



The Feedline

“W9JZ – SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1933”

VOL. 25 – No. 11

November, 2004

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 October meeting featured Don/W9IXG’s construction adventures with his Elecraft KX-1. The KX-1 is a QRP level multi-band transceiver that demonstrates current technology - - digital frequency synthesis, variable bandwidth filtering, electronic keyer, etc. Don opened the unit so we could see the actual bits and pieces. Those of us who remember Heathkits from the ‘50s and ‘60’s, where single sided circuit boards with 1/8” wide

traces represented ‘state of the art’, were very impressed by the high component density now achieved in 3 dimensions (projecting components on adjacent boards seem to interleave).

Don also demonstrated its operation - - clear tone, no discernable clicks or chirp, and the resolution on the frequency encoder is comparable to a ‘big rig’, even though it only displays 3 digits at a time.

While this isn’t a kit aimed at those new to soldering or uncomfortable around high density boards full of Very Small Components, Elecraft provides excellent assembly and test instructions worthy of the Heathkit tradition. Thank you for showing off this fascinating transceiver, Don!

We also circulated a sign-up sheet for FLARC name/callsign badges. We are completing the details for the first batch of these, but if you need to have your name/callsign included in the order, please send an e-mail to w9goc@arrl.net with:

- Your name (as you’d like it to appear)
- Callsign
- Fastener choice (pin back is standard, magnet back is ~\$2.00 extra)

This month’s meeting will review the proposed Budget.

If time permits, we hope to also have a pointer or two on the upcoming ARRL Frequency Measurement Test. This year’s FMT will address measuring the audio frequency of a modulated SSB signal - - something different than we’ve done on previous Frequency Measurement Tests, in that we will have to get the SSB tuning right before we can accurately measure the audio frequency. Some folks will be using sound card software to measure the frequency, some will use frequency counters.

I have unofficially heard that there *might* be some additional junk/junque box treasures to share coming to this month's meeting, as well. We may not have the selection breadth of eBay, but the savings on price and shipping charges should make some of these treasures tempting.

Upcoming Activities:

The Holiday Party approaches. There will be a sign-up sheet circulated at the General Meeting to get a head count so we have enough food coming; if you are planning on attending the party but can't make it to the meeting on the 16th to sign up, send an e-mail to w9goc@arrl.net so we can add your name and guests to the list, please?

ELECTIONS:

Contemplate whom you would like to nominate for an Officer or Board member position (or which position you would like to be nominated for !)

73,
Frederick

In Memoriam

Daved J. Schaefer, N9DMS, SK

David J. Schaefer, age 49, passed away in Madison on September 14, 2004. He was President of FLARC in 1998 and 1999 (these years are not certain). He was a lawyer, a member of the city's Affirmative Action Department as a disability rights specialist, and was one of those who helped fashion a groundbreaking law that provides around-the-clock accessible taxicab service to wheelchair users.

FLARC Treasurer Report

10/19/2004: Balance in the treasury is \$4,356.38.
10/19/2004: There are 93 paid up members.

Don, W9IXG

**ARRL Proposal to Regulate
Amateur Subbands
by Signal Bandwidth**

Excerpt from
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 23, No. 42
October 22, 2004

Meeting October 16 in Dallas, Texas, the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) devoted much of its fall session to a discussion of comments received on ARRL's draft FCC petition seeking regulation of subbands by bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The EC also authorized the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration in response to the BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37, which the FCC adopted October 14. Drafting and filing the petition must await release of the actual R&O, which should happen in a few weeks. Responding to a synopsis of the bandwidth petition and proposed rule changes posted on the ARRL Web site, several hundred League members and others in the ham radio community offered comments and suggestions.

"The Executive Committee found considerable support for the concept of the petition," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, "along with constructive suggestions to reduce both the impact of the changes on current amateur operations, as well as possible unintended consequences." Sumner's "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, "Regulation by Bandwidth," in September QST addressed the bandwidth petition.

Earlier this year, the EC decided to make a synopsis and explanation of the petition available to ARRL members before filing it with the FCC. At this month's meeting, the EC agreed to submit several recommended amendments to the proposed rules changes to the ARRL Board of Directors for its consideration in January. These include:

* Retention of rules permitting automatically controlled digital stations (packet and other digital modes) in narrow HF subbands. The draft petition had proposed dropping these provisions.

* A rule prohibiting so-called semi-automatic digital operation (automatic control in response to a communication initiated by a live operator) on frequencies below 28 MHz where phone is permitted. This addressed a concern that "robot" digital stations might take over the phone bands.

* A segment for 3 kHz bandwidth (no phone) emissions at 10.135-10.150 MHz to accommodate existing and planned digital operations.

* Deletion of the word "continuous" from the description of test transmissions authorized on most frequencies above 51 MHz.

* Simplification of proposed changes to §97.309 to clarify that FCC-licensed amateur stations may use any published digital code as long as other rules are observed.

"These recommendations are not intended to be the final word on the draft petition, but are intended to address the major issues raised to date," Sumner emphasized.

The draft bandwidth proposals take into account the ARRL's prior "Novice refarming" petition to expand some HF phone bands, included in the "omnibus" FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making in WT Docket 04-140.

The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

BPL Information

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 32 ARLB032
From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT October 29, 2004

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB032

ARLB032 FCC BPL Report And Order stresses interference avoidance, resolution

The FCC has released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 that it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to "protect licensed services from harmful interference."

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

Notches would have to be at least 20 dB below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below on VHF. The FCC called the ability to alter a system's operation to notch out transmissions on specific frequencies where interference is occurring "a necessary feature for resolving interference without disrupting service to BPL subscribers."

The FCC declined to reduce the Part 15 radiated emission limit for BPL systems. It maintained that emissions from BPL systems are very localized and at low enough levels to generally preclude harmful interference.

The FCC said while it had no evidence before it that BPL operation would significantly contribute to background noise levels, it seemed to put some of the onus on Amateur Radio licensees to take steps to avoid power-line interference--and, by inference, BPL interference--in advance.

"In addition, because power lines inherently can radiate significant noise emissions as noted by NTIA and ARRL, good engineering practice is to

locate sensitive receiver antennas as far as practicable from power lines," the FCC said.

In a footnote, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

BPL operators would be required to avoid certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, however, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service.

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said. "While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

The Commission reiterated its belief that BPL's public benefits "are sufficiently important and significant so as to outweigh the limited potential for increased harmful interference that may arise."

Among other specific provisions, the FCC's new rules mandate certification of BPL equipment instead of the less-stringent verification, a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. BPL systems will have to incorporate the ability to modify operation and performance "to mitigate or avoid potential harmful interference" and to deactivate problematic units, the R&O says.

Further, the new rules spell out the locations of "small geographic exclusion zones" as well as excluded bands or frequencies--concessions made primarily at the insistence of the NTIA, which administers radio spectrum for federal government

users--and "coordination areas" where BPL deployments at any frequency must be "precoordinated by BPL operators." They also detail techniques to measure BPL emissions from system equipment and power lines.

The FCC said it expects "good faith" on both sides in the event of interference complaints. Shutting down a BPL system in response to a valid interference complaint "would be a last resort when all other efforts to satisfactorily reduce interference have failed," the FCC said.

ARRL officials are studying the R&O and considering possible responses. The ARRL

Details, operating procedures, etc can be discovered by contacting Ed/N9MW ; ed@n9mw.com , or catch him (or another net control station) on the air on Sunday mornings, 146.880 MHz (minus offset, PL 123.0 Hz)

Technician Class

The next Technician License Workshop will be held February 19 and 20, 2005.

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. 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

George Shands, W9WUU, 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

November:

6 KC9CBT—Sarah E. Baguhn
15 K9EMG—Roger Deicher

December:

8 N9LGZ—Marvin VanCleave
13 WA9ACI—Chuck forster
K9GRD—Dorothy Gable
14 WU9F—Terry Bachmann
18 KC9GHL—Kimberly French
28 N9NTB—Duane Brophy

Web Sites:

MARA	www.qsl.net/mara
WAR	www.wi-repeaters.org
MDXC	http://www.madisondxclub.org
N9MW	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

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.

WA7BNM 13-Month Contest Calendar

Last updated October 13, 2004

Please send corrections and additions directly to Bruce Horn, [WA7BNM](#) A [text version](#) of this calendar is also available.

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.

November, 2004

ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 2
IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 6 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 6
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 6 to 1200Z, Nov 7
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 6 to 0300Z, Nov 8
NA Collegiate ARC Championship, CW	2100Z, Nov 6 to 0300Z, Nov 8
IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 7 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 7
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 7 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 7
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 13 to 2359Z, Nov 14
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 13 to 1300Z, Nov 14
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 13 to 1000Z, Nov 14
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 13 to 1200Z, Nov 14
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 20 to 1200Z, Nov 21
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1500Z-1700Z, Nov 20 and 1800Z-2000Z, Nov 20 and 0700Z-0900Z, Nov 21 and 1000Z-1200Z, Nov 21
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 20 to 0700Z, Nov 21
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 20 to 0300Z, Nov 22
NA Collegiate ARC Championship, SSB	2100Z, Nov 20 to 0300Z, Nov 22
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 20 to 0100Z, Nov 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 27 to 2400Z, Nov 28

December, 2004

ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z-0600Z, Dec 2
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 3 to 1600Z, Dec 5

TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 4
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0600Z, Dec 4
CIS DX Contest, CW	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 5
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12
Fall NA Meteor Scatter Rally	0000Z, Dec 11 to 0700Z, Dec 15
Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	0200Z-0359Z, Dec 11
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z-2300Z, Dec 17
MDXA PSK DeathMatch	0000Z, Dec 18 to 2400Z, Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 18 to 1400Z, Dec 19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 18 to 1500Z, Dec 19
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 18 to 1600Z, Dec 19
RAEM Contest	0200Z-0959Z, Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26

**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)