwright, KC4ROR, was stolen from the Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC, parking lot and recovered in Kinston, NC. The above Amateur Radio equipment was missing. Anyone checking in pawn shops in Eastern and Central NC, should be on the lookout for above equipment. If anything is known about this property, please contact Kinston Crimestoppers at (252) 523-4444. A reward will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the robber(s).

## LEAGUE PROPOSES SIMPLIFIED LICENSE STRUCTURE

The ARRL has proposed a simplified Amateur Radio license structure featuring four license classes and reduced Morse code requirements for full HF access. In approving the plan July 18, the ARRL Board of Directors said the hobby no longer needed six license classes. In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective was to rationalize and simplify the amateur licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license.

Among its recommendations, the plan would eliminate the current Novice and Tech Plus class licenses and merge those operating privileges into a new license class equivalent to the current General ticket. The plan would replace the present named license classes with Class A, B, C, and D tickets, revise written examination requirement and content, and set 12 WPM as the highest Morse code test requirement. Most of the spectrum freed up by the elimination of the current Novice CW bands would be "reframed" into expanded HF phone segments. Some would remain available for digital and CW, however.

Announcement of the Board's plan generated a tumult of opinions pro and con within the Amateur Radio community. Comments received at League Headquarters have ranged from angry opposition to enthusiastic support, but by the end of the week in which the plan was announced, most Board members reported receiving somewhat

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# President's Corner - Tom, W4TEP

BARC had quite a turn out for the visit to VOA Site "C" and, an extensive tour was had. I hope everyone who participated had a good time. We spent so much time on the tour that when it came time for the club meeting only a half dozen members were left. Well! as you can imagine, no club meeting or business took place. There is always the next time and, that brings me to this point "I will not be present for the August meeting."

My wife and I have planned a vacation for the first two weeks of August and we will be doing some down to earth DXing. We will be visiting three countries in the Eastern Mediterranean that I never had the opportunity to serve in with the Army. I'll tell you all about it when it is over. Our first VP, Murray Merner will preside at the August meeting.

I would like to encourage you to write both your North Carolina and Federal Representatives to express your interest in Site "C". Whatever is going to happen out there will definitely be the result of political pressure, one way or the other. You may want to voice your interest in a VOA Museum as well as a

## You may want to voice your interest in a VOA Museum

place for the club to operate a club station using our new call sign W1VOA. The call sign alone should impress them with our determination.

Of course, we would also like a meeting place for the club. If you have access to a computer you can easily change the address and keep the basic letter intact. Please write and urge that the Voice of America museum and Ham station being included in whatever decisions are made with Site "C".

## SAREX Won't be Flying on John Glenn Shuttle Flight

NASA has scuttled plans to include the Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload aboard STS-95 this fall. That's the flight that will carry US Senator and astronaut John Glenn into space. Five schools, four in the US and one in Japan, had been tentatively lined up for Amateur Radio schedules to talk with the shuttle crew during the highly publicized October mission. Glenn, the first astronaut to orbit Earth, will be 77 when he returns to space later this year.

NASA flight managers also removed nine other "secondary" payloads because of time constraints on the already-busy mission. NASA expressed regret at having to drop the educational SAREX payload.

Two hams--US Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain--will be among the international crew aboard STS-95.

"We're really disappointed," said ARRL Educational Activities Department Manager and SAREX Working Group

(Continued on page 5)



# Happy

# Well Wishes!!

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members  
birthdays in August

14	KE4UGF	Don Clemens
15	KE4VQN	George Rosenberger
18	KS4O	Joe M. Whitehurst
19	KS4YF	Paul Fletcher
26	N3BVN	Elisabetha Schultz
26	KE4LXW	Fred Winner
30	KE4LQQ	Chester Robbins

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - W4YDY

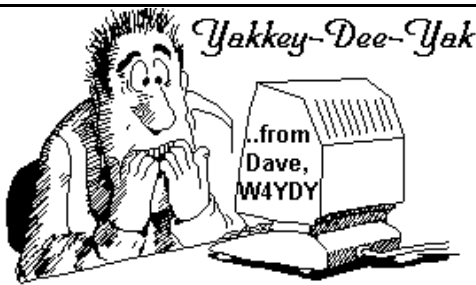
Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Shirley Katrobos, KF4VHJ is slowly recovering from her recent Abdominal Surgery. Shirley's healing process has slowed, causing some minor complications, but she remains in good spirits. Shirley is still hoping to be well enough to take the upcoming 13 wpm Code Test in August.

We wish her a speedy recovery!!  
KE4JWK

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The ARRL has proposed a simplified licensing structure. (See page one of this newsletter.) They want to reduce the code exams to 12 words per minute and reduced the number of classes to four. Their reasoning is that the FCC is going to change it, so the ARRL wants to soften the blow. If the FCC has a bad plan, why does the ARRL have to come up with another bad one? Why doesn't the ARRL fight it instead of joining in on the destruction? You know that it had to be a controversial plan with a 9 to 6 vote in favor of the plan. John Kanode, N4MM, Roanoke Division Director, was one of the 9 that voted in favor. It is reported that

there was much heated discussion about the proposals so it should come as no surprise to the directors that there would be a lot of heated discussion in the field. There has already been a call for organizing a massive write-in campaign to the FCC.

I don't know what the whole answer is for improving the Amateur Radio licensing structure. Some of the past changes have been for the worse. Although I am a VE, I still think it would be better for the FCC to conduct exams but the funds have been cut. I cannot remember about hearing of cheating on an Amateur Radio exam given by the FCC except that on a few occasions someone lied and did not give their correct name and took the exam for someone else. That is why the FCC requires ID at exams now. There has been a scandal of cheating in Eastern North Carolina that I don't think was resolved properly because the FCC does

not have the funds to correct it. The new regulations proposed by the ARRL will just open the door wider for cheaters. It might step on some toes, but I think that the code test should be a one minute solid copy instead of having a chance to guess at a 10-question exam. That would take away the chance of someone stealing the CW exams and using and selling them. That has happened. Since the no-code license was started and code exams relaxed, everyone that was licensed before that time can tell how much worse off the Amateur Radio bands are now. N4RM wrote in an email, "Listen on 3895 and 3915 sometime. The foul language and filth is nauseating." I wrote about this same problem in the October 1997 issue of Ham Chatter. I have occasionally listened to the same frequencies that I mentioned and I have seen no change. Some 4 letter words are used in almost every sentence. It's just

**"Listen on 3895 and 3915...  
The foul language and filth  
is nauseating."**

CB quality. It just shows the low morals of those people. When I demonstrate my HF equipment to someone in my shack now, I skip the 75 meter band. I surely don't tune to 75 meters when my grandsons are in the shack! It use to be my favorite band and I have more contacts on 75 meters than any other band. But now the only time I get on 75 meters is when I have a schedule with a friend or in a contest.

When I first got my Amateur Radio license, the Advanced Class license was being eliminated and one had to get the Amateur Extra Class to have all privileges. There was no 40 and 15 meter phone bands. General Class had all privileges except 75 and 20 meter phone. The General Class license had to be held for at least two years before being eligible to take the Amateur Extra Class. Before the Advanced Class was dropped, one had to wait a year after getting a General Class to take the Advanced Class exam. I knew what I had to do and was

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Meet The Member Ed Petrie, KB4IPD

*(Continued from page 1)*

After the war, it was back to school and the completion of a chemical engineering degree at Illinois Institute of Technology. This began a 45 year career in chemical manufacturing with the last 36 as the Technical Director of of a company in Greenville. He's now retired. While not a ham during that time, Ed was active in electronics building Heathkit audio, test and communications equipment, and simple control circuitry design.

In the fall of 1983 he saw an announcement of a new ham class being conducted by Joe Garzik ,AA4CO, of BARC. In January 1984, Ed was among the six who received their novice licenses. He built a Heath HW5400 and a power supply and operated until 1988 when he lost his antenna. He got another antenna up in 1990 and operated sporadically until 1993 when he lost his antenna again. (Keep this man away from your antenna!) Because of his "other life" (you know that part of your life that doesn't include ham radio), Ed hasn't operated since then. Now he's ready to go again. He is a brass pounder at heart and so would like to improve his speed and upgrade to General Class.

In addition to Chicago, Ed has lived in St. Louis, MO. He and his wife Lorraine have three daughters: Kathy, Anne and Vicki, and two grandchildren.

Ed, thanks for "hanging in there", we're glad that you've renewed your interest and have become a participating member of BARC. I've seen Ed come early to the BARC meetings to take advantage of the code practice before the meeting. Now how can we get a General upgrade class going to help Ed and many other members upgrade?

Ed's story points out two major ingredients of how people get to be hams: an early exposure and someone who helps. - K4MHM

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 □ MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION □ PRESIDENT - TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 □ FIRST V. PRESIDENT - MURRAY MERNER, K4MHM, 757-3429 □ SECOND V. PRESIDENT - GENE UNDERWOOD, KE4JZU, 746-6964 □ SECRETARY - JUANITA HUMBLER, KE4JWK, 355-1051 □ TREASURER - ALEX MACKLIN, KC4PHJ, 752-2231 □ BOARD MEMBER - PAUL FLETCHER, KS4YF, 756-6985 □ BOARD MEMBER - GARY GASPERINI, KU4NQ, 758-8101 □ HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE

## MICROSOFT vs. GENERAL MOTORS

## New BARC Ham Class

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating . . .

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept his, restart, and drive on.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Only one person at a time could use the car, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But then you would have to buy more seats.
6. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive, but would only run on 5% of the roads.

**Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry**

7. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car fault" warning light.

8. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.

9. The airbag system would say, "Are you sure?" before going off.

10. Occasionally for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lift the door handle, turn the key, and grab hold of the radio antenna.

11. GM would require all car buyers to also purchase a deluxe set of Rand

McNally road maps (now a GM subsidiary), even though they neither need them or want them. Attempting to delete this option

would immediately cause the car's performance to diminish by 50% or more. Moreover, GM would become a target for investigation by the Justice Department.

12. Every time GM introduced a new model, car buyers would have to learn to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

13. You'd press the "start" button to shut off the engine.

*Author Unknown*

*Editors Note: The above came from an Internet Newsgroup.*

A new ham class started July 6, 1998. Classes are held on Monday and Thursday for five and a half weeks and end August 10. An instructor group is teaching the class. There are eleven students including: Joe Schlatter, Chris Plaster, Debbie Austin, Steve Letchworth, John Shenette, William Wallace, Jr., Geneva Nickell, and Terry Monday. Marlin, KF4MHV, and Brian, KF4MTL, Hardee are coming for the Morse code part.

The students found out about the class from: the newspaper, family in BARC, friends in BARC (2), the Field Day (2), and Pitt Community College. A special thanks goes to Donna Jones, KB4MYE, who is giving extra credit to those students in her electronics class at PCC who pass the test.

Most of the students have family who are hams: father (3), uncle (3), in-laws, and brother (2). You can see that ham radio is very much a "family affair". Who in your family would be interested in our hobby? - K4MHM



### Next VE Session Aug. 14

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on August 14. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. - KQ2V  
Please bring the following:

- Photo ID (drivers license)
- Original Amateur Radio License
- Copy of Amateur Radio License
- Original CSCE's
- Copy of CSCE

## ICOM Funmobile visits Greenville

On July 8, 1998, the ICOM Funmobile made a stop in Greenville at Overton's. It's ICOM's biggest rig yet! The ICOM Funmobile is over 29 feet of rolling ham shack and other ICOM communications gear. The display had some marine radios but it was mostly Amateur Radio equipment by ICOM. There was one room with the VHF and UHF transceivers and another with the

HF equipment. There were several antenna's mounted on the RV. The hostess for the amateur area was Patricia Wormley, W7PZ, from Snohomish, WA. She was very helpful with questions about the equipment. The ICOM Funmobile made four stops in North Carolina on its nationwide tour. Greenville was one of the lucky ones and the first in North Carolina. - W4YDY

## Glenn Shuttle Flight

*(Continued from page 2)*

Member Rosalie White, WA1STO. The Glenn flight had generated a good deal of enthusiasm within the ham radio community. Schools to be included had only recently been notified that they would be on the list. White said the US schools now will be first in line for consideration on future missions, such as STS-93 early next year and the International Space Station.

Future shuttle missions are heavily loaded with activities involving construction of the ISS. Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, the commander of STS-93, is said to be enthusiastic about the possibility of including SAREX on her flight. Amateur Radio also is an official payload aboard the International Space Station. - via ARRL Letter Online 7/10/98

## BARC Featured in Repeater Journal

In the latest *Repeater Journal* just received, Editor Wayne Williams, K4MOB, featured the BARC International Special Event Station on page 59. It was a reprint of the June *Ham Chatter* article by Murray Merner, K4MHM and two pictures by John McCoy, K4KBB. The pictures feature Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, and Murray setting up an antenna, and Ken Graf, N8FF, and Murray operating. - W4YDY

## Ham Chatter Judged GOOD in ARNS Contest

The Amateur Radio News Service has completed judging the 1997 Publication Contest. The *Ham Chatter* was judged GOOD. A certificate and contest rating sheets were received by the Ham Chatter editor. The final results of all publications will probably be published in the ARNS Bulletin in the near future. Only one issue of each publication for the year was judged. The November 1997 issue of *Ham Chatter* was judged.

The publications were judged in four major categories for a total of 100 points. They were General Format (26 points), Appearance (31 points), Content (38 points) and General Interest and attractiveness (5 points). The major categories were broken down into subcategories. Ham Chatter received a total of 71 points.

In the General Format category, *Ham Chatter* received 25 of a possible 26 points while Appearance received 28 of 31 points, Content received 16 of 38 points and General Interest and attractiveness received 3 of a possible 5 points. In the Content area where we lost the most points (21), no points were awarded for member contributions, editorials, training articles, operating articles and use of humor, puzzles, entertainment. Most all of these categories are covered in other issues of *Ham Chatter* but we could still use more articles in every category. *Ham Chatter* has more contributions now and with Murray Merner, K4MHM, becoming a contributing editor, he has been a big help

in improving *Ham Chatter* content. For a publication limited in size and cost, it's hard to get every category in each issue. Maybe in the next contest, ARNS will accept more than one issue for judging and we can do better also.

Many thanks go to the judges for their hard work and outstanding suggestions for improvements. Many more thanks to all BARC members that have contributed to *Ham Chatter* as writers and subjects of Meet the Member. I'll try to do better next time. - W4YDY

## Yakkey-Dee-Yak

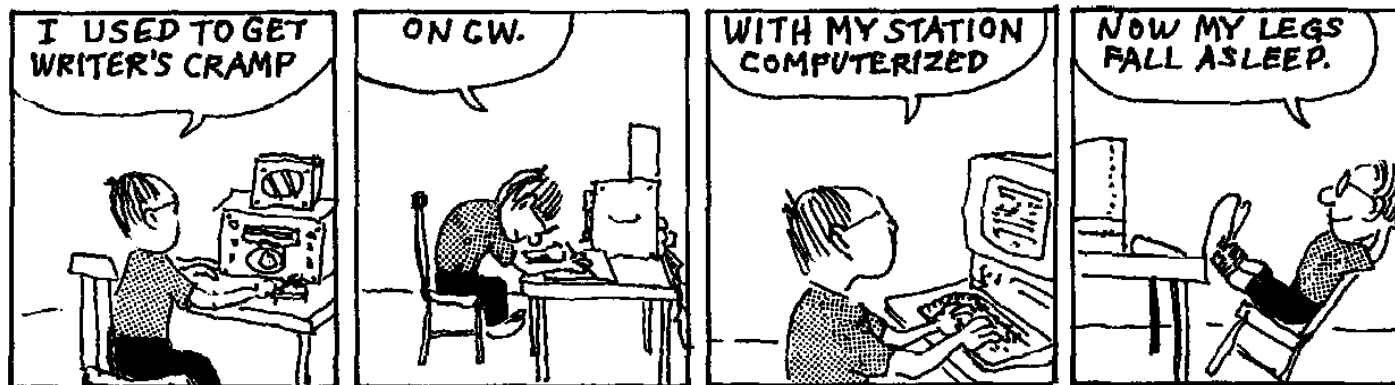
*(Continued from page 3)*

willing to wait. Then the FCC reversed itself and let Generals have all privileges. I was in luck. I didn't have to improve myself to get on all the bands! Then in 1968, incentive licensing was returned. I had to get the Extra Class not to lose any privileges. Well I did it in front of the FCC before the deadline. No one else probably gives a toot, but it makes me feel like I was able to accomplish something and make me prouder of being an Amateur Radio operator.

The FCC has completely destroyed the Amateur Radio call sign system, so now it looks like the ARRL wants to help them do the same to the licensing system. This is the opinion of W4YDY. I hope I am wrong. - W4YDY

### ELMER

### BY RICH REGENT, K9GDF



Via ARNS Bulletin

## LEAGUE PROPOSES SIMPLIFIED LICENSE STRUCTURE

(Continued from page 1)

more comments in favor than opposed.

The League has forwarded details of the plan in a letter to the FCC but will not petition for a rulemaking as it awaits public release of the Commission's own ham radio restructuring plans. In its letter, the ARRL asked the FCC to "consider this restructuring plan as a means of modernizing and simplifying amateur radio licensing, and a means of making Amateur Radio available to more people."

Before the July meeting, the ARRL Board had twice voted down motions to consider changing the licensing structure. This time, the impending FCC rulemaking provided the impetus for the Board to issue its own plan, in time to stimulate debate on the topic and possibly serve as a counterpoint to the anticipated FCC proposals.

ARRL Board approval of the plan followed extensive discussion and debate during its recent three-day meeting. "The debate was, at times, contentious, and the result was not unanimous," said ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD. The vote to approve the plan was 9 to 6. Most of those in the minority were not opposed to simplifying the licensing structure, however, and there was sentiment for even fewer license classes.

"Some Board members preferred greater simplification; others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed," Stafford observed. "However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is best for the future of Amateur Radio."

In developing its plan, the Board tied proposed reductions in Morse code requirements to corresponding increases in written examination standards. On the other hand, Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges amateurs

already have earned. This was the rationale to recommend granting the new entry-level Class C HF license to present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, who already have earned entry-level HF operating privileges.

Charts depicting the proposed operating privileges and licensing structure and the text of the League's letter to the FCC are available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/>. Members may comment on the ARRL plan via the Web or via e-mail to [restrux@arrl.org](mailto:restrux@arrl.org).

Here are the highlights of the

### Announcement of the Board's plan generated a tumult of opinions pro and con within the Amateur Radio

ARRL Board's restructuring plan:

- The Class D license, equivalent to the current Technician class, would be the entry level ticket to Amateur Radio. Operating privileges and the written examination would remain at the same level at Technician, but the exam would be more consistent with Class D operating privileges.
- The Class C would supplant the Novice as the entry level to HF. Under the League plan, all General, Tech Plus, and Novice licensees would become Class C licensees. The Class C ticket would convey current General privileges, but would offer bigger HF phone bands.
- Class C licensees would have access to another 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and another 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and

technical qualifications required for HF operation plus a 5 WPM Morse code test.

- All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B. The Class B would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with additional phone privileges. The Class B ticket would offer an additional 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and another 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur must pass a more advanced written examination--similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A--and a 12 WPM Morse code exam.

- All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A. The Class A ticket would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class but, once again, with expanded phone subbands. Class A licensees would get an additional 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and another 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. The Advanced written test is considered the most difficult in the current exam sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no Morse code examination beyond 12 words per minute would be required for a Class A ticket.

Adoption of the simplification plan culminated some 30 months of work by the Board and embraced input from thousands of ARRL members, nonmembers, and prospective hams. The Board debated a wide variety of options including more and fewer license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. - *via ARRL Letter Online - 7/24/98*

### JOTA 1998 Reminder

The 1998 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is October 17 and 18. You can do a community service by contacting your local Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop. Invite a few scouts to your shack or take

your equipment to a local campout. JOTA brochures and exhibit kits are available from ARRL. To order, contact Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, at ARRL, EAD, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0219; e-mail [jwolfgang@arrl.org](mailto:jwolfgang@arrl.org). Order early. - *via*



## KQ2V Letter to ARRL President

24 July, 1998

Dear Mr. Stafford,

This week I read to my dismay that the Board of Directors has voted to approve a proposal to change the licensing structure of the amateur radio service making it more in compliance with an upcoming FCC proposal supporting a universal licensing procedure. At least, that's what I think has happened because up to now it seems to have been a secret shared by just a few "professional" amateurs. This state of affairs compels me to express my concern over the proposal and to express my dismay over the seemingly lack of concern on the part of the Board members to solicit any input from the membership before making the proposal. I find their action to be at best paternalistic toward the membership and at worse to be devious.

I have been a member of the League off and on for over 30 years. I, unfortunately, recall the same modality of action on the part of the Board when the League proposed incentive licensing in the late 60's. I also recall the same paternalism when the Board approved the no code tech license. Alas, in this new proposal the old paternalism rears its ugly head once again.

This causes me to pause and wonder if my membership has any real value in the eyes of the Board of Directors. Their actions seem to belie a cynicism toward the membership. To wit, in three crucial turning points in the development of modern ham radio the Board has acted unilaterally, secretly and without regard for the members opinions. So be it, In light of this, I have requested that my membership be terminated. Yours is not an organization of democratic practice. It is more akin to the back room politics, tainted with self interest and inside deals that so permeates our society today. This is not a politic to be admired.

My second concern is the Board's myopic view of the state of modern ham radio. I think they just don't get it. This is

due, perhaps to their conscious insistence that more is better and their unconscious insistence that dumbing down the requirements for a ham license will achieve their conscious goal. This insistence flies in the face of what appears to be a mass exodus of the elmers in the hobby. These hams were the glue that kept self-policing and self-discipline as part (albeit small) of the hobby. This is lost. Elmers I talk with are tired of the whining, the general lack of wanting to understanding the soul of the hobby on the part many of new hams we find mostly on 2 meters. Why? The no code tech license has created a caste of appliance operators who don't want to know how to upgrade because all they have to do is wait for the Board to give them privileges that they don't want to earn. Your actions have abetted this state of affairs, It creates a soulless hobby, one with no purpose, no sense of achievement. You have thrown the baby away with the bath water.

In my comments to Mr. Kanode this week, I mentioned that I was glad to read that Barry Goldwater died before the Board's proposal was made public. Your proposal certainly would have distressed him as much as it does me. I met the Senator once and he didn't strike me as one who would uphold the dumbing down of the hobby for any reason.

I am a teacher. As such I oppose most educational schemes that cheapen the achievement of a desired goal. I am swimming upstream against this growing current. You need only to pick up any newspaper and read how these schemes have affected our once adequate educational system. The Board's proposal buys into this same dead end. It gives the whiners, the soulless hams, access to privileges without earning them. It cheapens the hobby. This action by the Board reinforces this soulless hams' cynicism and reinforces their lack of desire to learn anything about the nature of the fraternity.

Why did the Board agree to this? I can only wonder at their myopia. Are QST advertising revenues falling so sharply? Are there personal gains to be made by the Board members that override the integrity of ham radio? Certainly, the comment that the FCC is concerned about the growth ( or lack of it) of ham radio

cannot be taken seriously in the light of their decisions to deregulate themselves. So what is it? Is dumber better? Is this good business practice? I can only suggest that when the VEC's get together they remember not to write the new question pools above a fourth grade reading level. This will insure the growth of the hobby and the success of this scheme, at least for a while.

Lastly, I have given some thought to my involvement in giving examinations in this dumbed down environment. Shortly, I will resign from the volunteer examiner program. I do this for many reasons. Primarily for the one I relate to you here. I have volunteered in this program as an ARRL examiner from its inception, having tested candidates in the Hudson Division and here in the Roanoke Division for many years. In the process of testing and of teaching ham classes I have made over 100 new hams in this part of the country. In the role of examiner, I have also stood against a cheating scheme within the system that occurred here few years ago. As I look at it now, I should have waited for the Board's proposal before acting. Little did I know that two years later the League was willing to give away the privileges that these "hams" were willing to cheat to get. So it goes!

In the end, I must disagree with the proposal and its logic. Giving away privileges will not insure growth. It may not even insure advertising revenues. Dumbing down the license requirements will not insure the integrity of the hobby, if anything it will plant the seeds of disinterest and boredom that will lead to the demise of courtesy and good operating practice. The premise that we need more hams to fight off the vicissitudes of the Congress causes me to wonder if we may be better off financing a lobby effort rather than dumbing down the hobby.

Regrettably,

Simon Jaworski, KQ2V



## BARC Monthly Minutes - July 1998

**BARC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**July 14, 1998 1830HR.**  
**VOA Site C TOUR**

No official meeting was held due to the VOA Site C Tour and low member turn-out. The Tour consist of the Building, grounds, and part of the Antenna Field. Bruce Hunter, General Manager of the local IBB VOA's gave an in-depth tour of the Site. Our Thanks go out to Mr. Hunter for an enlightening view of the Site's history and the purpose of the VOA. Also, a Special Thanks to Paul Fletcher, KS4YF for arranging the Tour and his hard work in presenting the Club's interest in preserving the Site for it's historical value and communications' capabilities.

Minutes by:

**Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK**

## K6DUE Remembers Alan Shepard Flight

Retired NBC science reporter and SAREX Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, got to know astronaut Alan Shepard very well in the early days of the space program. Shepard--the first US astronaut launched into space--died July 21 at age 74. Shepard also was one of 12 astronauts to walk on the Moon (Apollo 14). While Shepard never was interested in ham radio, Neal says he was very aware of radio and communication. "I was the Pool Producer for his Mercury flight," he said. "The combined networks built a special mobile unit to feed some 100 networks worldwide." Neal said NASA had the networks fire up its broadcast system to make sure it would not generate RFI that could affect Shepard's spacecraft. It was clean. "Later that day, Shepard accosted me. 'Are we compatible?' he asked. I retorted, 'If you mean RF, yes we are. Socially I'm not so sure!' Neal said network employees who were hams used that background to advantage. "The

## ARRL Defends License

Love it or hate it, the ARRL's recent license restructuring plan certainly has generated considerable debate and controversy within the Amateur Radio community and gotten licensees thinking about what's good and what's not so good about the current system. ARRL Directors report they're getting lots of e-mail on both sides, and the overall trend appears to be in favor of the plan the Board released earlier this month.

Midwest Director Lew Gordon, K4VX, reports that his mail has been running better than two-to-one in favor. New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, said he's having trouble keeping up with the avalanche of comments. "I've received 166 messages from New England hams, and the count is 105-61 in favor of the proposal," he said, adding that he still has about 50 messages to answer.

Some hams have suggested the current system is just fine, and to change it will diminish the status of current licensees. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, has an answer for the "don't-change-anything" camp, however. "If you're flatly opposed to any change at all, I don't think that you've taken into consideration the changes that have occurred over the past seven years," he said. For example, Sumner points out that the Novice license--instituted in 1951--no longer is the route of entry to Amateur Radio for more than about 5% of the amateur population. Other than 10 meters, the Novice bands "are significantly underutilized," he observed. Sumner says amateurs can't make a case for additional

bands if the present allocations aren't being used to capacity.

In recent years, most of those coming into the hobby have come in as Technicians. Nevertheless, they still must pass the Novice element, which includes questions on HF that are irrelevant to Technician ops. "This pretty much forces you to accept the fact that there must be some change," he said. "The real issue is how far should that change go, and on that, reasonable people can and will differ, and we'll be discussing that over the coming months as the process goes forward."

Sumner said nothing is cast in stone at this point, and if better ideas surface as a result of the current debate, "there will be every chance for those to be reflected in the ultimate FCC action."

The ARRL has sent a copy of its restructuring proposals to the FCC in a letter, but the League has not petitioned for a rulemaking as it awaits the Commission's own ham radio restructuring proposal, still in the draft stages. There's still no definite word on when the FCC's proposal will be made public. "Things are moving along," said an FCC spokesman, who added that the Commission has begun getting comments on the ARRL's proposal. The FCC is expected to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that also will seek input from amateurs on various alternatives. The FCC spokesman suggested that hams wait until the Commission's proposal goes public before commenting on the issue. - *ARRL Letter Online*

coverage from the [aircraft] carrier was provided by a pair of Collins KWM-2s, which the Navy let us install," Neal recalled. "When President Kennedy preempted all Navy circuits to talk to Shepard aboard the carrier, we had a great exclusive. The whole world, including NASA, had to turn to the radio-TV pool to find out what was going on!" - *via ARRL Letter Online 7/31/98*

*Editors Note:* Roy Neal, K6DUE, now lives in High Point. - *W4YDY*



## More Astro-Hams

According to our latest count, the number of astronauts with ham tickets now stands at 86. Among the latest licensees are Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI; Stephen N. Frick, KD5DZC; Stephanie D. Wilson, KD5DZE; and Timothy J. Creamer, KC5WKI. - *via ARRL Letter Online 7/31/98*



# Ham Ads

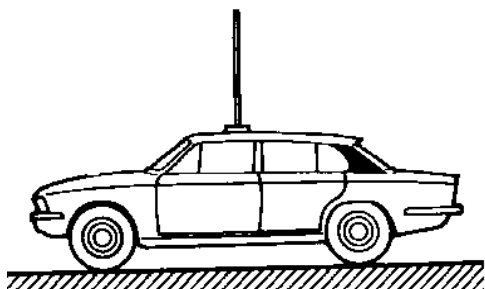
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## FOR SALE

1. MSC Smart Keyer. CW iambic keyer, manual, ac wall transformer (no paddles); all commands thru keypad; usual goodies: 6 message memories, embedded commands, incrementing serial numbers, 0 & 9 as T & N, choice of speed 1 & 2, adjustable vol. and pitch of sidetone, etc.; \$60.
2. MSB-1 Audio Filter (analog, not dsp); bandpass freq. & width, adj lowpass, notch freq & width; incl manual; needs 12 dc; one of best - good review in QST; \$50.
3. Kenwood DM-81 grid dip meter; \$70.
4. Kenwood TS-9130 transceiver: 2 meter FM, SSB, CW; 5-25 watts, 2 vfos, 5 memories, rit, tt mike, manual, ac mem backup unit, mobile mount, 12 vdc; front panel excellent, couple of scratches on case; \$300 or make offer. All in excellent shape. (3) Gerry, K4IDD. 756-4102.

## FOR SALE

Kenwood MC-85 Desk Microphone with MJ-88 Adapter. \$60.00.  
Call Ken Graf, N8FF @ 321-4824. (1)



## K4MHM Visits W1AW

While in Connecticut visiting their son, Murray, K4MHM, and Mary Merner were able to go to the American Radio Relay League headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. After an extensive tour of the administrative building conducted by staff Dan Miller (K3UFG), they were escorted to W1AW, the building where the transmitters are (it's the little brick building we see a lot of pictures of).

There was a "tour" of that building by other staff. While the building is small it does not feel cramped. In addition to the main control panel and the transmitters for the bulletins and code practice transmissions, the building also houses three separate studios for members to transmit from. (There is actually a station in the administration building for staff, its call is W1INF.)

Murray tried to telephone a number of Greenville hams he thought may be at home around 2:00 p.m.. No one was until he was able to talk to John McCoy, K4KBB (John even seemed a little skeptical that Murray was actually where he said he was). Twenty meters was not in good shape, but they were able to have a QSO on SSB 14.250 MHz (RST W1AW sent 24 / received 45) and CW 14.040 (RST W1AW sent 349 / received 469). There was much QRN and QSB. After the QSO with John, Murray went back to 14.250, but couldn't make any more contacts. While there was actually a bit more time to transmit, but they had to leave to get on their way to Philadelphia to visit Murray's brother and his wife.

The visit to ARRL was a memorable one and Murray felt like a kid in a candy store. He was able to purchase some things for his personal use and for the club. The ARRL staff are friendly and helpful and the whole operation is quite involved and interesting. Mary took many pictures to help remember the experience. - K4MHM

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Help support *Ham Chatter*. Get some ads to offset the higher printing and soon to be mailing costs. Donations accepted!

## \*Attention\*

## Greenville 2 Meter Repeater Users

The **W4GDF 147.09** and **WD4JPQ 145.35** repeaters have started using tone access codes because of interference from so many commercial radios nearby. The tone frequency is

## NETS

### VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ New Bern Amateur Radio Club/ Eastern NC 220 Association for the WD4JMS & WA4DAN Net, Monday, 2000 on 146.61 and 224.84 MHz
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.11 MHz and linked repeaters.
- ◆ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

### HF

- ◆ Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

# *BARC*

## *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

August 11.....	Regular Meeting	October 16.....	VE Session
August 14.....	VE Session	Oct 17-18.....	JOTA
August 27*.....	Board Meeting	October 29*.....	Board Meeting
August 30.....	<b>Ham Chatter Deadline</b>	November 1.....	<b>Ham Chatter Deadline</b>
September 8.....	Regular Meeting	November 10.....	Regular Meeting
September 19-20.....	Air Force QSO Party	November 15.....	Benson Hamfest
September 19-20.....	Virginia Beach Hamfest	November 29.....	<b>Ham Chatter Deadline</b>
October 1*.....	Board Meeting	December 5.....	Greensboro Hamfest
October 4.....	<b>Ham Chatter Deadline</b>	December 8.....	Christmas Meeting
October 11.....	Maysville Hamfest	December 18.....	VE Session
October 13.....	Regular Meeting		*Tentative

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER  
 PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER  
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

### **W 4 A M C - W I V O A**

August 1998

**Photos Back!**

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