

Do you want to hear what BPL sounds like?

If you haven't heard what the proposed Broadband over Power Line interference sounds like, and fortunately most of us haven't heard it in our neighborhoods yet, come to the meeting and we'll let you hear just how bad it will jam your radio if the proposal becomes a reality. HF operation is likely to become a thing for expeditions into the back country. If you spent thousands of dollars for a really great HF base station rig, you might want to trade it in on something you can stick in a back pack, like a quarter watt cubic-incher and a spool of 20 gauge wire for an antenna.

A reminder

If you haven't already paid your dues, don't forget to do so. They are due as of April 1st.

K8CBB A Silent Key

Chuck Bench, K8CBB, formerly KB8IQZ, passed away March 18th. Chuck attended our Novice and Tech classes about 1988 - 89. He learned CW in the Navy and sent code with light. Look for his Obituary on the website, soon.

RTTY Is The Old Hat Digital Mode

By Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio Section Manager
(From the Ohio Section Journal, Ron Griffin, N8AEH, Findlay, editor)

I keep this old pork pie cap, which was fashionable in the 50s, in a closet just in case such a hat will come back in fashion. Thank the Lord I wasn't into RTTY then or I'd probably keep one of those massive teletype machines around. Fortunately for RTTY devotees, the mode is now working with much smaller equipment. And never goes out of style.

At least not in the ham shack of Jim Kimmel, W8FEJ, of Mason, who has written about RTTY for years. His latest piece was a page one story in "HF Chronicles" (newsletter of the West Chester ARA). This mode is a lifelong dream to Jim.

In amateur radio, radio teletype (RTTY) is a century old communications mode which has changed equipment but never really dropped from sight. It is the first true digital mode of amateur radio - moving text from typewriter to typewriter for almost a century now. Started early in the 1910s when electrical energy was moving text and graduated to where electrical energy moved into telegraph lines. Then on the air as a broadcast mode in the 30s and on to teletype into the 40s,

(Continued on page last page)

Bus Trip to Dayton

Jason Stroll, KC8LIN, asked to have the following information included in the newsletter along with an application form.

The Tusco Amateur Radio club will again be sponsoring a but trip to the Dayton Hamvention in May. If you're interested, fill out the form to be found elsewhere in the newsletter and send it to:
David A Lomady (WD8CKK)
723 East Front Street
Dover, OH 44622-1434
Deadline for advance ticket reservations is April 16th, so you probably need to get the form in soon. Details are on the form.

Ye Olde Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, April 7th, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings begin at 7:30 PM, and are an excellent opportunity for eyeball QSO's. Directions can be found on the K8LTG Repeater (145.370) See you there!

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Editorial

I always thought the FCC's job was to protect the radio spectrum from interference and to fairly allocate it to those who need to use it. Apparently not, for the BPL proposal was clearly a source of interference that would render the HF spectrum worthless. I would have thought the FCC would have torn it up and thrown it in the trash. The HF spectrum is a natural resource that people can use to communicate around the globe. Some of it should be set aside for broadcasting so that the different peoples of the world can share their cultures with others directly. Some of it should be set aside for emergency use, especially by boats and ships, but the bulk of it should be allocated for the people of the world to communicate, freely and directly. If you want to talk to uncle Frank in Frankfurt or cousin Bud in Budapest, Mother Nature has provided a means for you to do so, and governments should be protecting your right and ability to do that. Protecting the rights and freedom of the people, should be and must be the governments' prime directive. It is their only legitimate excuse for existence.

There are many ways to implement high speed Internet access. BPL has got to be the least efficient, and certainly the most and possibly the only objectionable method. The only thing it has going for it is it uses wires that are already in place. If the power companies want to become Internet providers then let them set up a system that doesn't interfere with others. There are currently wireless IP's that bother no one and can be set up anywhere. Or they can string non-radiating cable on their poles and sell TV, too.

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Talk-in is on 145.37 @. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets on tap:

Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz
SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

2 meters

9 PM on 145.37 MHz

Internet

If you'd like to check us out on the web, our E-mail address is:

w8lky@qsl.net

Our club home page is:

[Http://www.qsl.net/w8lky](http://www.qsl.net/w8lky)

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

Unless otherwise noted, permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

You can submit material to the Zero Beat either electronically, to ke8ve@raex.com, in person, or via snail mail. I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, or Microsoft Word format.

March Minutes

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

March 3, 2004

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on March 3, 2004, at 7:30 P. M., with Robert Steele K8RLS, president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 20 members and one guest present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and introductions were made. A visitor, Esther Smith, was introduced.

The minutes of the regular meeting for February were published in the newsletter. The total of the treasury balance was reported for the month. The report was approved upon motion by Sam KC8ETZ, seconded by Howard KC8YIF.

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by Jerry K8CAT, seconded by Smitty KC8TJQ. Dues will be due April 1.

.Old Business: Has anyone done anything towards the Family Disaster Preparedness? Jack W8WEN found some items.

Madison Hamfest is March 28. Skywarn is March 24, 7 PM. A training net will be held Mar. 24

at 9:45 AM.

Joe KC8TAC has the power supply which is being tested.

The Salvation Army net, SATERN, will have a meeting in Salem on March 24. Joe KC8TAC will get in touch with the Alliance Salvation Army. Don K8OMO made a motion, seconded by Jerry K8CAT, that the officers and/or trustees let the Salvation Army know that we exist. Motion approved upon vote.

New Business: Field Day 2004: David N8NLZ suggested that we explore the idea of having Field Day at Silver Park.

Special Event: Carnation Days will be August 21, and it is the 125th year of the Carnation. Don K8OMO made a motion, seconded by Howard KC8YIF, to hold a Special Event with the 125th Anniversary of the Carnation and Carnation Days. Motion approved upon vote.

Smitty KC8TJQ was commended for a good job as NCS.

Don K8OMO reported that Howard KC8YIF has passed the written test for General Class.

The liability insurance policy for the next year arrived. Action will be tabled until the April meeting.

An e-mail was received from ARRL regarding BPL, bandwidth on power lines.

Thank you to Gladys KC8GIA

for donuts and to Bob's K8RLS XYL for peanut butter cookies.

Jack W8WEN joined SOWP recently. His data was published by SOWP, and a friend he worked with in the service contacted him.

Don K8OMO referred to the "Way Back" stories in the Zero Beat and displayed a key from long ago. He had copies of licenses from 1912, 1916, 1920.

Jack W8WEN noted that certain certificates will be discontinued when supplies run out. One was the Rag Chewer's certificate.

The meeting adjourned. upon motion by Jim N8XTJ, seconded by Sam KC8ETZ.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Glass W8UKQ, Secretary

Wayback Machine

(Continued from page 5)

"The Wayback Machine" is going to hover over the 1920's for one more edition, checking out an amateur with the call 8XK, and his activities on the night of November 2, 1920. In the meantime, take a sip of that Prohibition bootleg gin, check out those new SW bands, and join us next time on board "The Wayback Machine."

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THE WAYBACK MACHINE

Issue #4

by William Continelli

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By the time World War I ended in November, 1918, almost 5000 amateurs had served in uniform, with many giving their lives overseas. Amateurs had proven themselves to be invaluable to the war effort. The Army and Navy were faced with an absolute lack of trained radio officers, instructors, operators, and even state of the art equipment. Amateurs stepped in and provided the knowledge, men and sometimes even the equipment necessary to help win the war. An interesting example of this was the case of Alessandro Fabbri, a wealthy yachtsman and radio amateur, who had top notch stations on board his yacht and on Mount Desert Island, Maine. The Navy commandeered the stations (and the yacht), made Fabbri an ensign, and placed him in command. Largely with his own money, he expanded his operation and improved his equipment. Fabbri's station was used to pass most of the official communications between the battlefronts in Europe and Washington. The traffic often amounted to 20,000 words a day, most of them in cipher. Captain (later Major) Edwin Armstrong, whose regenerative receiver was being used worldwide, was in charge of the Signal Corps' Radio Laboratory in Paris, where he developed the super heterodyne receiver. Thousands of amateurs served as Navy radiomen and Signal Corps operators.

It would seem from the informa-

tion above that amateurs had conclusively proven their worth and that the Navy would return the amateurs' frequencies back to them once the war had ended. Sadly, this was not the case. A string of events conspired against the amateur and almost eliminated all privately owned stations.

The villain in this play was the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, a puritanical landlubber and teetotaler, whose opinions often got him into trouble. He was the type of individual that H. L. Mencken and Sinclair Lewis satirized as "one who is terrified that somewhere, someone is having fun". For years, he had demanded that the Navy have exclusive control of the radio spectrum. Now, it appeared, he had his chance.

The effects of the first modern global war, along with the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, had temporarily turned the country extremely conservative. It was in this mindset that the Espionage Act of 1918 and Prohibition were passed. Hundreds of suspected communists and anarchists were deported in the "Red Scare". Even the great Socialist Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for disagreeing with the government. Seizing the opportunity, Secretary Daniels urged the passage of legislation giving the Navy a monopoly on radio communications. As a result, the Poindexter Bill was introduced in the Senate, and the Alexander Bill in the House. Politi-

cal observers gave both bills an excellent chance of passing.

Back at the ARRL, things looked bleak. All memberships had lapsed (along with all amateur licenses), 80% of the amateurs were still overseas, "QST" had ceased publication, the unpaid printing bill was \$4700, and there was \$33 in the treasury. However, action was needed immediately to defeat these bills. Hiram Percy Maxim and the other board members dug into their own personal funds and sent out a "blue card appeal" to all known amateurs or their families asking them to write their Congressman and urge defeat of these bills. It worked. Thousands of letters poured into Washington from amateurs or (more often than not) their family members asking that amateur radio be saved. Congressmen who opposed a military monopoly of the airwaves also joined in, lending their support to amateur radio. Overwhelmed by this grassroots opposition to Naval control of the radio spectrum, Congress killed the bills in committee. This 1919 letter writing campaign had a profound historical impact on all of radio, for, had these bills passed, not only would amateur radio have disappeared forever, but all private communication activities (such as broadcasting, business radio, CB, GMRS, Cellular, etc.) either never would have evolved, or would have been delayed by years or even decades.

With the bills defeated, Maxim and the ARRL Board of Directors issued \$7500 worth of bonds to League members to get "QST" going again. At the same time, pres-

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Wayback Machine

(Continued from page 4)

sure was brought on Washington to lift the radio ban and allow amateurs back on the air. Partial success was achieved on April 12, 1919, when the Navy removed the ban on receiving, but not transmitting. Thousands of amateurs and other listeners removed the seals from their receivers (which had been placed there by Government Radio Inspectors), strung up their antennas and warmed their filaments with the sounds of the government stations. But they wanted more. Their fingers fondled their telegraph keys as they waited for the lifting of the transmitting ban. Finally, in November 1919, after a Joint Resolution had been introduced in Congress demanding that the Secretary of the Navy remove the restrictions on amateur radio, the transmitting ban was lifted, licenses were reissued, and amateurs were back on the air.

Now began the "second war", Spark vs. CW. Remember that amateurs were allowed, in effect, just one frequency - 200 Meters. A spark station on 200 meters actually generated a signal from 150 to 250 meters. With the sensitive regenerative receivers now in use, the practical range was several hundred miles. Transcontinental relays now took less than five minutes. The number of licensed amateur operators stood at 5719 in 1920, 10,809 in 1921, and 14,179 in 1922. And all were operating on 200 meters! To quote Arthur Lyle Budlong in "The Story of the American Radio Relay League", it was "Interference, Lord, what interference! Bedlam!". Something

had to be done.

And it was. Various transatlantic tests were conducted from 1921 to 1923. The results overwhelmingly showed CW was far superior to spark. Postwar vacuum tube production was at its peak. In 1921, an RCA 5 watt tube cost \$8, and, as a single tube CW transmitter, could outperform a 500 watt spark station. A 50 watt tube cost \$30, and was five times more effective than the best 1 kW spark station. Since CW took only a fraction of the bandwidth that spark did, over 50 CW stations in the same area could occupy the 150 to 250 meter range, vs. one spark station.

The transatlantic tests also revealed some other interesting facts. Due to the excessive interference on 200 meters, some stations had dropped down to 100 meters where, to their surprise, they found conditions much better. Throughout the 1922-24 period, hundreds of tests and casual contacts were made on the 100 meter wavelength which conclusively showed not only CW's superiority over spark, but increased range on the shorter wavelengths. Once again, the scientists came forward and said that long distances on 100 meters were mathematically impossible, and once again, the amateurs proved them wrong. During 1924, several CW contacts were made at distances exceeding 6000 miles. On October 19, 1924, a station in England worked New Zealand, a distance of almost 12,000 miles. Amateur communications had now reached halfway around the world. Although it would take a few years to discover the role that the ionosphere played in shortwave communications, there is no doubt that

amateurs pioneered the practical uses of shortwave.

The phenomenal success of CW convinced the vast majority of amateurs to buy that vacuum tube. A few still clung to their spark sets, screaming "spark forever", but by 1924, spark was almost extinct. The 150 to 250 meter region was now orderly, filled with thousands of CW stations living in peaceful coexistence with each other (and the occasional spark renegade). Legally, however, amateurs could not go below 150 meters. True, many were already on 100 meters without a problem, but amateurs wanted a slice of the shortwave spectrum allocated to them. After all, it was amateurs who discovered the short waves. Now, with world wide interest being shown here, they wanted protection. Negotiations were ongoing with the Department of Commerce to give the amateurs specific frequencies.

On July 24, 1924, the Department of Commerce authorized new amateur frequency bands. They were 150 to 200 meters (1500 to 2000 kc), 75 to 80 meters (3500 to 4000 kc), 40 to 43 meters (7000 to 7500 kc), 20 to 22 meters (13,600 to 15,000 kc), and 4 to 5 meters (60,000 to 75,000 kc). Except for a portion of the 150 to 200 meter band, spark was prohibited. Spark would survive in the hands of a few rebels until 1927 when it was banned altogether. CW was here to stay. By January, 1925, the 80, 40, and 20 meter bands were filling up with amateurs, drawn by the promise of transcontinental, daylight DX.

(Continued on page 3)

2004 DAYTON HAMVENTION CHARTER BUS INFORMATION AND RESERVATION FORM 2004

For more information and driving directions visit: <http://kc8lin.tripod.com/hamvention04.htm>

DATE OF TRIP - SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2004

TIME OF DEPARTURE FROM DOVER ASSEMBLY POINT - 3AM

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY LOCATION - VERIZON TELEPHONE WAREHOUSE PARKING LOT

The warehouse is located at 715 Commercial Parkway (State Route 39), just north of the West Fourth Street bridge. From I-77, use exit 83. Turn east on State Route 39 to the BP station, then south on State Route 39 to the parking lot. Commercial Parkway runs parallel with Interstate 77. PLEASE PARK YOUR VEHICLE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE LOT. This will permit employees access to the area and allow the bus to turn around. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS POLICY MAY RESTRICT FUTURE USE OF THIS LOCATION AS AN ASSEMBLY POINT.

ALTERNATE PICKUP LOCATION - NEWCOMERSTOWN TRUCK STOP

The truck stop is east of Newcomerstown, near the intersection of U.S. Route 36 and Interstate 77 (Exit 65). Arrival time is around 3:25 a.m.

DEPARTURE TIME FROM HARA ARENA IS 5:15 P.M. PLEASE TRY TO BE ON BOARD.

FOOD STOPS: There will be a breakfast stop in Springfield, en route to the Hamvention and a stop in Columbus, upon return. Food costs are NOT included in the price of the trip.

ROUND TRIP COSTS - Including seat and advance admission ticket - \$60.00 each.

DEADLINE FOR ADVANCE TICKET RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2004 AT 5 P.M.

SEATS ONLY, WITHOUT ADMISSION TICKET ARE \$40.00 EACH.

ADMISSION TICKETS AT THE HAMVENTION ARE \$25.00 EACH.

SEATS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME BASIS. RESERVE YOURS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

USE THE FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.

IF MAKING RESERVATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONS, PLEASE INCLUDE COMPLETE INFORMATION (NAME, ADDRESS AND CALL - IF ANY) ON A SEPARATE SHEET. TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY. THIS IS NECESSARY FOR INCLUSION ON THE PASSENGER MANIFEST.

USE A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IF SUBMITTING REQUEST BY MAIL. DO NOT SEND CASH!

BE SURE TO INCLUDE CORRECT AMOUNT WITH YOUR RESERVATION FORM.

NEITHER THE TUSCO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC OR THE CHARTER BUS CHAIRMAN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS, PERSONAL INJURY, LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.

THANK YOU FOR USING THIS SERVICE. YOUR PATRONAGE MAKES THEM POSSIBLE. COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND IT WITH THE CORRECT REMITTANCE TO: DAVE A. LOMADY (WD8CKK) 723 EAST FRONT STREET DOVER, OH 44622-1434

CHECK AND MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: DAVID A. LOMADY WD8CKK.

NAME _____ CALL _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP PLUS FOUR CODE _____ - _____

PLEASE RESERVE ME A TOTAL OF _____ SEATS AND ADMISSION TICKET(S) AT \$60.00 EACH. THE DEADLINE FOR ADVANCED ADMISSION TICKETS IS APRIL 16, 2004.

OR

PLEASE RESERVE ME A TOTAL OF _____ SEATS WITHOUT ADVANCED ADMISSION TICKET(S) AT \$40.00 Each. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____.

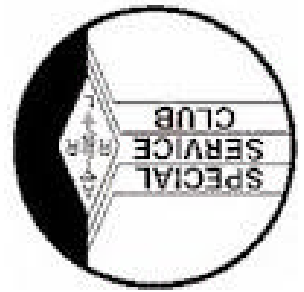
(CIRCLE ONE) - I WILL MEET THE BUS AT: _____ DOVER _____ NEWCOMERSTOWN

April 2004

Happy Birthday to: K8LTG, K8MAT, Mrs. K8CAT, KC8TAC, W5UFF.

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<p>Cuyahoga Falls ARC Hamfest, Cuyahoga Falls, OH</p> <p>Mrs. K8CAT</p> <p>Ontario QSO Party</p> <p>World Amateur Radio Day Party</p>	<p>COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM</p>	<p>STARK COUNTY ARES NET 7PM 147.120</p> <p>KC8TAC</p> <p>NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255</p>	<p>CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075</p>	<p>AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</p> <p>QCWA Net 7:30</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</p>	<p>Harry Angel Memorial Sprint</p> <p>MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18</p>	<p>Florida QSO Party</p> <p>Helvetia Contest</p> <p>Kentucky QSO Party</p> <p>MAHONING VALLEY</p> <p>ARA VE, HUBBARD, OH</p> <p>Nebraska QSO Party</p> <p>QRP to the Field</p> <p>SP DX RTTY Contest</p> <p>W5UFF</p> <p>WRECS VE, BENTLEYVILLE, OH</p>																																																																																											
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<p>20/9 HAMFEST and VE,CANFIELD, OH</p> <p>Athens County ARA Hamfest, Athens, OH</p> <p>EUCW/FISTS QRS Party</p>	<p>COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM</p>	<p>STARK COUNTY ARES NET 7PM 147.120</p> <p>NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255</p>	<p>CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075</p>	<p>AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</p> <p>QCWA Net 7:30</p>	<p>MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18</p>																																																																																												

Two peanuts walk into a bar. One was assaulted.



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RTTY

(Continued from page 1)

RTTY was used extensively in that small war we fought then. After the war, the commercial interests, particularly journalism, made the teletype machine a part of our society. RTTY had through these years developed from a simple typewriter to one fixed up with relays, contacts and magnets.

From the mid-40s until the late 70s, those RTTY enthusiasts would lug huge mechanical teletype machines (most popular was Teletype Corp. Model 28) from shack to hamfest and back again. These were the ultimate boat anchors. WHY? Because they resembled mail collection boxes

you'd find on any neighborhood street corner. Often a RTTY ham would have three or four in his shack which made it look like a small newspaper office.

Then the Burroughs Corp. started the VIC-20 computers (most popular of the earlier computers used for RTTY) and this digital specialty was practiced in smaller and easier to carry packages. The rest is current history.

RTTY, Jim writes, needs little computer memory. Up to date equipment is available from manufacturers such as MFJ and cheap. There are other more popular digital modes at the moment (PSK-31 comes to mind) but none have RTTY's extensive history. In Southwest Ohio, the

Midwest RTTY net (nightly on 3607 MHz) has been on the air for a long time and continues.

You may wonder why I spend any time on this. There are more important ham radio issues to comment on - BPL, Spectrum Protection Act, antenna legislation, and the like. But I never forget, and I don't want anyone else to forget, that we, as ham radio operators, are first a technical society. Thank you Jim.