



THE LED

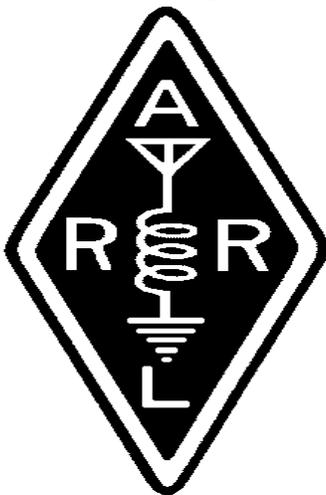
Published by the
Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Howell, Michigan

DECEMBER 2003

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

Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan 48844

Dated Material



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

NET 146.680 SUNDAY 9 P.M.

CLUB CALL IS: KB8ZTV

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Art	KC8WAZ
Vice-President	Melissa	KC8UTF
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasury	Clairus	KC8QQN
Program Director	Bob	K8VQC
Tech Coordinator	Chuck	W8CLK
Board Member	Paul	KC8UKF

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

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

PREZ SAYS



Well now that we have seen our first snow falling from the sky above, I'm not only ready for the CHRISTMAS season, but also my trip to Florida!

This is my favorite time of the Year. (All Birthday Events are special, and so this one is no Less Special!)

I'd like to Express MY GOOD TIDINGS TO YOU ALL!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to YOU ALL!

Additionally, a HAPPY & Healthy NEW YEAR!!!!

73.....Art (KC8WAZ)

LARK SOCIAL NOTES

5:30 p.m. Thursday, DEC. 11, 2003 is the pre-meeting dinner get-together at Tomato Brothers Restaurant, 3030 W. Grand River, Howell. Please try to let Laurene, WA8IAQ know if you will be joining us, so we can make a tentative reservation. We meet at the E. O. C. for eyeball QSO at 7:00 P.M. with the L.A.R.K. meeting starting at 7:30 P.M. so come and join us!

4:00 P.M. Sunday, DEC. 21, 2003 is our **CHRISTMAS Dinner** at Chippers Restaurant in Gregory. We would appreciate tentative reservations by Friday Dec. 19, 2003 (Please contact Laurene WA8IAQ). There will be door prizes again this year and I know everyone will have a good time. Chippers offer a large choice of meals, including excellent prime rib. Chip has asked if we wanted anything special for the dinner, so please advise Laurene.

Also, MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET on Sunday, March 28, 2004 at 4:00 P.M.

33 and 73 from Laurene WA8IAQ

DECEMBER SWAPS & EVENTS

7 Dec 2003 L'Anse Creuse ARC
<http://www.n8lc.org>

Contact: David Herrington, N8NLK
165 Crocker Blvd.
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043-2546
Phone: 586-465-2797
Email: n8nlk@arrl.net

Harrison Twp., MI
Div: Great Lakes
Sect: Michigan

EDITORS COMMENTS



It can be a good thing to be the LED editor. You get to write about whatever you want, and who's gonna stop you? Your column can be the biggest one in the whole newsletter, but who would dare complain? It's a simple formula, I know that no one else would accept the responsibility for producing the monthly edition of information, so if you fire me, you'll be without a KLUB newsletter.. It's good to be the editor.

In keeping with the season, I had a few days to reflect on Thanksgiving, or Turkey day, or the "day before the biggest shopping day of the year", pick your favorite. I know that I have much to be grateful for, as I am sure many of you have reflected on as well. I try never to take for granted the freedoms that we enjoy here in the United States, and will do my part to preserve our way of life.

Personal freedom aside for a moment, there is still always room for respecting the views and feelings of others. As amateur radio enthusiasts, I believe we have an even bigger obligation, in that our signals and voices can be heard all over the world, and the universe! Lately, the conversations on our repeater, as well as other frequencies, do not make me feel proud to be counted among amateur licensees. Many folks have really gotten out of hand relative to comments that cross over boundaries that simply should not be aired in a mass communication setting. Every time every one of us operates, on whatever band we operate on, we are being listened to, by hams and non-hams alike. That's the impression we're leaving behind as those radio signals drift off into the Milky Way. Freedom is not without responsibility....we all own the task of making sure that amateur radio is held in the

highest esteem possible. If you haven't figured out what I'm making reference to, and you make it through the entire newsletter without understanding, consider simply turning in your license...it'll be better for everyone.

There are over 723 licensed amateurs in Livingston County. Our biggest L.A.R.K. roster has 72 names on it I can't imagine a poorer response, can you? Each of you knows at least two hams who are not L.A.R.K. members. Why not invite them to become a member? Why not ask others at your workplace, church, lodge, or other club who may be amateurs to join as well? With a stronger membership base, our group can do much more. What are you going to do during the coming months to better amateur radio in Livingston County?

A real interesting perspective is offered in the book "The Wisdom of the Wolves – Nature's Way to Organizational Success"; by Twyman L. Towery, PhD. Twyman offers up that wolves hold to a Credo outline below:

- Respect the Elders
- Teach the young
- Cooperate with the pack
- Play when you can
- Hunt when you must
- Rest in between
- Share you affections
- Voice your feelings
- Leave your mark

That last one is always tough....I know many of you are quite good at voicing your opinions, but have you been able to leave your "mark"? And if you believe you have, is it the one you want left behind for others to see? You all get to decide this one, and you'll be "graded" later.

As we slide quickly into the Holiday Season, I hope you'll all join me in doing something special for someone you don't really know. It truly is in the joy of giving that we receive our greatest blessings. Those returned blessings may be something you never see written down, but they will be important. I'm talking about donating to a food bank, or participating in Coats for Kids or Toys for Tots, or some of the other great organizations working hard not just now, but all year. If you'd rather I do the legwork, that's fine too! Just bring a few non perishable food items, or an unwrapped toy to the next meeting, and I'll make sure your donation is put to good use.

Please make an effort to show up at meetings. I know there are always other things that need our attention, but a few hours a month isn't too much to ask. Supporting our group, with your dues and your presence, helps everyone involved in amateur radio. I am also willing to head up a little "Saturday morning coffee" meeting for those who can't easily make it on Thursday nights. Oh yeah, you'll have to talk to me about that one....I want to see some real interest in doing something like that.

Somehow, folks have managed to not figure out how to get in touch with me. Again, here are some great places to start:

Jim Kvochick WB8AZP
10366 Greystone Court
Brighton, MI 48114-7650
810-220-2098 Voice
810-220-2126 Fax
330-283-7070 Cellular
JKvochick@att.com or
Kvo@att.net or
WB8AZP@ARRL.NET Email.

I look forward to watching and writing about all of you "leaving your mark" on the K.L.U.B. I also look forward to your contributions to the newsletter as well.

Best Holiday Wishes

Jim WB8AZP

TREASURER REPORT GENERAL OPERATING FUND

FROM NOV. 1, 2003 TO NOV. 30, 2003
OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY) \$ 282.73
INCOME
50/50 34.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT 34.00
EXPENDITURES
JIM WB8AZP, PRINTING LED 49.54
ENDING BALANCE. \$ 267.19
OPENING CASH (CD \$1,000.) \$1,221.59
OPENING CASH (CD \$500.) 590.50
TOTAL OPERATING CASH. \$2,079.28

EMERGENCY FUND TREASURER REPORT.

PERIOD NOV. 1, 2003 TO NOV. 30, 2003
OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY) \$1545.23
BALANCE NOV. 30, 2003 \$ 1545.23

Respectfully submitted,
Clairus KC8QQN
Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT



GENERAL MEETING

Nov. 13, 2003

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

PRESENTATION: Neil, K8IT, gave a very interesting talk on High Speed Multimedia Networking. A very interesting subject with a lot of information was well presented. If anyone desires more information they should contact Neil.

REPORTS

Secretaries Report and Treasure Report: Bob, K8PBA, made a motion to postpone the Secretaries and Treasures report because the November's LED was not received by a large number of members present at the meeting. Jerry, N8DY, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS: If there is a topic you would like to present let Bob, K8VQC, or Jim, WB8AZP, know. If you would like to give a presentation let either of them know.

NEW BUSINESS

ARES – RACES: Bruce, N8WWX, gave an update on the November 8th Red Cross and District 8 SET. Four people plus Bruce attended the District 8 Set. There are meetings scheduled for December 1st and 8th to discuss a five-year update on the EOC Amateur Radio Room.

YOUTH GROUP: No report.

Neil, K8IT gave a short report on the Weather Office.

Nominations: Tabled until December.

Klub Roster: An updated Klub roster will be published in a future edition of the LED.

Klub Budget: Next years budget will be published in the December LED.

50/50: Clairus, KC8QQN, won the 50/50 drawing.

Door Prizes: There were a lot of door prizes to won including tickets to two ham fests. Everyone seemed to have a great time during the raffle.

Dave, KE8Z, made a motion to adjourn. Bruce, N8WWX, SECONDED. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary, KC8SER

BOARD MEETING

The Nov 3rd, 2003 meeting was called to order by Art, KC8WAZ at 7:45 PM.

In attendance was Art, KC8WAZ, Bob, K8VQC, Jim WB8AZP, Chuck W8CLK, Clairus, KC8QQN, Melissa, KC8UTF and a guest visitor Ray N8CPO.

Bob, K8VQC made motion to accept the Secretary's report, second by Melissa, KC8UTF.

Melissa, KC8UTF made motion to accept the Treasurer report, seconded by Chuck W8CLK.

Due to previous commitments Mary KC8SER was absent; the secretary's notes were taken by Clairus KC8QQN.

Bob K8VQC informed the board that over the next few months his work will be taking him out of the area and due to that fact he would still be able to work with Jim WB8AZP on future projects but would be absent from future board meetings until his situation changed.

It was discussed to have a board meeting with Jack KA8BOG present to discuss protocol of the repeater.

Clairus KC8QQN reported that she is still searching for tax document in connection with the annual reports that are needed to be filed. She also researched some raffle information and will be sharing that info in up coming LED.

Motion to send Tim, WB8HRO a message to ask if Jim WB8AZP could help in updating and maintaining the Klub web site, Melissa, KC8UTF made the motion and Clairus KC8QQN seconded it. Motion carried.

Art KC8WAZ to contact Jerry, N8DY about setting up another CW class in the future.

A discussion was had about frequent improper uses of the repeater.

Jim WB8AZP in an effort to get the LED to those requesting it by mail in one piece, implemented a procedure in which the LED would be mailed in an envelope rather than just folded with a minimal cost of about 1 cent for each envelope to the Klub.

Next Board Meeting will be Monday Dec 1st 2003 @ 6:30 PM. at the EOC library. This meeting will begin early this month only due to another meeting that the board members were requested to attend.

Respectfully Submitted
Clairus
KC8QQN

2004 BUDGET

12/01/2002 BEGINNING BALANCE \$614.18
DUES AND DONATIONS 1353.00
TOTAL BALANCE 1967.18
EXPENSES -1699.99
ENDING BALANCE \$ 267.19

As you can see we started one year ago with a nice balance due in part by the donation from the Memorial Day Operation Care of \$614.18.

With dues and donation from the 50/50 raffle we were able to take in \$1,353.00 bringing our total income for the LARK operational fund to \$1,967.18. As you can see we had expenses of \$1,699.99 and that leaves a balance to start off our next years budget with of only \$267.19. Without any changes in our budget and with membership renewals staying the same as they were last year we can very easily see that we will be short of money for the next year's budget by \$79.80. And for the following year we will be short around \$346.99.

How did I figure all this, take the amount we received for dues and donations \$1,353.00-\$1,699.99 expenses =\$(346.99) shortage.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2004

I know that the future looks grim and this is where I get to ask you again to trust me on this. I am working on a few new items that will save the Klub money and will be able to present them to you for Klub approval as early as the February 2004 meeting. I am expecting that the Klub budget will be met with no problem if we work together to implement these new ideas and the renewals stay the same or increase.

We will still plan on doing both dates for Operation Care and still plan to put the money earned from those operations into the Emergency fund. There are a few ways that we can conserve and make this budget work without an increase in our dues. I don't feel a need for that at this time.

Regards;

Clairus Keep
KC8QQN
Treasurer

DX Report for December

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Dany, LZ2UU is working at the Bulgarian Antarctic base St. Kliment Ohridski on Livingston Island, IOTA AN-010, and is QRV as LZ0A on all bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. He is here until late February 2004. QSL via operator's instructions.

CAMBODIA, XU. Jack, ON4AJT and Wim, ON6TZG are QRV as XU7AJV and XU7TZG, respectively, from Koh Poah, IOTA AS-133. Their length of stay is unknown. QSL both calls via ON4AJV.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO, TN. Sal, TN3S is QRV until October 2005. He is generally active on 80 to 6 meters. QSL via CT3HK

JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA ISLAND, FR/J. A number of operators will be QRV as TO4E from Europa Island, IOTA AF-009, from November 25 to December 15. During the upcoming CQ WW CW contest, they will use the call TO4WW. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB and other digital modes. QSL via F5OGL.

ANTARCTICA. Bert, WA1O is here until January 25, 2004. He is taking part in an effort to pioneer a 1000 mile overland route from McMurdo Station on the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. He may be active on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. QSL via KA1CRP.

PALMYRA AND JARVIS ISLANDS, KH5. Pat, NH6UY and Kimo, KH7U are on Palmyra to perform maintenance work on The Nature Conservancy's electronic equipment, and will try to be QRV as KH5/homecalls during their stay. Activity should be on 80 to 10 meters using mostly SSB and RTTY, with some CW, from around 0300 to 1700z. QSL to home calls.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. Peter, PA3CNX is QRV as PJ4/PA3CNX from Bonaire, IOTA SA-006, until December 15. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters using SSB. QSL to home call

VIETNAM, XV. Lee, N5PO plans to be QRV as XV2PO from Ho Chi Minh City from November 25 to December 3. Activity

will be on 40 to 10 meters using only CW. He also expects to be a Single Op/All Band entry in the upcoming CW WW CW contest. QSL to home call.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. Dudley, Z22JE has been QRV most days on 15 meters around 1900z. He can QSY to 17 or 12 meters if necessary. QSL via K3PD.

ALBANIA, ZA. Paul, ZA/WF5T has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1700z. Meanwhile, Rich, ZA/K7ZV has been QRV on 80 meters around 2200 and 0100z. QSL both calls via OH2B

Raffle Requirements:

The question has surfaced: "Do we need a license to have our 50/50 raffles?"

Below is information on charitable gaming from the State of Michigan.

"Rule 502. A qualified organization is exempt from obtaining a license to conduct a raffle if all of the following elements are present:

A. All the raffle tickets are sold at the single gathering of the qualified organization.

B. The drawing is conducted at the same single gathering where the raffle tickets are sold and prizes awarded.

C. The total retail value of all the prizes does not exceed \$100.00 in a consecutive 24- hour period."

I hope this answers your questions.

Clairus KC8QQN

An Amateur is a "HAM"

Why an Amateur Radio Operator is called a "HAM"?

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well it goes like this - the word Ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club.

They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggy Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman - Almy - Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to HY - AL - MU, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneering unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then more now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed, he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station was built and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which were set up in the bill.

The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM".

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with amateurs. From that day

to this and probably to the end of time, in radio, an amateur is a HAM.

Reprinted from Mike and Key, and Florida Skip.

Made available on the internet through the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Amateur Radio isn't just talking.. Amateur Radio isn't just Morse code... Amateur Radio is a fun learning curve where you can set the pace ... and it is a family oriented hobby ... where the toys can be built at home ... with or without help from friends ... Communicate across your hometown, into the next county or state ... another country and other continents ... Amateur Radio is so much fun words can't describe it all ... Yes; you can connect your computer to it ... and aim towards a satellite or the moon ... or use FM packet for local contact ... or contact an Astronaut inside a space ship ... Amateur Radio is just as much about tinkering now as it was 60 years ago.

Created by Virden "Clark" Beckman N8PZD for NOARS



ATTENTION!! REPEATER USERS. CONSULT BRAIN BEFORE PUTTING MOUTH IN GEAR.

As discussed at the board meeting there has been some frequent use of language that is unbecoming of an Amateur Radio Operator.

We would ask that you please take into consideration that there are young children and impressionable young adults out there that are listening to the repeater as we are talking and are easily influenced by these poor habits.

Don't let these children grow up to think that this is acceptable behavior.

It was also brought to our attention that a number of those talking on the repeater have been quick keying, this practice will not allow someone with an emergency to break into a conversation and get the help that they need.

Along with quick keying, consider that the practice of allowing someone that wants to enter into the conversation or may have a call that they need to make should be recognized and given the opportunity to speak as soon as possible, don't keep talking, they may have an emergency.

Another item that was brought to our attention was the use of negative language in describing people and their ethnic background. Keep in mind that again there are children out there listening as well as other adults that may be offended by these descriptive terms. You may be talking to someone you think is accepting of this practice, but may become offended.

On behalf of Future Amateur Radio Operators let's do our part in keeping the repeater, or any other frequency, a place where families would want to meet.

Respectfully submitted
Amateur Families

Endorsed by the L.A.R.K. Board

(Editor's Note: A formal request for monitoring of the 146.68 repeater has been received by Michigan Section ARRL Official Observers. If you do not understand the OO program, consult an amateur that is familiar with their efforts.)

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

(The Original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, In 1928)

FOOTBALL PAYS OFF FOR MICHIGAN SM

For Dale Williams WA8EFK, the 2004 Hamvention at Hara Arena will be one of exquisite timing for his ham shack and for outstanding gourmet meals while in Dayton.

These are the fruits of the University of Michigan Wolverines 35-21 football victory over Ohio State Buckeyes played Saturday, November 22 before a crowd of 112,118, a national college attendance record. As Michigan's Section Manager, Dale won the Ohio-Michigan SM bet with hapless Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE. So Joe has to be Dale's slave during all three days of the Hamvention show.

The timing is exquisite since next year Dale is planning to replace his 50 foot tower at his Dundee, Michigan home -up since 1966. "Joe will be carrying 220 pounds of Rohn 25 tower sections to my truck thanks to the victorious Michigan team," Dale said. He also said his shack needs a plate transformer for an amplifier and a friend asked Dale to locate a prop pitch motor to rotate his tower. "My Ohio SM brother better be in great physical shape next May," said Dale.

But since the bet also included paying for meals while at Hamvention, Dale also has top flight menu plans, "I know three outstanding restaurants in the Dayton area and my preference offers Premier Cru Superieur from Chateau d'Yquem, a marvelous sauterne." Even if you don't know about fine dining, these sound more expensive than a McDonalds Happy Meal.

"As I said when Joe foolishly proposed this wager, he is going to wish he never heard of the sport of football."

ARRL Michigan Section
Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK
wa8efk@arrl.org

ARES/RACES EOC BRAINSTORM SESSION

Many L.A.R.K. members participated in the brainstorming session held at the EOC on Monday, December 1st.

As you may remember from previous articles in the LED, the purpose of this meeting was to solicit ideas for additions or changes to the Amateur Radio communications environment in place at the EOC.

The current EOC installation was put together against a 5 year plan for its operation and use. It was felt that taking another look and mapping out possible additions or changes would be useful once again.

The list below represents some of the ideas captured during this working session. If you have more ideas, please make sure you get in touch with Bruce, N8WWX.

Brainstorming ideas included:

Generic Software Choices

Training for all software

PRE-CONFIGURED Portable Packet Stations

Video Modes

Backup EOC Radio Room

"Move HF to console D, reduce noise"

Headset Interface Boxes

"Relocate each console for a ""function"""

Additional antennas

Antenna access in main conference room

Label Everything

Anderson Power Pole Connectors

Additional Backup Radio's

SKYWARN STANDBY NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

FOR ENTIRE SEVERE WEATHER SEASON

HSMM Repeater

HSMM Equipment

SSTV on 70cm or 2m

Pagers - Alpha-Numeric (8)

ADDITIONAL OPERATORS

Recruitment for operators

Tone Up alert on 2M LARK Repeater or PL Tone

Transmit

Logistic Logging Software for each console

Boom Microphones

Portable Antenna's

Regular Training Nets

Small WeedWacker 12VDC Generators

UPS power packs

User Interface to software

Checklists - Basic & Quick Reference

Packet Training Net

Antenna access from parking lot area for backup

"Make Station C, Packet only"

"Additional Power Supplies, one per Station?"

Net Control Training

Monthly Training Topics

Start at the beginning training!

ICS Training

Echolink node in EOC

Simplicity

Tours of other EOC's

Update to N8EOC website

Certificates for training



FCC REORGANIZES WIRELESSTELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

The FCC has announced a reorganization of its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) <http://wireless.fcc.gov/> "to more effectively support the FCC's strategic goals--broadband, competition, spectrum, media, homeland security and modernizing the FCC." The WTB administers the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) and amateur licensing, but the changes are expected to be transparent to the amateur community. The Amateur Service now will be administered by the newly named Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division. D'wana Terry, formerly chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, will head the new division.

"The bureau's portfolios have been redistributed along the lines of strategic goals, consolidating similar functions to focus resources better," the FCC said in a November 24 public notice. As a result of the reorganization, which the FCC approved November 13, WTB expands from five to six divisions: Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure, Spectrum Management Resources and Technologies, Auctions and Spectrum Access, Spectrum and Competition Policy, Mobility, and Broadband. In addition to the Amateur Service, the Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division will oversee Part 95, Marine, Aviation, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Public Safety Fixed Microwave, Public Safety and Private Land Mobile services and E911, among other areas.

Responsibilities moved elsewhere include Fixed Microwave (Part 101), Instructional Television Fixed Service, the Multipoint Distribution Service, and the Multichannel Video Distribution and Data Service.

The action reduces the scope and size of WTB's larger divisions and eliminates separate branches below the division level, while retaining their current functions. One of those was the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch, headquartered in the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. Among other tasks, that branch has handled the granting and issuance of Amateur Radio licenses and the vanity call sign program. Another was the Policy and Rules Branch at FCC Headquarters, which has been the home of Bill Cross, W3TN, an FCC figure well-known within the amateur community. Among other tasks, that branch has handled Amateur Radio rule making petitions and Part 97 rules interpretations.

A potential plus of the new arrangement is that Cross now will work under another amateur licensee, Mike Wilhelm, WS6BR, who will report to Terry.

The FCC said eliminating branches would promote greater management flexibility in deploying resources and lead to a flatter, more flexible organization without altering the bureau's overall mission. The Commission said it was able to carry out the reorganization by redeploying existing positions.

WTB Chief John Muleta said the reorganization will result in "a mission-driven team that will be innovative in its approach to regulatory policies and customer service."

ON-LINE LICENSING COURSE, LOBBYING KIT PART OF ARRL'S 2004 PLAN

An on-line Amateur Radio licensing course--possibly bundled with ARRL membership--plus additional Certification and Continuing Education courses <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> are among the strategic objectives of the League's 2004 Operational Plan. The League also plans to evaluate its existing ARRL on-line class offerings. The item was among several the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) designated to include in next year's plan when it met November 9 in Irving, Texas. Work on the licensing course already is under way, and the ARRL expects to announce its availability in the near future.

At a mid-September strategic planning session, ARRL Board members agreed to let the EC pick the 2004 objectives to incorporate into the 2004 Operational Plan. In the future, the full Board will handle the task. Other strategic objectives include development of a grassroots lobbying kit for ARRL members to use when approaching congressional representatives in their home districts on legislation affecting Amateur Radio and surveying served agencies such as relief organizations to identify their present and future emergency communications requirements and areas of Amateur Radio performance that may need improvement.

The EC included some bottom-line related strategic objectives: That the League operate profitably to insure its future well being, and that it develop as ARRL Board policy a requirement that all new programs and services have a business plan and at least break even financially.

In other matters, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, told the EC that the League is close to signing a contract calling for independent testing and measurement of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) interference characteristics. Earlier this year, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry, ET 03-104, that enthusiastically endorsed the prospect of BPL, which the ARRL and others feel poses the potential of possibly severe interference to licensed HF radio services. The contract would include certification by professional engineers.

The EC discussed and developed draft proposals to implement changes in US Amateur Radio rules in the wake of World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). Among other significant changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries whether to require a Morse code test for access to amateur high-frequency allocations. The ARRL Board of Directors will discuss the EC's recommendations in detail at its January 2004 meeting.

The EC also voted not to go forward with an appeal of FCC actions to permit expanded unlicensed Part 15 operations in the 24.05-24.25 GHz band. The ARRL had filed a Petition for Review October 22 with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit of two FCC orders that would allow certification of unlicensed 24-GHz equipment at field strengths 10 times the level Part 15 rules now permit. After discussing the pros and cons of the case and the minimal prospects for a positive outcome, the Executive Committee voted to withdraw the League's appeal.

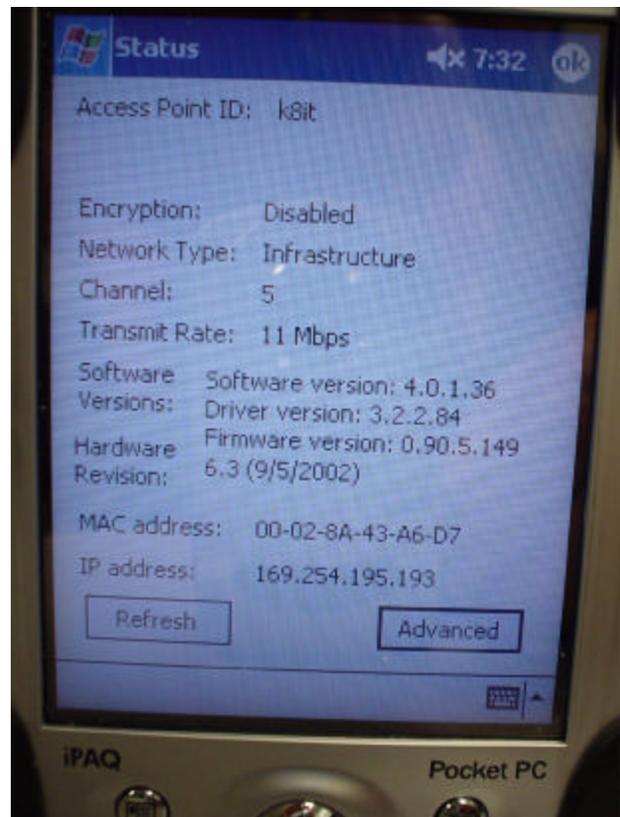
Minutes of the November EC meeting are available on the ARRL Website
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/ec_minutes_472.html>.



The Prize Booth at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest



So Many Things...So Few Dollars! (Ft. Wayne Fest)



HSMM At the L.A.R.K. Meeting....you missed a great presentation if you didn't make the meeting!

This space is reserved for your interesting article. Don't do anything interesting? Find someone else who does and write about it? Don't have any friends that do anything interesting? Consider hanging with a new circle of friends, and writing about that. Still having trouble getting the drift? Consider taking up a leadership position in the local chapter of the "Nip Tuck" fan club.

This space is available for your swap n' shop items. Surely you have some, don't you?