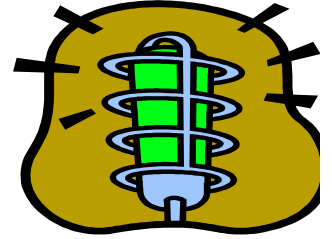




# THE LED

Published by The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
Howell, Michigan



## MARCH 2004

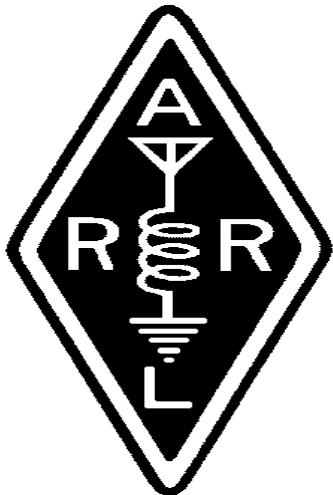
Livingston Amateur  
Radio Klub  
PO Box 283  
Howell, Michigan  
48844

[www.qsl.net/milark](http://www.qsl.net/milark)

NET 146.680  
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: KB8ZTV

NEXT KLUB MEETING  
MARCH 11th, 2004 7:30 P.M.  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER  
300 SOUTH HIGHLANDER WAY



### BOARD MEMBERS

|                  |         |        |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| President        | Art     | KC8WAZ |
| Vice-President   | Bruce   | N8GVD  |
| Secretary        | Mary    | KC8SER |
| Treasurer        | Clairus | KC8QQN |
| Program Director | Bob     | K8VQC  |
| Program Director | Jim     | WB8AZP |
| Tech Coordinator | Chuck   | W8CLK  |
| Board Member     | Dwayne  | N8WMN  |

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

|                  |      |        |
|------------------|------|--------|
| 146.680 Repeater | Jack | KA8BOG |
| LED Editor       | Jim  | WB8AZP |
| VE Coordinator   | Greg | AA5GO  |

### SOCIAL EVENTS

20 Mar 2004 Southern Michigan ARS <http://www.qsl.net/w8df>  
Contact: Chuck Williams, WD8LJF 15202 Ackerson Drive  
Battle Creek, MI 49014 Phone: 269-964-3197  
Email: bevolin@msn.com Marshall, MI

21 Mar 2004 Toledo Mobile Radio Association  
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org> Contact: Brian Harrington,  
WD8MXR 4463 Holly Hill Drive Toledo, OH 43614  
Phone: 419-385-5624 Email: wd8mxr@arll.net Maumee, OH

28 Mar 2004 Lake County ARA <http://www.lcara.org> Contact:  
Robert Liddy, K8BL 7321 Enfield Drive Mentor, OH 44060  
Phone: 440-951-0283 Email: k8bl@ameritech.net Madison, OH



My thanks to all the KLUB members who attended the February meeting. Together, we all managed to accomplish much in improving how our group can operate. Again, I offer my thanks to Bruce, N8GVD and Dwayne, N8WMN, for stepping up to fill in our vacant Board positions.

It seems the weather is beginning to give us a glimpse of warmer and longer days, but don't be fooled - we still have some potentially interesting times ahead. It's probably a good time to check over the items in your "go pack", as we move into the severe weather season here in Michigan.

Hope to see you all at the upcoming Skywarn training, and of course, the Annual KLUB Awards Banquet.

73  
Art  
KC8WAZ

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## LARK SOCIAL NOTES

Our next pre-meeting dinner will be at 5:30 PM, Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 at the Brunner's Restaurant, 1201 East Grand River, Howell. We meet at 7:00PM at the EOC for our eyeball QSO prior to the 7:30PM LARK meeting.

The ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET will be 4PM Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Howell Masonic Temple. Non-members are also invited, so bring a friend Laurene Banta will be takings reservations (\$11 per person) at the February & March meetings. The reservation cut-off date is March 14<sup>th</sup>. She would prefer a check payable to: Howell Eastern Star No. 372 OES. You may mail your check to: Laurene Banta WA8IAQ 11297 Outer Drive Pinckney, MI 48169.

More details about Banquet & Amateur Of The Year below.....



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### AWARDS BANQUET & AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Annual Awards Banquet will be 4PM Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Howell Masonic Temple. Non-

Members are welcome, so bring a friend. Laurene will be taking reservations at the February and March meetings. The reservation cut-off is March 14<sup>th</sup>. Laurene prefers a check payable to: Howell Eastern Star No. 372, O.E.S. You may mail your check to: Laurene Banta, WA8IAQ 11297 Outer Drive Pinckney, Mi 48169.

Please think about WHO and WHY you would like to nominate for a special award. At the February Meeting our Secretary will have a ballot for you to vote on AMATEUR OF THE YEAR, and a place for you to nominate members for special awards.

We will be having our famous White Elephant Exchange after our Awards Presentation on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Bring an amateur related white elephant or a white elephant that a female might enjoy. Items should be wrapped (in Christmas paper, newspaper, or a brown bag) and marked "male" or "female". Raffle tickets will be sold before the dinner at \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.

Money from the raffle will be given to a charity decided by those in attendance. Once the "White Elephants" are gone we start stealing from each other until all tickets are drawn.

I am trying to make a list of the members who have been voted "HAM OF THE YEAR". Do you know who was in 1997, 1998, and 2000? Were there any other awards presented prior to 1995? Please bring me any information you may have to the March meeting or call me at 734-878-9484.

**33 and 73 from Laurene Banta, WA8IAQ**

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## Secretary's Report General Meeting February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Art. KC8WAZ, called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made.

Rita WA8IAQ, made motion to accept the Sec report published in the LED. Ray, N8CPO, seconded. Motion passed.

Mac N8RBA, made motion to accept Treasurer Report. Bruce, N8WWX, seconded. Motion passed.

Clairus, KC8QQN, shared some very enlightening information related to all of the past LARK paperwork.

### Old Business:

#### BYLAWS

The proposed Bylaw changes were reviewed, discussed, and grammatically corrected. Mac, N8RBA, made a motion to accept the new Bylaw changes as edited. Chuck, W8CLK, seconded the motion.

#### ARES / RACES

Skywarn training will be on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Hamburg Fire Station

## AWARDS BANQUET

The LARK Awards Banquet and White Elephant will be held on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Howell Masonic Temple. There will be a 4PM social hour, with a 5PM dinner. The White Elephant raffle will follow after dinner.

Rita Banta WA8IAQ is taking reservations for the event.

### New Business:

#### EOC:

Bruce, N8WWX, gave an update on activities coming up.

#### FIELD DAY

There were several members that were interested in having a field day station this year. Bruce, N8GVD, graciously volunteered to be the chairman. He intends to enlist help from many other klub members.

#### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Two cards were mailed to sick/distressed LARK members.

#### 50/50 DRAWING

Raymond, KB8WYE won \$43.00, and donated it back to the Emergency Communications Fund. Many other door prizes were given out, thanks to the efforts of Jim, WB8AZP.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary, KC8SER

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## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **LARK Board Meeting February 2004**

### **Board Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Art KC8WAZ

The Secretaries & Treasurers reports read & approved

Bruce, N8GVD, has accepted to take on the role of Vice President, for the remainder of the term vacated by Melissa, KC8UTF.

A volunteer to fill the "member at large" position on the board, vacated by Paul, KC8UKF, will be solicited from the membership at the February meeting.

Nominations for the Ham of the Year are: Clairus, KC8QQN, Jim, WB8AZP, and Mary, KC8SER.

Jim, WB8AZP, made a motion to modify the checking account to a two signature style, Bob, K8VQC seconded. Motion passed.

Art, KC8WAZ, made a motion to move the glossary from the end of the Bylaws to the front of the document. Clairus, KC8QQN seconded. Motion passed.

It was noted that the repeater has another 20 years left on a 40 year tower lease.

Ray, N8CPO, will be asked to teach the CW class.

Clairus, KC8QQN, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim, WB8AZP seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary KC8SER

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## TREASURER REPORT

### TREASURER REPORT GENERAL OPERATING FUND

FOR PERIOD FEB. 1, 2004 TO FEB. 29, 2004

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY)  | \$ 752.83   |
| INCOME                        |             |
| 50/50 WINNER DONTATION/ PATCH | 43.00       |
| DUES 2004                     | 105.00      |
| SUNSHINE COMM.                | .00         |
| TOTAL DEPOSIT                 | 148.00      |
| EXPENDITURES                  |             |
| JIM WB8AZP, PRINTING LED      | 47.12       |
| POST OFFICE BOX RENTAL        | 38.00       |
| ENDING BALANCE                | \$815.71    |
| OPENING CASH (CD \$1,000.)    | \$1,221.59  |
| OPENING CASH (CD \$500.)      | 590.50      |
| TOTAL OPERATING CASH.         | \$2,627.80_ |

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
FUND TREASURER REPORT.

PERIOD FEB. 1, 2004 TO FEB. 29, 2004

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY)  | \$1585.23 |
| DONATION. 50/50               | 43.00     |
| EXPENSES. MIRAGE AMP          | 189.98    |
| BALANCE FEB 29, 2004          | \$1438.25 |
| BALANCE FOR THE SUNSHINE COMM | \$15.18   |

Respectfully submitted,

Clairus KC8QQN  
Treasurer

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WANTED!!!!

I need as many peanut butter containers as possible, something like 50 of them would be great. I would like them to be with lids and of the 16oz size. I have a wide assortment of nuts, bolts, washers and such that is in need of a new home instead of in the bottom of the draws of my tool boxes. Thanks in advance for your help.

Clairus KC8QQN

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Your Article, News, or Swap & Shop Item Could Be Right Here!!!!



# Livingston Amateur Radio Klub

P.O. Box 283  
Howell, MI 48844

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE (OPTIONAL): \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY: \_\_/\_\_/XXXX

ARRL MEMBER: Y\_\_N\_\_ ARES: Y\_\_N\_\_ RACES: Y\_\_N\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*IF YOU DO NOT WANT THIS INFO PUBLISHED INITIAL HERE: \_\_\_\_\_\*\*\*\*\*

FAMILY MEMBERS APPLYING:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY: \_\_/\_\_/XXXX E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL MEMBER: Y\_\_N\_\_ ARES: Y\_\_N\_\_ RACES: Y\_\_N\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY: \_\_/\_\_/XXXX E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL MEMBER: Y\_\_N\_\_ ARES: Y\_\_N\_\_ RACES: Y\_\_N\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY: \_\_/\_\_/XXXX E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL MEMBER: Y\_\_N\_\_ ARES: Y\_\_N\_\_ RACES: Y\_\_N\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$20.00 PER YEAR FIRST MEMBER (JAN 1-DEC 31) EACH ADDITIONAL \$5.00

TOTAL PAID: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## EDITORS COMMENTS



Literally hours before I began to pull together the pieces for the March edition of the LED, I had finished cleaning up after the first barbeque of 2004 for me. I have always signaled my personal end to winter by firing up the grill as soon as I can, especially when the weather makes an excursion into the 50 degree range. I know that winter in Michigan can still deal out some nasty things during the next month or two, but I'm ready for spring.

It is also a good time to start planning all those projects for warmer weather, like antennas and such. I'm going to have quite a bit of work to do in that regard, and look forward to spending next winter with a much better collection of "skyhooks" to operate with.

Not a bad time for all of us to refresh ourselves relative to disaster preparedness, especially before we enter into the severe weather season. I know I will be checking over my gear, and attending the upcoming Skywarn training session. How about you?

I'm also looking forward to attending the LARK Banquet and White Elephant coming up this month. My wife and I are bringing some great surprises!

## Articles

We still need YOUR articles for the newsletter. Swap items, favorite stories, magical operating moments, remembering your favorite rig, the time your dog ate your logbook, whatever. Need a suggestion for a good



article? Just call! Need help writing it down? We can assist you. In case the spring thaw has left you a little confused, you can reach me at:

Jim Kvochick WB8AZP  
10366 Greystone Court  
Brighton, MI 48114-7650

810-220-2098 Voice  
810-220-2126 Fax  
330-283-7070 Cellular

[WB8AZP@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB8AZP@ARRL.NET)

## 2004 Extra Upgrade Challenge

Don't worry, this isn't going to cost the club any money, and won't require many of you to do anything. As unveiled on the 146.68 repeater one evening, my personal challenge to any Livingston Amateur Radio Klub member in good standing is to upgrade their skills. As reward and recognition for your efforts, I'm prepared to offer you the use of one of the following radios for 30 days after you've upgraded to Extra. The radios you get to play with are:

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Icom 718 | Icom 706    |
| SGC 2020 | Elecraft K2 |

There are a few catches.... You must be a LARK member, you don't get to keep the radio after 30 days, and you do need to return it in working order. These are my backup rigs, and I'm hoping this will serve as an incentive to continue to improve your skills. First come, first served.

## 50/50 Plus Drawings

If you haven't attended a recent meeting, then you've missed out on fabulous prizes that are given away along with splitting the raffle pot.

Ask a member who has attended for the low down. Better yet, why not show up at the next meeting?

## SUNDAY EVENING NET ON 146.68

Let's not forget about the Sunday evening LARK net on 146.68 at 9PM. It's a great time to connect with other LARK members, share information, and just in general gather on the repeater. You would think that a club the size of ours could muster up more than a handful of checkins, now wouldn't you?

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## ARPSC

### **Skywarn Classes**

On March 17, 2004, the National Weather Service, White Lake, will be conducting a Skywarn Class, 7pm at the Hamburg Twp Fire Dept, on M-36. The class will be a combination of the old Basic and Advanced Skywarn Classes. The class will last appropriately 2 hours and 15 minutes. I hope to see everyone there. **There is an informal dinner planned for 5:30PM at the Checkerboard Pizza Restaurant, 9244 Pettysville Road, Pinckney prior to the class**

### **Net Control Meeting**

On March 31, 2004, at the EOC, 7pm, there will be a meeting and training workshop for those members interesting in being net and/or resource control operators during Skywarn or ARES/RACES activations. Remember we will need a number of operators for activations during the daytime and evening hours as well as the weekends.

### **ARPSC Communication Room**

Some of you may have been wondering what is happening with the communication room especially after the last meeting, where your brainstorming ideas were brought forth. Although some further suggests have been proposed, I have put them on hold at this time. The state and district meeting will be coming up in the next couple of months. Since, Ray DeVlieg, KB8VNI, has again been appointed the SEC, I would like to see what direction they may be taking.

### **RACES Qualifications**

The FEMA IS-2 Emergency Preparedness U.S.A. is now back on the FEMA-EMI website. This course is one of the requirements for RACES. Please download the material and then take the test. I have some hard copies available.

### **Incident Command System**

Incident Command System is the standard by which Fire, Police, and EMS conduct business. In order to be of assistance in doing your job with providing emergency communication in a critical incident, you must really understand what is going on, and who is really in charge of the incident. The FEMA IS-195 Incident

Command System Course is also on the FEMA-EMI website. Please download the material and then take the test if you have not already

**Please don't wait for the real thing and wished that you would have taken the time to attend some training.**

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## DX REPORT

MALAWI, 7Q. Harry, G0JMU will be QRV as 7Q7HB for a couple of months beginning February 8. QSL direct via G0IAS.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Dave, K2GM is QRV as A61AJ and has been active on 160 meters around 0050 to 0300z. He has also been QRV on 80 meters around 1500z. QSL via K2UO.

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SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS. Henry is QRV as AY1ZA and has been active on 15 meters around 1800z. He is also active on 40 meters around 0500z. QSL via LU4DXU.

---

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Yuri, UA1ONY is QRV from the South Island of the Novaya Zemlya Islands, IOTA EU-035. QSL via RZ3EC.

---

IRAQ, YI. George, K7YMA is QRV as YI9YMA and is here until April 15. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters as his time permits. QSL to home call.

---

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q. Gus, SM5DIC is QRV as 9Q0AR during his spare time. QSL direct via SM5BFJ.

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BARBADOS, 8P. Pete, W0SA is QRV as 8P9NX until March 11. QSL direct to home call.

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ANTARCTICA. Filippo, IK0AIH, Fabrizio, I0HJC and Michele, IK7JGQ are active as IR0PS/A from the Italian Antarctic station Baia Terra Nova, IOTA AN-016. They are generally QRV daily on 20 meters around 1700 to 1800 and then from 0730 to 0830z. QSL via operators' instructions.

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DOMINICA, J7. Lars, SM0CCM is active as J73CCM using mainly CW on 160 to 6 meters, but also with some RTTY and PSK31. He is here until March 4. QSL to home call.

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IRAQ, YI. George, K7YMA will be QRV as YI9YMA and will soon be active on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

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The following UA4WHX/AC4LN 2002/2003 operations are approved for DXCC credit:

In 2003: V63MB from May 13 to 20. T88VV, May 21 to 26. KH0/AC4LN,

May 27 to 31. V63MB, June 2 to 10. V73VV, June 12 to 20. 5W0VB,  
June 26 to 30. ZK2VB, July 1 to 4. A35VB, July 10 to 18.  
ZL/UA4WHX, July 19 to 31. P29VVB, August 4 to 17. H44VV, August 18  
to 23. H40VB, August 24 to 30. YJ0VB, September 5 to 18.  
FK/AC4LN, September 21 to October 3. 3D2VB, October 4 to 6.  
3D2VB/R, October 8 to 14. 3D2VB, October 16 to 20. T30VB, October  
21 to 28. T20VB, October 29 to November 5. 3D2VB, November 6 and  
7. ZK1/AC4LN, November 9 to 15. ZK1/AC4LN, November 18 to 26.  
FO/AC4LN, December 2 to 7. FO/AC4LN, December 11 to 13 and FO/AC4LN  
from December 16 to 25, 2003.

In 2002: V31VB from May 25 to 30. YS1/AC4LN, June 5 to 9.  
HP8/AC4LN, June 26 to July 1. J6/AC4LN, July 17 to 20. HH2/AC4LN,  
July 23 to 27. 9Y4/AC4LN, August 2 to 7. 8R1/AC4LN, August 9 to  
14. J73/AC4LN, August 20 to 23. J3/AC4LN, August 27 to 30 and  
FW/AC4LN from September 27 to October 3, 2002.

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## **Attention All Amateurs...** **Jon Harris KC8VAB**

- **Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)**
- **Changes to the Amateur Radio Service license requirements**

Two hot topics on the airwaves, across all bands.

Where do you stand on these issues?

Is it all good or all bad?

Is Amateur Radio going away?

Do YOU have a voice that can be heard?

Let me start with the last question first. I do think that we each have a voice and that we can make it heard. In today's world one voice can be heard around the world, not only on the HF bands, but on the internet. I believe that it is very critical that all of us voice our opinions and loudly. Your voice will be heard, or more importantly listened to, if it comes from a well informed and thought out position. One should know where they are standing before they make a stand. This is like reaching around the world on five watts. If you use an antenna that is poorly tuned, you will not get far. A little extra effort to match the radio and antenna system for the band and you are heard clearly in the farthest reaches. Being heard, just like QRP, is not always easy, but worth the effort.

So, the first thing we must do is read and understand the issues. I always approach this by looking for the solid facts, and then looking for the motivations on both sides of the issue.

Will either of these two topics bring an end to Amateur Radio? As long as we are all involved, the answer will be NO. These things will cause changes to Amateur Radio, but that is part of what we are about. Exploring new things, seeing what we can learn, meeting new people and hearing voices from new places. The history of amateur radio is full of examples where we the amateurs have invented new and better ways to do things. This is, in many cases, a response to overcoming problems and seeing beyond the limitations. Amateurs are also based around a community people helping people. Self policing, mentoring the new comer, and sharing life with people you have never seen on the other side of the world. This base has been constant through all the changes that have passed through our hobby.

The answer to the second question of Bad or Good must be neither! If you are an Amateur Extra that got there by passing the 20 WPM code, you felt the struggle, the reward and pride of extra band space. If you have your technicians license and are fighting to learn the code while listening to far off station on the HF bands, you dream of a small slice on the low bands. These two groups will see the new license requirements from very different places. Both could present good arguments for their side of the issue. In fact, you most likely know good quality amateurs on both sides of this. We as a community should and will meet somewhere in the middle, preserving what Amateur Radio is really about.

Now the issues themselves.

### **BPL:**

The ARRL Site on BPL

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

FCC site: **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Amendment of Part 15 regarding new requirements and measurement guidelines for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf)

### **Changes to the Amateur Radio Service license requirements:**

The ARRL Page on their proposed changes to the license requirements

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/?nc=1>

Another view...

Radio Amateur Foundation files Amateur Service Restructuring Petition with FCC

<http://www.qsl.net/k4vu/>

With the above information and more, it is now time for you to answer the first question.

## Where do you stand?

---

### INNER STRENGTH

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills, If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains, If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles, If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it, If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time, If you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong, If you can take criticism and blame without resentment, If you can face the world without lies and deceit, If you can conquer tension without medical help, If you can relax without liquor, If you can sleep without the aid of drugs, If you can do all these things, Then you are probably the family dog..



Shown here are John Champa, K8OCL, with his daughter Susan Muscat and his wife Karen Feder at the recent Safari Club International Banquet in Novi. As you may be aware, John and Karen went on a DXpedition to Zimbabwe this summer. While in Africa John operated as Z2/K8OCL from the Mateke Hills area in the southern part of Zimbabwe. His rig was an old Yaesu 757 running off solar-powered truck batteries and connected to a very broadbanded 40M two-leg fan dipole. Operations were mostly on 40M and 20M SSB.

John also did some hunting while in country, taking four very large and very ugly warthogs with his 340 Weatherby rifle. The warthogs looked ugly, but John says they tasted great. It was the best wild pork he had ever eaten...especially when washed down with some fine South African wine! (HI)

Considerable planning and logistical support for the DXpedition was provided by the Safari Club International (SCI) Novi Chapter. SCI protects hunter's rights by actively lobbying on behalf of hunters at the state, provincial and federal level. They are committed to passing the hunting tradition on to our youth through educational programs, hunting experiences and wildlife conservation projects. The community of SCI hunters promotes strong family values, and teaches young hunter's about hunting and the role hunters play in sustainable wildlife conservation. SCI chapters located around the world offer an excellent opportunity for hunters to get involved and make a difference. John suggests that if you would like to go on a combined DXpedition and Hunting Safari, that you attend the local SCI Kensington Valley Chapter Banquet on March 13th at Crystal Gardens (formerly Lake Pointe Manor) on Grand River in Genoa Township. You can call the chapter president, Jim Brady, 517-548-1160 for details.

## Other News

### ==>FCC CHAIRMAN ASSURES CONGRESSMAN ON BPL STUDIES

FCC Chairman Michael Powell has assured US Representative Greg Walden, WB7OCE, that the Commission will give "thorough consideration" to all Broadband over Power Line (BPL) studies before it takes final action on BPL. Powell responded February 3 to Walden's January 15 letter requesting that the FCC defer any further action in its BPL proceeding until the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) releases the results of its BPL study and the public has had a chance to comment. On February 12 the FCC took the proceeding to the next level, unanimously approving the issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). Among other provisions, the NPRM would require BPL providers to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques."

"Please be assured that we have already begun coordination of this action

with NTIA," Powell told Walden, "and that the Commission will give all studies, including the forthcoming NTIA study, thorough consideration prior to any final action or rules on the subject." The FCC has not yet released the BPL NPRM nor invited public comments. An Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) briefing at the FCC's February 12 open meeting indicated that the Commission would make no changes in Part 15 rules governing emissions from unlicensed devices. To date, the FCC has released only a public notice on its BPL proposals.

Walden, a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, had told the FCC chairman that, in view of the importance of avoiding interference to federal government HF communications, the FCC should give the pending NTIA study a thorough airing before proposing any rules to govern BPL systems. The Oregon Republican is one of two Amateur Radio licensees in the US House.

Commenting on last April's FCC BPL Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-104, the NTIA had expressed "broad concern" about the technology's potential to cause interference to federal government users. The NTIA said the Commission "must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference."

An arm of the US Department of Commerce, the NTIA subsequently undertook evaluations of BPL field test sites, in part to gauge the technology's interference potential. The NTIA was supposed to conclude its field work last month, and release its observations and conclusions during the first quarter of this year. The ARRL's own BPL study, which is assessing the potential of interference both from and to BPL systems, also is set to wrap up early this year.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce Michael Gallagher and NTIA head Michael Gallagher told a December meeting of BPL proponent the Power Line Communications Association that the NTIA was "studying interference risks and potential means for making risks more tolerable." He indicated that the first phase of NTIA's pending BPL study would recommend radiated emission limits, compliance measurement procedures and other conditions in its report to the FCC.

At the FCC's February 12 open meeting, Powell pledged that the FCC would continue to be vigilant in the area of BPL's interference potential. Anh Wride of the OET staff, who provided the broad strokes of the pending NPRM, said the FCC recognizes the concerns of licensed radio service users regarding BPL's interference potential. Wride said "licensed operations must be protected," but added that the OET staff believes that "these interference concerns can be adequately addressed."

==>NASA DEDICATES MEMORIAL, MARTIAN LANDMARKS TO SHUTTLE COLUMBIA CREW

The families of the shuttle Columbia crew lost February 1, 2003, and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe this month unveiled a monument at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the astronauts and their mission. The space agency also has dedicated seven Martian hills--one named for each lost crew member--located east of the Spirit rover landing site in honor of the Columbia astronauts. Three of the seven Columbia crew members were Amateur Radio licensees.

"This memorial will remind us of the dedication and sacrifice made by



those brave individuals willing to risk their own lives to further humanity's knowledge about space exploration," O'Keefe said February 2 at Arlington Cemetery. "Our obligation is to ensure their loss was not in vain. We will return the space shuttle to flight as safe as humanly possible, and we will continue to lead humanity into the unknown."

The Columbia, which broke apart while returning from a 16-day science mission, was commanded by Rick Husband and piloted by William McCool. Also aboard were mission specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawlna, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, and Michael Anderson, and payload specialist Ilan Ramon--a well-known Israeli Air Force pilot.

Following the mishap, Amateur Radio volunteers in Texas, Louisiana and other states assisted in the search for shuttle Columbia debris.

The Vermont marble memorial bears two bronze plaques portraying the Columbia's crew and the shoulder patch the astronauts wore on their mission. It is located near the shuttle Challenger memorial. An image of the Columbia Hills on Mars is available on the JPL/NASA Web site <<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/mer2004/rover-images/feb-02-2004/captions/image-10.html>>. Additional information is on the NASA Web site <[http://www.nasa.gov/columbia/home/F\\_04\\_Memorials.html](http://www.nasa.gov/columbia/home/F_04_Memorials.html)>--NASA

=>NPR FEATURE SPOTLIGHTS ADDITION OF @ SYMBOL TO MORSE CODE

Some hams may have thought they'd left their transceivers turned on Tuesday, February 17. That's when the popular National Public Radio <<http://www.npr.org>> afternoon news magazine All Things Considered ran a piece about the pending addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon. That's because NPR introduced and closed the nearly four-minute segment with actual CW, catching the ear of many hams.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, conceived of the new character, necessary for transmitting e-mail addresses in CW, among other possible purposes. Assuming approval by International Telecommunication Union <<http://www.itu.int/home/index.html>> member-states, the new character--the first added to the code in many, many years--will be "AC" run together (.-.-.).

The new character, Rinaldo says, is both unique in the Morse world as well as a mnemonic (think of an 'a' wrapped in a 'C').

ATC co-host Robert Siegel interviewed ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, for some background on the change, giving Lindquist an opportunity to mention his passion for mobile CW operation. The short feature, "Morse Code Enters Cyber Age," is available on the National Public Radio Web site, <<http://www.npr.org/rundowns/segment.php?wfId=1680529>>.

\* SGC founder, president Pierre Goral, KI7UA, SK: The man who co-founded and headed radio manufacturer SGC Inc--Pierre Goral, KI7UA (ex-N7VRJ), of Kirkland, Washington--died February 12. He was 67. Goral, who established SGC in 1971 with the late Don Stoner, W6TNS (the company originally was called Stoner-Goral Communications, later shortened to SGC), was "an internationally recognized designer, entrepreneur and leader in the field of RF engineering," the company said this week in announcing his death. "He led an adventurous life, working in the jungles of Brazil as a young

engineer and traveling the world to represent his company," SGC said. "RF engineering was his passion, and he devoted himself and his company to producing only the very finest, professional HF SSB products." Outside of his professional life, SGC said, Goral was an artist, photographer, skier and snowboarder who "demonstrated an appreciation of life in everything he did." SGC is a manufacturer of both commercial and amateur gear. Condolences may be sent care of SGC Inc, 13737 SE 26 St, Bellevue, WA 98005 or via e-mail to [sgc@sgcworld.com](mailto:sgc@sgcworld.com).

\* Hong Kong, Denmark dropping Morse requirement: Hong Kong and Denmark have become the latest countries to announce they will drop the requirement for Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination for access to frequencies below 30 MHz. In conjunction with its announcement, Hong Kong will cancel all existing amateur station license classes (and/or authority to operate), replacing them with a new authorization that does not carry a license class, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) announced February 11. OFTA also opened the 430 to 440 MHz band for portable and mobile operation and allocated 10.45 to 10.5 GHz to the Amateur Service. OFTA said only that the changes would "come into effect soon." The Danish Information Technology and Telecom Agency, meanwhile, has announced the elimination of the Morse code examination for access to Amateur Radio HF bands, effective February 1.

# March 2004

| Sunday                                  | Monday               | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday                        | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------|---------|--|---------------------------------|--------|----------|
|   | 1 LARK BOARD MEETING | 2       | 3  | 4                               | 5      | 6        |
| 7<br>LARK NET 9PM                       | 8                    | 9       | 10   | 11 LARK KLUB MEETING<br>7:30 PM | 12     | 13       |
| 14<br>LARK NET 9PM                      | 15                   | 16      | 17<br>SKYWARN TRAINING 7PM<br>HAMBURG            | 18                              | 19     | 20       |
| 21<br>LARK NET 9PM                      | 22                   | 23      | 24   | 25                              | 26     | 27       |
| 28 AWARD BANQUET<br>4PM<br>LARK NET 9PM | 29                   | 30      | 31<br>ARES RACES<br>SKYWARN TRAINING & PM<br>EOC |                                 |        |          |