



The Feedline

“W9JZ – SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1933”

VOL. 26 – No. 01

January, 2005

2003 FLARC Officers

Frederick Baguhn W9GOC - President
John Steffl K0ZYA - Vice President
Gary Muskat KA9SRM - Secretary
Don Michalski W9IXG – Treasurer

Board Members at Large

Phil Carlson WB0CLI
Bud Morin K9ZT
Doug Ward W9DCQ

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS, etc.

Our club meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building in Madison, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue. Regular meetings start with the business meeting at 7:30 PM, followed by the program unless otherwise noted. They are subject to change.

Saturday morning “Zilch” locations

The Eastside Zilch (ham breakfasts) are at 7:30 AM at the Green Lantern on the west end of Siggelkow Road in McFarland. The Westside Zilch is at 10:00 AM at Village Green at 7508 Hubbard Ave in Middleton. See you there.

Madison Area InfoNet: Thursday evenings on 147.15 at 8 PM; 146.76 is the backup frequency. Traffic and check-ins are welcome.

Madison Ham Web Page

Website is at www.qsl.net/flarc Keep checking the links page for new goodies!

Meeting dates and programs

Prez Says –

Greetings to all!

The December meeting featured a presentation from Chuck Forster, WA9ACI, on Radio Astronomy. Thanks to some of the technological advances pushed forward to meet the needs of cell phones and wireless networking, low noise amplifiers at microwave frequencies are becoming available to hams and radio astronomers. While these still are not ‘commodity’ items, they are no longer made exclusively of Unobtanium.

Chuck enlightened us on some of the challenges of radio astronomy - - at typical ham frequencies we don’t generally think of a growing corn field as a noise source, for example. The photos of his trailer-mounted dish antenna were noteworthy, especially with regard to those dainty trailer bed stabilizer bars! We learned about signals generated by hydrogen molecules, and why radio astronomers listen for them, and how to use the sun as a reference noise source.

Mostly we learned that Chuck knows a LOT more radio astronomy stuff than will fit into a one hour presentation ! Thank you, Chuck.

The January meeting will concentrate on the election, review what we’ve accomplished in the last year, and what we hope to accomplish in 2005. We’ll learn more about the progress of the Big Project, and how FLARC can help nurture the development of potential new hams.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting - - remember, we need a quorum to hold the elections...

73,
Frederick

FLARC Treasurer Report

11/16/2004

Balance in the treasury is \$3,424.67.
There are 95 paid up members.

Don, W9IXG

Elections and Nominations

At the next meeting the elections for Club Officers and Board Members at Large for 2005 will be held. The nominees are:

President: Frederick Baguhn, W9GOC
Vice President: John Steffl, N0zya
Secretary: Gary Muskat, KA9SRM
Treasurer: Don Michalski, W9IXG
Members at Large: Phil Carlson, WB0CLI
Steve Elliott, W9RAL
Tom Komsi, KC9EUC
Bud Morin, K9ZT
Doug Ward, W0DCQ
Betsy Baguhn, WN9GOC

Request for Timewave DSP Unit

The amateur station at Wisconsin Emergency Management is experiencing high background noise levels on HF. A suggestion was made to get a Timewave DSP audio filter and see if that reduces this form of noise. But before WEM springs for buying one, we would like to see if a modern DSP filter will work. So, I am asking if anyone has a Timewave DSP unit, e.g., DSP-599zx or DSP-9+, that we can borrow for a day or two. Please let me know. Thanks!

73,

Don
W9IXG
w9ixg@arrl.org
274-1886

BPL Report

From ARRL:

Major ISP tells FCC BPL not a "commercially viable alternative" to cable, DSL
NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 17, 2004 [UPDATE]--
Officials of Internet service provider

EarthLink told the FCC that broadband over power line (BPL) cannot compete with the dominant cable or DSL technology today or in the near future. A BPL industry spokesperson subsequently criticized the ARRL apparently for reporting the company's statements. EarthLink President and CEO Garry Betty and other company officials met November 16 with FCC Chairman Michael Powell and Commission attorney Aaron Goldberger to deliver an ex parte presentation on several Wireline Competition Bureau and Common Carrier Bureau proceedings. "EarthLink discussed that it has invested in and is in trials with several potential 'third wire' broadband transmission paths to the home, including WiFi, WiMax, MMDS and broadband over power lines," EarthLink Counsel Mark J. O'Connor informed FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch in a November 17 letter. "However, EarthLink pointed out that cable and DSL still account for virtually all consumer broadband connections and that none of these alternative technologies offer a commercially viable alternative today or in the near future." An EarthLink analysis indicated that BPL is the most expensive of the broadband technologies it evaluated. In a chart titled "Next generation broadband," EarthLink said that wireless and BPL "are not likely to be competitive in cost and performance with cable and DSL over the last mile to the home." The company judged as "not successful" one unspecified BPL technical trial using Amperion equipment in a "wireless/BPL combo." In discussing other trials using Ambient and Current Technologies equipment--one of which EarthLink had invested in--the ISP's assessment was that the high cost per household passed--\$125 in both instances--would require a better than 15 percent market penetration to attain a competitive cost. EarthLink said its assessment determined that ADSL2+ technology is the "best option" and can offer VoIP as well as high-speed broadband (at 6 to 10 Mbps) and video over copper wire and using on-premise consumer equipment. The company also indicated that it plans to invest in ADSL2+ technology. ARRL's reporting of EarthLink's November submission to the FCC apparently struck a nerve at Ambient, with which EarthLink has a business relationship. In a classic case of

shooting the messenger, Ambient CEO John J. Joyce took the League to task on the CBS MarketWatch.com Web site on behalf of the BPL industry. Calling ARRL "the leading opponent of BPL in the US" and his own corporation as "a leader on Power Line Communications (PLC)," Joyce seemed to suggest that the League itself had provided the EarthLink information and was spinning the company's remarks to advantage. "The release by the ARRL clearly takes the statements of EarthLink's attorney out of context and conveniently ignores many developments in the industry that contradict ARRL's conclusions," Joyce said. Among other things, Joyce said that "the ARRL perception of BPL's economics fails to consider that consumer broadband is only one application for a BPL-enabled utility system." he said there are other industrial applications that may augur in BPL's economic favor. He also emphasized that the projects with which his company and EarthLink have collaborated were demonstrations "never intended to be competitive installations" and are "in no way representative of BPL economics." He said Ambient "continues to refine its system and equipment design for cost efficiencies." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League stands by its account, which Joyce characterized as a "claim" on the ARRL's part. Sumner also chided CBS MarketWatch.com for reporting Joyce's comments on Ambient's behalf but not referring readers to EarthLink's publicly available submission to the FCC, to which the League account includes a link. "ARRL's report on the document was accurate in every way, and we stand by our report," Sumner said. "The onclusions given are not ours, but EarthLink's. Anyone who wishes to do so can read the submission for themselves."

Tsunami and VU4 DXPedition

When the recent tsunami hit the Indian Ocean

everyone; stops for 30 seconds and then starts all over again.

- 3) The DX is operating split; the lids call right on the DX frequency causing the kind of QRM noted above; yours truly, K9ZT, in the heat of battle, once in a while does this and I thank the DX cops for sending out "ZT UP"; my ears glow and I quickly punch the split button.
- 4) Split operation or not, the DX says "Alpha Echo, Alpha Echo" and the lids whose calls no way resemble Alph Echo keep right on calling; if on frequency, you can't hear the DX and, if split, they may and usually do QRM the Alpha Echo signal, making the DX ask again and again.

The last item is well explained in the following excerpt about the VU4 dxpedition from one of the dx lists:

"BTW, the pileup behavior I have heard to date has been downright pathetic. For instance when Bharati comes back with a two letter partial saying something "Kilo Zulu only" "everyone else stand by" at least a dozen idiots whose calls bear absolutely no resemblance to "Kilo Zulu" continue to call. They also continue to call right through every QSO and even when she responds to a full and complete callsigns. The only descriptor that does these lids justice is too obscene to repeat here. If these fine examples of the homo sapien strain would follow her instructions and only call when she is listening QRZ, her QSO throughput would probably double or triple. Heck I am all for fervant competition in a pileup, but when the DX comes back and says "KILO ZULU, EVERYONE ELSE please stand by" or she is yelling "STAND BY STAND BY, Kilo Zulu go ahead" with furvent emotion in her voice, and your call doesn't resemble "kilo zulu" in any way shape or form, it's time to SHUT UP and listen. Otherwise, you are no better than a jammer.

Sorry for the soapbox lecture, I am probably preaching to the choir here, but this sort of mob rules mentality that pervades pileups these days is very disheartening and doesn't reflect well on

DXers. It's also not productive. On balance I think it makes those who practice it (and everyone else) much less likely to get in the log."

Technician Class

The next Technician License Workshop will be held February 19 and 20, 2005. Contact Don Michalski, W9IXG.

MDXC Scholarship Announcement

The Madison DX Club has a program to provide local students enrolled in an institution of higher learning with financial assistance. The structure of the program is in place and a number of contributions have been received. The program is off to a good start. Any financial contribution you might make to the program will make more and larger scholarships available. A donation form is attached. Complete details of the program are available at <http://www.madisondxclub.org>. if you know of a ham who will be (or is) "attending college", please pass on the information about this program.

Programs

We need some more ideas or topics for programs to present at the meetings. So let us hear from you.

FLARC Web Site

The FLARC URL is <http://www.qsl.net/flarc> If you see any errors, please let us know.

Elmers

If you are interested in being an Elmer, one who helps newcomers get started in ham radio, contact Gary Dennis, KG9FL.

VE Program

Tim, WO9U, is the VE Team Chairman has resigned. The exams are given at SPACE PLACE on South Park Street on the *FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH*.

Wisconsin Section

Keep in touch with the ham action in Wisconsin by going to the Wisconsin section website:
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI>.

73, Don

Buck Nite

William Baguhn, KC9ASI, won the buck.

Awards Checkers

Checker for the WAS Award is Gari, NG9V. When you are ready, just contact him; he'll be glad to do it, 608-221-2022 or gberliot@ameritech.net.

Checker for the VUCC awards is Richard, K9APW. Contact him at 608-833-0011 or k9apw@arrl.net.

BUY — SELL — TRADE

ATTENTION FLARC MEMBERS: If you have amateur radio or computer items that you would like to BUY, SELL, or TRADE, you can do it in the *Feedline*. There is no charge for non-commercial advertising.

Mission Statement

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club (F.L.A.R.C.) is a non-profit, general interest club that exists to promote the growth and enjoyment of Amateur Radio in South-Central Wisconsin. The club's mission is to encourage new operators, enhance the skills and interests of those already licensed and to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies. To accomplish this mission, F.L.A.R.C. will:

- Schedule regular meetings with informational programs and the opportunity for informal fellowship.
- Publish a monthly newsletter for the membership.
- Sponsor training classes.
- Sponsor Volunteer Examinations.

Birthdays

January:

- 2 KE9XN—Phil Koclanes
- 6 AF9B—Bill Fletcher
- 13 N9CP—Curtis Peters
- 17 AB9FN—Ed Wagner
- 21 K9ADN—Ken Trachte
W9VFD—Frederick Weigt
- 28 NK9U—Eldon Boehm
- 31 W9LA—Herb Jordan

February:

- 4 N9CK—Steven Franzen
- 9 W9UPK—Colin Wheatley
- 15 KC9EHR—Mark Kovelan
- 25 N9UDG—George Edgerton
- 27 K9REO—Jim Lattis

Web Sites:

MARA
WAR
MDXC
N9MW

www.gsl.net/mara
www.wi-repeaters.org
<http://www.madisondxclub.org>
<http://www.n9mw.com> (DX-Cluster)

SMC <http://www.w9smc.com>

Dane County ARES/RACES
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dane_co_ares-races/
(has a current listing of Public Service Events)

Note: The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) site, <http://www.wi-repeaters.org/>, will provide a current list of all repeaters in the state of Wisconsin. You can get the list sorted by frequency, by city or by region. The list has the offset, tone frequency, availability of auto patch, emergency power, owner, if open and if it's associated with emergency nets.

MDXC works with Internet Explorer and not with some versions of Netscape.

Other interesting sites are www.qsl.net and www.qrz.com. There are many, many links to other sites, which promote things from antennas, antenna construction to software. Also www.ac6v.com and www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/index.htm are full of links about ham radio. The latter is NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX page with the link ADXO, Announced DX Operations.

If you click on some of these URLs, they may not work and you will get an error message. They are OK if you type them into your browser.

For Sale:

Azden PCS-6000 6 meter fm, 50 watt mobile rig.
\$200.00

Cushcraft R7 hf vertical \$30

Alinco DR-MO3 10 meter fm mobile. \$50.00

If interested call Kevin KF9AQ at 608-273-0956

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

ALL ITEMS WORK ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATIONS AND ARE IN MINT CONDITION

- Antenna Tuner: MFJ 949E - \$60.00.
- HF SWR/Watt Meter: MFJ 816 - \$15.00.
- 144/220 SWR/Watt Meter: MFJ 812B - \$15.00.
- Keyer: MFJ EconoKeyer 401B - \$20.00

- Keyer: Palomar PK44 - \$25.00.
- 144/440 Mobile Transceiver: Kenwood TM-V7: \$190.00
- 50/144/440 HT: Yaesu VX-5R w/external mic, earphone mic, alkaline battery holder, soft case - \$145.00.
- Headphone/mic: Heil w/foot switch and Yaesu and Kenwood mic cords - \$40.00.
- Sound Card Interface: MFJ 1273B (for RJ-45 mic): \$20.00.
- Sound Card Interface: MFJ1273B (for 8-pin mic): \$20.00
- Antenna switch: MFJ 1804, four-postion: \$35.00.

If interested, contact Jim Lackore, AD9X, at 608-233-3902 (home), 608-770-3902 (cell).

For Sale:

Tektronix Type 535 Oscilloscope
Plug-in unit # 53/54K

Contact KC9GDI, Woody Pfeffer, 608-592-5313.

For Sale:

A former ham has some gear to sell. His email explains:

From: Dr Mason <amason@aipathology.com>
To: <w9ixg@arrl.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2005 1:18 PM
Subject: equipment for sale

I am a former ham (WA9IQY) and I have a relative who passed away a couple of years ago who exported amateur radio equipment. I have a number of HAM-IV rotors for 220v 50-60hrz as well a[s] one sidewinder rotor. I have bench tested all of them and they are in perfect working order. I also have several Mosley multi band beams which were in a basement and the boxes got wet, but the antennas are like new. Do you have a suggestion as to how I might try to sell these items? I live in Wausau, WI.

Thanks for your assistance,
Al Mason

For Sale:

FLARC has RG-213 in stock for 47 cents per foot.
PL 259 connectors are \$1.25 each.
100MFD/450VDC electrolytic capacitors (NOS) \$1.50 ea or 4
for \$5.00.

The club is always looking for advertisers for our club. This helps defray the cost of the news letter some. If you have a candidate(s) in mind; see Don or any board member for details. It is a good way for some business to get exposure and help the club out. It isn't very expensive at all. Contact Don, W9IXG or Federick Baguhn, W9GOC.

Tom's Auto Clinic

**2652 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-241-3391**

Steve – N9CK

Marylynn – K9SAM

Phasor Labs

cforster@phasorlabs.com

Contest Calendar

Another source of contest dates has been suggested instead of the one below. The source is <http://home.online.no/~janalme/hammain.html/>. They overlap quite a bit and each has contests that the other does not have. Furthermore, they disagree on some dates and times. The above site has the advantage of having links to the rules. The following is excerpted from:

WA7BNM 13-Month Contest Calendar

Last updated December 15, 2004

Please note that you may not be able to operate during all of the total hours of the contests listed below. Total operating time may also vary by entry category. See individual contest rules for allowed operating hours.

January, 2005

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 1 to 1500Z, Jan 2
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest (Jan)	1600Z-1900Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Jan 1 (432)
Kid's Day Contest (Jan)	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW (Jan)	2000Z-2130Z, Jan 3
ARS Spartan Sprint (Jan)	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 4
WQF QRP Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 7
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 8
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 8 to 0600Z, Jan 9
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 8 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 9
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 9
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 9
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB (Jan)	2000Z-2130Z, Jan 12
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 15 to 2400Z, Jan 16
070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 15
LZ Open Contest	1200Z-2000Z, Jan 15
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 15 to 2359Z, Jan 16
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 15 to 1200Z, Jan 16
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data (Jan)	2000Z-2130Z, Jan 20
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 22 to 1200Z, Jan 23
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 22 to 0400Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 29 to 2359Z, Jan 30

REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 29 to 1800Z, Jan 30
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 29 to 1200Z, Jan 30
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 29 to 1300Z, Jan 30
February, 2005	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 5 to 2400Z, Feb 6
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 5 to 2359Z, Feb 6
YL-ISSB QSO Party	1100Z, Feb 5 to 1700Z, Feb 6
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 5
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 5 to 0500Z, Feb 6 and 1300Z, Feb 6 to 0100Z, Feb 7
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 5 to 1759Z, Feb 6
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6
ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Feb 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB (Feb)	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 7
ARS Spartan Sprint (Feb)	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 8
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 12 to 2359Z, Feb 13
SARL Kid's Day	0700Z-0900Z, Feb 12
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 12 to 1000Z, Feb 13
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 12
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 12 to 1200Z, Feb 13
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 12 to 0300Z, Feb 13
OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 12 to 1500Z, Feb 13
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 12
British Columbia QSO Challenge	1800Z, Feb 12 to 1800Z, Feb 13
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Feb 12 to 0100Z, Feb 13
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 14 to 0100Z, Feb 19
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data (Feb)	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20
CQC Winter QSO Party	2200Z, Feb 20 to 0359Z, Feb 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW (Feb)	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 24
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 25 to 2100Z, Feb 26
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 26 to 2359Z, Feb 27
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 26 to 1800Z, Feb 27
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 26 to 1300Z, Feb 27
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27
CZEBRIS Contest	1600Z, Feb 26 to 2400Z, Feb 27
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 27 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 27
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 27 to 0300Z, Feb 28

*Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM
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Information is also available from the ARRL contest web site
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html> and the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet at
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/>. You can also get the Rate Sheet emailed to you
once a week. You may have to copy these URL's into your browser to make them work.

**Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club Membership Mail-
In Application**

Date: _____ Callsign: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Month & Day of Birth: (optional) _____

E-mail address: _____

ARRL Member: Yes ___ No ___

Newsletter delivery:

Email: _____ Standard Mail: _____

Dues: \$20 regular, \$17 Senior (65 plus), \$10 Student, \$14 additional family members.

(one newsletter per family)

Mail check and completed application form to:

**FLARC c/o Don Michalski
4214 Mohawk Dr.
Madison, WI 53711**

MDXC Scholarship Contribution Form

Mail to Bill Hanold, N3304 Tipperary Point Rd., Poynette, WI 53955

I wish to contribute \$_____.____ to the MDXC Scholarship Fund.

Payment is included with this form.

Make checks payable to the MDXC Scholarship Fund

Payment will be made on or before _____ 20_____

Please note that MDXC expects to award scholarships annually in May and make payouts at the end of each year.

NAME (please print)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

SIGNATURE

DATE

For complete details of the program you may go to <http://www.madisondxclub.org>. You may contact us at scholarship@madisondxclub.org.

The MDXC (Madison DX Club) thanks you for your contribution to this important project.

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