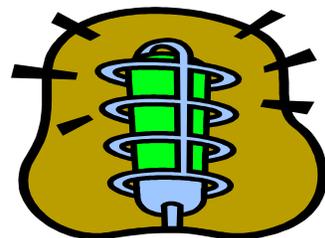




# THE LED

Published by The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
Howell, Michigan



## MAY 2004

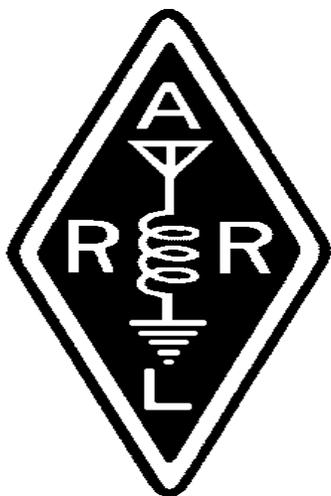
Livingston Amateur  
Radio Klub  
PO Box 283  
Howell, Michigan  
48844

[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	Duane	N8WMN

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

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

### SOCIAL EVENTS

14-16 May 2004 Dayton Hamvention  
Dayton ARA  
<http://www.hamvention.org/>  
Contact: Gary Des Combes, N8EMO  
PO Box 964 Dayton, OH 45401-0964  
Phone: 937-276-6930 or 937-276-6934  
Email: [info@hamvention.org](mailto:info@hamvention.org)

30 May 2004 Franklin County Hamfest Committee  
Contact: Chris Lind, KC8BUO PO Box 14281  
Columbus, OH 43214 Phone: 614-267-7779  
Fax: 614-263-7934  
Email: [clind2@juno.com](mailto:clind2@juno.com)

## PREZ SAYS



Thanks Be; It's Spring Again!

Time to retire the snow blower & shovel, and trade them for the tools required to work on the yard! It's also time to check over our antennas, towers, and guy wires. Safety is of key importance.

A big "Thank You" to all who have worked so hard in gathering up the Klubs equipment and gear, so that a proper inventory could be made. This allowed us to complete our outstanding paperwork with various organizations.

Another huge "Thank You" to Jack, KA8BOG, for his efforts with repair of the repeater, and Brandon, KC8YHE, for his sharing of his EchoLink station.

Please keep in mind that our June meeting will include a special guest, Richard Mondro, W8FQT, the Vice Director for the ARRL Great Lakes Division.

Don't forget our Picnics in the Park, just around the corner, as well!

God Bless All! Remember to keep our troops in your thoughts!

73 Art KC8WAZ

---

## LARK SOCIAL NOTES

Our next pre-meeting dinner will be at 5:30 PM, Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Clarey's Pub, 117 East Grand River, Howell. We meet at 7:00PM at the EOC for our eyeball QSO prior to the 7:30PM LARK meeting.

### **IMPORTANT!**

**Our special guest for the June meeting will be Richard Mondro, W8FQT, the Great Lakes Division Vice Director. Please invite any hams you know of to this special meeting!**



---

## Secretary's Report General Meeting April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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

The Board had approved a \$400 expense to buy a new repeater amplifier, and also approved an expenditure of \$60 for transistors to be used by Jack KA8BOG.

### **FIELD DAY**

Van, N8GVD gave the members a report on Field Day plans for this year. There will need to be some decisions made over the next few months, like number of stations and such. Irene, KA8MVW, volunteered to do food. Mary, KC8SER, volunteered to help. More Field Day details to follow at the meeting..

### **CW CLASSES**

Classes will be held on Monday evening, 7PM, at the EOC. Ray, N8CPO will be instructing.

### **ECHOLINK**

Brandon, KC8YHE, talked about Echolink, and how it was set up on the 146.68 repeater. Brandon has generously made it available to all LARK members

### **BPL**

Jon, KC8VAB gave us an update on BPL. There is a lot of discussion on this topic. He included information on many good websites to learn more about this topic.

### **PICNIC IN THE PARK**

The Picnic in the Park will be in July & August, in place of our meeting(s). Currently, they are scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

Clairus, KC8QQN, made a motion to approach Jim N8ENX, and ask if he could approach the Mayor of Howell or the Parks Commissioner on the use of the park for free. Chuck, W8CLK seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

Bob, K8PBA made a motion not to renew the contract for storage. Irene KA8MVW seconded. Motion passed.

Clairus, KC8QQN, asked for volunteers to help gather Klub equipment, and place it in storage at her home. Volunteers that night included: Charley KB8OUJ, Art KC8WAZ, Mac N8RBA, Van N8GVD, Jon KC8VAB, and Larry KB8QJE.

### New Business:

### **ELECTIONS**

May is election month! Offices to be filled are: Vice President, Technical Director, Treasurer, and Member at Large. Nominees for Vice President were Van N8GVD. Nominees for Technical Director were Jon, KC8VAB,

Jim N8EAH, and Jim WB8AZP. Nominees for Treasurer were Clairus, KC8QQN. Nominees for Member at Large were Chuck, W8CLK.

Brandon, KC8YHE made a motion to close nominations. Duane N8WMN seconded. Motion passed.

50/50 DRAWING

Van, N8GVD, won the 50/50 drawing, and donated it to the Emergency Fund.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Mary, KC8SER

---

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT LARK Board Meeting April 2004 Board Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Art KC8WAZ

The Secretaries and Treasurers reports read & approved

There was discussion about the Echolink station using the 146.68 repeater.

There was discussion about having a Silent Key listing on the Klub website. Clairus, KC8QQN made a motion to that affect, and Chuck, W8CLK, seconded.

Jack, KA8BOG, will be on vacation from April 6<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made to purchase the transistors that Jack, KA8BOG requested for amplifier repair. This motion passed.

Operation care is still in paperwork processing phase.

Bruce N8GVD, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Clairus, KC8QQN seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary KC8SER

---

## **TREASURER REPORT**

TREASURER REPORT  
GENERAL OPERATING FUND

FOR PERIOD APRIL 1, 2004 TO APRIL 30, 2004

OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY)	\$ 831.37
INCOME	
50/50 WINNER	40.00
DUES 2004	55.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT	95.00
EXPENDITURES	
JIM WB8AZP, PRINTING LED	86.14
6 NTE 341 Transistors	74.86
AWARDS Charity Donation	64.00
Phone	75.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 592.13
OPENING CASH ( CD \$1,000.)	\$1,221.59
OPENING CASH ( CD \$500.)	590.50
MATURITY DATE 4/9/04 INTEREST	1.63 592.13
TOTAL OPERATING CASH.	\$2,440.09

---

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
FUND TREASURER REPORT.

PERIOD APRIL 1, 2004 TO APRIL 30, 2004

OPENING CASH ( CHECKING ONLY)	\$1112.25
DONATION From Paul KC8UKF	15.00
DONATION From 50/50	40.00
BALANCE APRIL 30, 2004	\$ 1167.25
BALANCE FOR THE SUNSHINE COMM	\$47.44

Respectfully submitted,  
Clairus KC8QQN  
Treasurer

---

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

---

## EDITORS COMMENTS



Welcome to May! (OK, as I'm writing this, it tried to snow, but the calendar says it's May!)

If you've already gotten a "jump start" on your spring antenna projects, how about a picture and a short write up on what you've accomplished? Spring is a good time to share with your Klub members, you know.

Don't forget that our June meeting will feature a visit from our Vice Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division, Richard Mondro, W8FQT. Please invite Klub members, past Klub members, and any other amateurs you run into to join us for the June meeting!!!!!!!

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 Revised!

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  
SGC 2020

Icom 706  
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.

Additionally, if you'd like to experience using one of these radios, you may borrow one of them for 2 weeks, when available, just for being a LARK member in good standing! Same conditions apply as well.

## 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? Why not even volunteer to take on the Net Control responsibility for one or two Sundays to gain some experience? Don't need experience in running a net? How about just volunteering to help out?

---

## ARPSC

### **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.**

---

## DX REPORT

MALDIVES, 8Q. Tadao, JA1WPX will be QRV as 8Q7WP from May 4 to 9. He plans to be active on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. He may also try some 80 meters and PSK31 as well. QSL to home call.

---

---

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Maurizio, IZ1CRR and others will be active as 9M8PSB from Pulau Satang Besar Island, IOTA OC-165. He will also participate in the ARI DX contest as 9M8/IZ1CRR. QSL both calls via IZ1CRR.

---

---

TAIWAN, BV. Chung, BX4AF has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1700z. QSL direct.

---

---

CHINA, BY. A Group of BG4 hams from the Jiangsu DX Club will be QRV as BI4Q from Cheniushan Island, IOTA AS-135, from May 1 to 3. They will be active on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB on the usual IOTA frequencies. QSL via BG4RQP.

---

---

MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO. A group of amateurs from Japan are QRV as FO0/JI1JKW and FO0/JI1WTF from Hiva Oa, IOTA OC-027, until May 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. A 6-meter beacon is set up on 50110 kHz. QSL to home calls.

---

---

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. HF0POL has been QRV on 30 meters around 1900 and 2330z. QSL via SP2GOW. Meanwhile, Voytek, SP5QF is active as HF0QF from the Henryk Arctowski Base on King George Island. He is here until the end of 2004. QSL via SP7IWA.

---

---

SOUTH KOREAN, HL. Look for DS4NYE and another operator to be active using special call sign D70LW from Soack Island, IOTA AS-060, until May 2. Activity is on all HF bands and modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

---

---

GUAM, KH2. Nao, JK1FNL will be QRV as NA80/KH2 from May 5 to 9. QSL direct to JK1FNL.

---

---

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS. Dr. Martin, LU5DO is on assignment at the Orcadas Base on Laurie Island. He will be QRV from club station LU1ZA through March 2005. QSL via LU4DXU.

---

---

BULGARIA, LZ. Special event station LZ04KM will be active on all bands and modes from May 1 to 31 to celebrate St. Cyril and Methodius' Day. QSL via LZ1BFR.

---

---

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Zsolt, HA6PS and Laci, HA6NL are QRV as OM/homecall/p from Ruzsina until May 3. They will participate in the AGCW QRP contest as OM/HA5RT/p and in the ARI DX contest as OM/HA6PS/p. QSL to home calls.

---

---

GREECE, SV. Mike, GW3UOF will be QRV as SV8/GW3UOF/p from Kavos, Corfu, IOTA EU-052, from May 3 to 17. QSL to home call.

---

---

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Conny, DL1DA is QRV as VP5/DL1DA until May 9. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL to home call.

---

---

**Ham radio fans keep Morse code alive**  
**BY MIKE WENDLAND**  
**DETROIT FREE PRESS COLUMNIST**  
**April 26, 2004**

Every Monday night, a group of ham radio enthusiasts from metro Detroit gathers around their radios and begins an unusual class aimed at keeping a dying language alive.

The language is Morse code -- the dots and dashes that used to be the heart of what was once the ultimate high-tech business of telegraphy.

"We refuse to let it die," said William (Jim) Wickstrom, president of the Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association ham radio club.

"It's part of our tradition, but it's also a very effective means of getting a signal through when other means of communications fail."

Wickstrom and his ham cohorts have been teaching the class for several years, helping people pass the five-words-per-minute Morse code requirement necessary to gain full operating privileges on the ham radio bands. (You can listen in on Mondays at 9 p.m. at 147.18 MHz.)

About the only place where the Morse code language is used anymore is on ham radio. And that hobby, too, has been in decline since the early 1990s, when the Internet began to take hold.

Although it seems likely that the Federal Communications Commission will drop the Morse code requirement, ham radio purists insist it is a vital part of the hobby.

"It was the Internet of its day," says Bill Pretzer, the curator of political history and print communications at the Henry Ford in Dearborn. "It was a breakthrough in communications, and it changed the face of business and society like nothing the world had seen."

Michigan played a significant role in the development of Morse code, thanks to the state's most famous inventor -- Thomas Edison.

In 1859, at age 12, Edison held a job on the Grand Trunk Railway, selling candy and copies of the Free Press on the run from Detroit to his home in Port Huron. One day, he saved the life of a 3-year-old boy who had fallen on the tracks in front of a train. In gratitude, the boy's father, a railroad telegrapher, taught the young Edison the dits and dahs of code.

"He went on to become one of the fastest operators around," says Pretzer. How fast was he? "A really good telegrapher could copy 35-40 words per minute. Edison was faster than that."

Edison invented an automatic printer for the telegraph that later morphed into a stock ticker, the sale of which provided the seed money that led to his so-called invention factory laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J., where he invented the phonograph, the electric light bulb and scores of other things.

That Menlo Park lab and a collection of Edison's telegraph keys and Morse code printers are on display at Greenfield Village.

Today, it is the small but fiercely loyal band of ham radio users who

refuse to let Morse code die. And perhaps as a small sign of their success, a new character has been added to the Morse code alphabet -- the first addition to the dot and dash than 60 years. Two weeks ago, the International Telecommunications Union officially designated dit-dah-dah-dit-dah-dit as the code symbol for the "@" sign that's used in Internet e-mail addresses.

Keep tappin', my ham buddies. Edison would be proud of you.

Contact MIKE WENDLAND at 313-222-8861 or mwendland@freepress.com.

---

## **MORE ON BPL**

The Stu ROCKAFELLOW ARS will be putting on a presentation May 17, 2004 at 7:30pm at The Plymouth city hall 201 S Main st, Plymouth Michigan. the presentation will be Murray Wallace the ARRL Technical Coordinator for the state of Michigan. he will be talking about the BPL Issue. it proves to be a great night of fellowship with other hams and as always we have coffee and donuts. please come early to get a seat. talk in on 145.170 or 146.920. hope to see you there.

W8RIF  
Don

---

## **UPDATE ON OPERATION CARE.**

I SHOULD KNOW BY THE END OF THE COMING WEEK IF OPERATION CARE IS A GO. THE PAPER WORK WAS SUBMITTED AND I AM JUST WAITING ON ITS RETURN. AT WHICH POINT I WILL NEED TO MEET WITH ANYONE WISHING TO HELP GET THIS PULLED TOGETHER. THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE IT HAPPEN AND ONCE THE GREEN LIGHT IS GIVEN WE WILL RUN WITH IT AND PUT IT TOGETHER. I WILL POST A MESSAGE ON THE DVR TO LET EVERYONE KNOW. THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH OPERATION CARE.

CLAIRUS. KC8QQN

---

## **FIELD DAY**

I would like to thank all the members that participated in the discussion at the last meeting about field day. It appears that decent numbers of members are interested.

Irene KA8MVW has volunteered to chair the food coordination, Thanks Irene.

Some members want to arrive Friday and do field checks of their equipment but it was decided to wait until the start of field day to do the site set up. It was also proposed that prior to field day to do a practice set up or two.

It was also decided to set up at least two stations for field day, possibly a GOTA station and station above 50 MHz all at a power level at or below 150 Watts.

Ray N8CPO has a vertical that can be used,  
Art KC8WAZ has a trailer and new battery that can be used,  
Jim WB8AZP assured us that radios would be available,  
Brandon KC8YHE has a tower that can be used,  
I have a generator and laptop that can be used.

I hope prior to the next meeting to go to the site for field day. Find out if there will be any restrictions to the use of the property. To get an idea what would be the best way to set up the site. I would like to find the best available logging program. Try to find all the Klub's equipment that would be useful for field day.

I would like to thank all the members at the last LARK meeting for making my presentation not to terribly painful, not something that I am use to doing and to Jon KC8VAB for all the help.

I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun and learning more about amateur radio.

Van, N8GVD

---

THANKS!!!!!!!!!!

JUST WANTED TO SAY THANKS TO MAC, CHARLIE, RAY, MARY, DAVE, CHUCK AND BRUCE VAN DAM FOR ALL THE HELP WITH GETTING THE KLUBS EQUIPMENT PUT IN ONE SPOT. WHAT A JOB THAT WAS. NOW WE CAN WORK ON KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER. AGAIN THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS. AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO BRUCE FOR THE USE OF HIS TRUCK.

CLAIRUS KC8QQN



---

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR YOUR ARTICLE!

---

### ARRL CALLS ON WHITE HOUSE TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR BPL

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has appealed to President and fellow Texan George W. Bush to withdraw his support for broadband over power line (BPL) technology and focus on "more suitable technologies" such as wireless broadband. The League this week also issued a call for members to support Haynie's request. In an April 26 speech at the Minneapolis convention of the American Association of Community Colleges, Bush advocated changing technical standards to encourage BPL deployment in the US. Haynie told Bush that while the League supports universal and affordable broadband access, BPL is the wrong direction to take.

"Power lines were designed to transmit energy," not broadband signals, Haynie said in a fax. "The broadband signals radiate from power lines and cause severe interference to radio reception."

Haynie said test sites throughout the US and elsewhere have amply demonstrated BPL's potential to interfere. "You may have been told otherwise; if so, you were misinformed," he said, directing the president's attention to the BPL page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

Bush this week told the community colleges gathering that there need to be technical standards to enable new broadband technologies such as high-speed communication over power lines. "Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology," Bush said. "So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

"Once deployed," the president declared, "BPL has the potential to turn every electrical outlet into a broadband pipeline." Bush also suggested that BPL could supply broadband services to rural dwellers, a prospect that the League and others claim is not economically feasible.

"BPL is sometimes touted as a solution for rural areas," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It is not." Sumner explained that BPL signals carry only a few thousand feet down a power line and then must be repeated. "This requires a lot of hardware and will not be economical in areas with low population densities."

Bush also praised FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell and "his decision to eliminate burdensome regulations on new broadband networks' availability to homes." He also called for opening up more spectrum to make wireless broadband "more accessible, reliable and affordable" and for no taxes on broadband access.

In its BPL Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket 04-37, the FCC has proposed amending its Part 15 rules to adopt new requirements and measurement guidelines for so-called "Access BPL" systems. The comment deadline is Monday, May 3; reply comments are due by June 1.

In direct response to the Bush speech, the ARRL is asking its members to support Haynie's request for the White House to withdraw its support for BPL technology. "Using power lines to distribute broadband services is a bad idea that should not be encouraged," said Sumner. "It is important for radio amateurs to get the facts across to the White House as well as to our Congressional representatives and senators."

The ARRL Web site provides an information package <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/cta/>>. It explains how members can contact the White House and members of Congress to express their views on BPL deployment.

"Do it now!" Sumner urged. "We need thousands of responses from all parts of the country, right away, if we are to make an impression."

For additional information, visit the ARRL's "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

## NTIA STUDY DOCUMENTS RADIO INTERFERENCE FROM BPL

The first phase of a long-awaited broadband over power line (BPL) study the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released this week suggests it's possible to accommodate BPL technology while managing the interference risk. In a cover letter to FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, Acting NTIA Administrator Michael D. Gallagher pledged that the NTIA would "work with the Commission to establish a firm technical foundation for responsible deployment of BPL to protect critical federal communications systems." But, Gallagher added, "technical rules governing their deployment must address potential harmful interference to critical systems." Released April 27, NTIA Report 04-413 <<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2004/bpl/index.html>> analyzes 10 million BPL system measurements.

"Most studies have been oriented to determine whether interference will occur at the variously proposed limits," NTIA says in describing its study's approach. "In contrast, NTIA has oriented its study to find a solution that accommodates BPL systems while appropriately managing the risk of interference to radio systems." The NTIA acknowledges that BPL signals "unintentionally radiate" from power lines. But, the agency said, "there is substantial disagreement as to the strength of the emissions and their potential for causing interference to licensed radio systems." The NTIA also said current FCC Part 15 measurement techniques may "significantly underestimate" peak BPL field strength.

The hefty, two-volume NTIA Phase 1 study looks at BPL systems using the HF and low-VHF spectrum from 1.7 to 80 MHz and "defines risks of interference from BPL systems to local radio reception" while assuming the systems comply with existing Part 15 rules. That spectrum, NTIA said, is home to some 59,000 federal frequency assignments. The study proposes protecting 41 frequencies of the "most sensitive and likely most severely affected federal systems."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the NTIA study clearly demonstrates that BPL systems pollute the radio spectrum. "How can any responsible public official encourage the deployment of such systems," he asked, "and how can any investor seriously consider pouring money into such an obviously flawed technology?"

Among interference mitigation techniques, the NTIA study recommends reducing BPL device output power--which it called "the single most effective method" of reducing interference potential--and "shifting or notching" BPL frequencies. Others included differential-mode signal injection, absorbing filters, adopting a "one active device per frequency and area" rule and using a single point of control for each BPL service area.

Interference calculations by the NTIA engineers indicated that a BPL transmitter operating within Part 15 limits would significantly increase the noise floor for land-mobile receivers on frequencies below 30 MHz. The agency said it could be inferred from its calculations that "a vehicle-mounted HF receiver" operating in a residential neighborhood next to a BPL-energized line "may experience harmful interference" depending on the frequency, distance along the line from the BPL transmitter, the BPL transmitter's duty cycle and the number of BPL devices on the power line.

The NTIA study calculated that interference "is likely" to mobile stations in areas extending to 30 meters and to fixed stations in areas extending to 55 meters from a single BPL device and the power lines to which it's connected. With "low to moderate desired signal levels," the NTIA study continued, interference is likely at these receivers within areas extending to 75 meters for mobiles and 460 meters for fixed stations.

The NTIA says its Phase 2 study will "evaluate the effectiveness" of its Phase 1 recommendations and address potential interference via ionospheric propagation of BPL "from mature, large-scale" deployed BPL networks.

## NEW CREW SETTLING IN ABOARD SPACE STATION

After some six months living aboard the International Space Station, the Expedition 8 crew of Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Alex "Sasha" Kaleri, U8MIR,

have returned safely to Earth. Foale and Kaleri spent nearly 195 days in space--making theirs the second longest ISS expedition. The Expedition 9 replacement crew of Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, arrived April 21 via a Russian Soyuz vehicle and now is settling in aboard the ISS. During their six-month duty tour, Padalka, 45, will serve as Expedition 9 commander, while Fincke, 36, will be the NASA ISS science officer and flight engineer.

A change-of-command ceremony aboard the space outpost April 26 marked the passing of the baton from Foale to Padalka, but NASA says command officially shifted April 29 when the hatches between the ISS and the Soyuz spacecraft closed.

Accompanying Fincke and Padalka aboard the Soyuz "taxi" flight to the ISS was European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut André Kuipers, PI9ISS, of the Netherlands. While aboard the ISS, he conducted experiments under a joint agreement between the ESA and Russia. Kuipers was aboard the earthbound Soyuz return flight with Foale and Kaleri, which arrived in the Kazakhstan steppes early on April 30 (UTC).

Foale now has accumulated more time in space than any US astronaut. Including this mission, a 1997 tour aboard the Russian Mir space station and four shuttle missions, he has logged nearly 374.5 days in space. Foale, Kaleri and Kuipers will travel to Star City, Russia, where they will remain for mission and medical debriefings. Foale is expected to return to Houston in mid-May.

While aboard the ISS Kuipers conducted two successful Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contacts with schools in his native country. On April 24, he answered questions posed by students gathered at Space Expo in Noordwijk, the Netherlands. The following day, Kuipers spoke with youngsters from three schools--Saltoschool Hanevoet in Eindhoven, Sint Joriscollege and the Eindhoven Technical University. The university's Amateur Radio club station PI4TUE hosted the event. Both contacts were conducted in Dutch.

ISS crew members also learned last week that another of the ISS's three control moment gyroscopes (CMG) had failed. NASA says the CMGs use power from the solar arrays to control the station's orientation. The two CMGs still operating are the minimum needed to control the ISS without resorting to other means. NASA says a space walk will be scheduled within the next month to correct the problem.--some information from NASA and from Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

## HAM-CONGRESSMEN URGE FCC CHAIRMAN'S SUPPORT FOR ARRL RESTRUCTURING PLAN

The only Amateur Radio licensees in the US Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), have written FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place.

"We believe that this plan will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the

best traditions of our country," Walden and Ross said in an April 23 letter. "We urge you to support the ARRL's restructuring plan and to implement it rapidly."

The FCC now is considering a total of nearly 1300 comments filed on the League's restructuring plan and on two other similar petitions--one from a group called the Radio Amateur Foundation, RM-10868, and the other from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10870. A fourth petition from Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, RM-10869, dealt solely with the Amateur Radio Morse code requirement. It attracted more than 200 comments before the April 23 comment deadline.

The ARRL plan proposes a new entry-level Amateur Radio license--being called "Novice" for now--that would include HF privileges without requiring a Morse code exam, consolidate the current six license classes into three and retain a 5 WPM Morse test only for Amateur Extra class applicants. It also would integrate current Technician licensees into General and current Advanced licensees into Amateur Extra without additional testing.

"The ARRL's license restructuring plan, once implemented, will complete the Commission's [restructuring] plan, initiated in 1998, and will provide a blueprint for licensing well into the next decade," Walden and Ross said. The League's plan "is needed right now to promote greater growth of the healthy, exciting and rewarding intellectual pursuit of Amateur Radio."

Walden--a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet--and Ross invited Powell to share his thoughts on the matter.

### NEW MORSE "@" CHARACTER BECOMES OFFICIAL MAY 3

The International Morse code officially gains a new character on May 3. That's when the now-familiar "@" symbol joins the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together (.-.-.). Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so.

Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specified the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures and included the new Morse code character.

The pending change has attracted some attention in the media, including mentions on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and in The New York Times.

### MORE BPL

SWLs may file BPL interference complaints: FCC Part 15 rules prohibit interference to licensed services from unlicensed devices. This means that, with limited exceptions, short-wave listeners (SWLs) may file formal complaints if broadband over power line (BPL) signals interfere with their reception. "There is no doubt that international broadcast listeners have standing to complain about interference to the reception of foreign

broadcast signals," says ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. "One does not have to be a licensee of a transmitter in order to receive harmful interference from a United States-based RF source and have standing to complain about it." Listeners to international short-wave broadcasts originating in the US, Imlay explains, do not have standing to complain, however, because they are not the target audience for such broadcasts. Imlay says that while FCC and court cases involving standing to file are complex, "the cases are clear that the allegation of suffering actual electromagnetic interference to reception of a broadcast service, even one generated internationally, from a domestic RF source, is sufficient in every case to demonstrate standing to file a complaint." International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations require member nations to "take all practicable and necessary steps to ensure that the operation of electrical apparatus or installations of any kind, including power and telecommunication distribution networks, but excluding equipment used for industrial, scientific and medical applications, does not cause harmful interference to a radiocommunication service."--Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

---



The Patch below the American Flag reads, "Doing The Work Of".....I think that's clear enough!