



CQ Chatter



Volume H1, Issue #7

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

September 2003

NET CONTROL ROSTER

Sept 9..... WD8ICP
 Sept 16..... KC8RVB
 Sept. 23..... KB8QEW
 Sept. 30..... N8QMV
 Oct. 7 N1RB

FOX HUNT

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 8

Starts at 5:30 p.m.
 Listen to
 147.18 MHz

I will be
 somewhere in
WOOD COUNTY
 at a "park type"
 location

WCARC OFFICERS

President	Bob Boughton	N1RB
Vice-President	Shawn Hudson	KB8QEW
Treasurer	Bill Wilkins	WD8JWJ
Secretary	Chuck Dicken	WD8ICP

BPL PLACES FCC AT REGULATORY CROSSROAD, AMRAD SUGGESTS

ARRL Newsletter Vol. 22 No. 34

Encouraging Broad-band over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <<http://www.amrad.org>> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which

included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.

"The FCC is facing some serious decisions on whether to continue with past rules and historical enforcement or to dispense with their historical role and substitute rules which give the unlicensed Part 15 systems priority over the licensed systems such as the amateur radio service," AMRAD said. "Such changes to Part 15 rules would tip the responsibility of compliance so as to favor the unlicensed users and leave the FCC facing a large number of harmful interference com-

plaints to resolve."

AMRAD recommended the FCC proceed "slowly and with caution" in advancing BPL as a viable and economical alternative to existing high-speed Internet technologies.

The non-profit scientific and educational organization expressed concerns as to whether the FCC would be able to enforce Part 15 rules as written in the face of neighborhood Internet service interruptions caused by "a single radio amateur or other FCC-licensed radio transmitter." It said its own testing has demonstrated that a 20-meter amateur transmitter running as little as 10 W in the vicinity of an in-house Home-Plug standard BPL local network could seriously impair

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the system's throughput. A 100 W signal would cause it to collapse altogether.

Ironically, the HomePlug standard substantially notches out the amateur bands--something ARRL convinced the HomePlug Powerline Alliance to do after amateur complaints sparked a recall of HomePlug-standard devices. The new 60-meter band is not notched out, however.

AMRAD said its observations and tests demonstrate that broadband BPL signals that conform to Part 15 "are well above the ambient noise and will interfere with many forms of reception." It said other non-HomePlug-standard systems that don't notch out ham bands "could cause more serious interference problems."

In the final analysis, AMRAD said, the FCC "must proceed with great care and take actions now to conduct testing to gather critical information" before making regulatory assessments. "The FCC efforts should remain focused on providing broadband to the home and not focus on any specific technology," AMRAD asserted.

AMRAD member Frank Gentges, KOBRA, recently assisted ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the League's efforts to assess the impact of BPL on HF. Gentges gave Hare a guided tour of "hot neighborhoods" in Manassas, Virginia, where BPL is undergoing field trials.

Although the reply comment window closed August 20, the number of comments in response to the FCC's BPL

NOI was 4553 as of August 29 and counting, with some 100 comments filed since the deadline. Many comments in the BPL proceeding have come from the Amateur Radio community.

AMRAD's reply comments are available on the FCC Web site

WCARC Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Wood County Amateur Radio Club
July 14, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Boughton at 1932 hours.

Our guest speaker Eric Larson was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The treasurer's report was given and the figure of \$432. was netted from this year's hamfest.

The secretary was not able to make this meeting, so I would like to say thank you to the person who took the notes and to Esther for the audio tape she provided.

Tech. report: N1RB reported that the WX radio interface is ready to be in-

stalled.

Old Business: Discussion of this year's hamfest was the main topic. Although reaction to the fest was generally favorable, the "mall atmosphere" did not seem conducive to our event. Confusion about the day (Saturday vs: Sunday) also may have hurt us. N1RB suggested that the club return to the fairgrounds. N1RB reported that the club is penciled in for July 2004 for using the fairgrounds for the hamfest. Bill, WD8JWJ offered a bargeque set for raffle- donated by Charter-One Bank. Club members who were present at the meeting were given a chance to buy tickets for a raffle of the bar-b-que. The winner was Mark Rice N8GVF.

New Business: N1RB would like to

postpone the fox hunt until September. Eric Larson has stated to Bob B. that he would try to make the August meeting. Also it has been reported that the ICOM 706 and a dual bander vhf/uhf radio has been ordered, however there is no confirmation. Esther, N8QMV moved to adjourn and it was 2nd by John, AA8XS.

Chuck Dicken WD8ICP
Secty, WCARC