

# Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club

## The Groundwire

Volume 2003 Issue 8

August 2003

### Hot Topics

Next **General membership Meeting is August 18th** at the Windsor Park Baptist Church on the southeast corner of Pleasant Run and Westmoreland in DeSoto. Pizza and Chicken wings will be available at \$5 per person. This worked out quite well last month. Hope to see you there!

**Red Hot Chili Pepper Bicycle Rally** to be held on Saturday August 16th. Hams are needed to help with communications. Contact any Board Member for more details.

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### NCS SCHEDULE August 2003

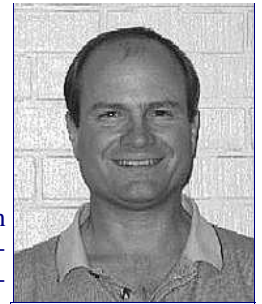
04-KB5TMD  
11-W5WB  
18-KJ5UY  
25-KC5MQC

### September 2003

01-No Net-Labor Day  
08-W5WB  
15 KB5TMD  
22-KJ5UY  
29-KC5MQC

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Busy Summer in Radio Land! or Is Your HT Antenna Really What You Think it Is?



Paul Dryer KD5IVP

Hamcom and Field Day, what many of us in this hobby live for each year. This year's Hamcom also was host for the National ARRL Convention which made the event all the better. Because of travel obligations, I missed Field Day, but Hamcom I didn't. What a weekend!

Thanks to all of you who helped staff our equipment table at the event. The SWDCARC was honored with the donation of equipment from two estates, whereby we were able to sell and donate some to raise funds for a club portable station. \$790 was raised over the two days of Hamcom. Hamcom was it's usual indoor/outdoor swap meet with endless tables of wonderful things to buy or swap. This year it all seemed bigger, brighter, and busier. Russ Thompson (KX5G) debuted his new Bible in CW practice CD's with encouraging success. Drena Cromaz (KK5YC), AGAIN!, walked away with a grand prize, a beautiful Yaesu Ft-857. Many of us walked away a bit lighter in the wallet with new toys. The National Convention was quite fun and informative. Programs were running back to back two days straight. Ham celebrities were milling around and even a 70's rock icon, Joe Walsh (the Eagles), was there for Bob Heil Microphones. I attended a 'presidents forum' which I considered encouraging but a bit rushed and confusing. The forum leader said the ARRL was requested to provide such a forum to learn more about what the ARRL could do for clubs. A tad disorganized and disconnected but promising for future conventions. On the up side, many folks walked out as

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## AMATEUR RADIO AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Greetings from N5KXA,

I guess I could have saluted you, the reader, with "Greetings from Richard Baker" but somehow I think I should like to use my call. My call sign is N5KXA. It is a group of irregular letters with a number thrown in that is often misinterpreted, easily forgotten, and a trip to copy in Morse Code. Its' main attribute is that it is the only call like that in the whole world, and it is all mine. No one can properly identify to that call but me. There are a dozen Richard Bakers in the metroplex and in the world, but there is only one N5KXA and it is "my" call. With this call sign, I am singled out as an individual. What I do, how I operate as an Amateur Radio Operator, all will be identified to that unique call. That call gives me individuality. This is the theme of my text, how Ama-

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new hams or with upgrades. Within our ranks we congratulate:

Cyndi Goodgame (KD5YGK) and Paula Langridge (KD5YHI)

While shopping at Hamcom this year, on a whim, I purchased two after market HT antennas of a well known manufacturer. Quarter wave on 2 meters and five eighths wave on 70 cm. with a VSWR of not more than 1.5 on either band, was the claim on the packaging. Wonderful, I thought, as I tried to hit the club repeater from the Convention Center parking lot....but couldn't. My stock rubber duck could. When I got home, I placed both antennas on my MFJ analyzer and was astounded with the results. Stock rubber duck showed 1.8 vswr on 2 meters and 4.3 vswr on 70 cm. One after market antenna showed 1.3 vswr on 2 meters, and 5.1 on 70 cm. The second identical after market antenna registered 20.1 vswr on 2 meters and 4.3 on 70 cm. All three antennas were tested at the center of the bands in question. The latter antenna really got my attention and made me ask 'how can antenna manufactures make the claims they do about gain and impedance match'? The next day at Hamcom, after arguing with manufactures reps and obtaining a refund for my two inconsistent antennas, I set out on a quest to find a well matched antenna than held up within the ranges listed on the packaging. I was armed with my analyzer which I know to be a good one. Vendors were very accommodating when I told them what I was doing and many were interested in the results themselves. Others seemed to know in advance what to expect. Sad to say, not one antenna I checked was within advertised tolerances and I sampled eight antennas from five manufacturers. One was close, but still not quite there. I'll not mention names, we simply need to beware.



This test made me curious to understand 'dual band, collinear, coaxial' antennas and how they worked. I also found it to be amazingly easy and inexpensive to make your own, within the tolerances you choose. Without resorting to mathematics at this point, I'll try and describe the workings of such antennas. I was dismayed how little information existed for antennas of this type. Even a call to the ARRL "The Doctor is In" Labs was not much help. I am not an electrical engineer nor an antenna guru. If I can figure this out, anyone can!

Look at the mobile dual band antenna on the roof of your car. Notice that little spring looking coil about half way up? That is simply a 'choke' or a way to halt energy from traveling up a piece of wire at a specific wavelength. It de-tunes the wire at certain frequencies. A coaxial, collinear, dual band, antenna resonates on two bands well because of this choke. Take for instance a 1/4 wave 2m, 1/2 wave 70 cm. antenna. Using the  $234 / f \text{ mhz} * 12$  formula, you will find that 1/4 wave on 146 mhz is approximately 19.23 inches. Using the formula  $468 / f \text{ mhz} * 12$  we see that a 1/2 wave wire on 444 mhz is about 12.64 inches. Beginning with the longer piece of wire, in theory, a non-resonant choke should go about 6.59 inches from the bottom of the wire to make it behave as a resonator on both frequencies.

**"Sad to say, not one antenna I checked was within advertised tolerances"**

Because of velocity factors of materials, element diameter, and stray capacitive or inductive reactance, a bit of tweaking needs to take place before our model attains specs, but that is how its done in simple terms. So, on 2 meters, the choke becomes transparent and the entire wire becomes resonant, choke and all. Ideally, the choke should be reasonably tuned to our 146 mhz frequency. I have some great formulas for resonant circuits but a simple rule of thumb that will get you close is "one turn per meter band at 1" coil diameter" should get you close. I stress "close". A 5/8 wave on 444 mhz coaxial with a 1/2 wave on 146 is a bit trickier. Although 5/8 wave on 444 is resonant at roughly 15.81 inches, the input impedance is much higher than

the ideal 50 ohms and must be transformed back down with, again a choke. This time our choke must double as both a 'choke' as well as a matching transformer to obtain a 50 ohm resistive load on both bands. It's not easily done but you can get very close with a bit of experimentation and wire pruning. This also helps to explain the inconsistency in the after market HT antenna world, augmented by us hams having a fixation on < 1.5 vswr before we feel we have a good antenna! We created the monster and I will save Volt Standing Wave Ratio for another article. To add insult to injury, the next problem in the inconsistent HT antenna chain is.....your HT. Remember, a 1/4 wave antenna would like a nice 1/4 wave ground plane to get a good reflection and produce a decent radiation pattern. I doubt your walkie talkie is anywhere near 19.23 inches long. Instead, try simply soldering an alligator clip or ring connector to a 19.23 inch piece of 24 ga. stranded, insulated wire and attaching it to the ground on your radio's antenna connector. This does two things. First, it decouples the antenna system from your hand, the un-tuned HT casing, and variable quality grounds where you are standing. Second, it provides a true 1/2 wave system providing a much better pattern. Try it and be amazed what a few pennies can do for your HT. And yes, your impedance match should look even better, should you test it! Next month I will provide some instructions for making your own dual band, "high gain", collinear, coaxial, HT antenna for less than \$5!

Cheers and 73,  
Paul (KD5IVP)

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teur Radio is geared to the individual participant. Having participated in Amateur Radio for over 30 years has given me a grand opportunity to witness its' growth and changes from a rather exclusive gathering of radio craft operators to what it is now a fraternity of technocrats, administrators, organizers, most all of which are volunteers to their local communities and their country.

Amateur Radio began when this new medium of communication by "radio" was simply a thought. True to the inventiveness and the willingness to try anything, Amateur Radio was the fulcrum of the technological innovations employed today. From the buzzes from home built spark-gap transmitters and receivers built on mom's breadboard (the root of the term "bread boarding" as it relates to prototype circuitry) to inventions such as television and microwave communications all had roots in the garages and attics of Amateur Radio operators. Today the fraternity of Amateur Radio has grown to include almost every form of communication known to man today. And yet, with all the expanse and multiple divisions of types and devices for communication, the individual Amateur Radio operator is what makes it work. Something happens when a new recruit walks into a VE session and passes his/her first license test. Through the test the recruit learns a few simple rules of the road and is initiated into some of the technologies surrounding communications. When that test is passed, a person is transformed from John (or Jane) Q. Smith off the street into an integral part, a recognized individual part, of the Amateur Radio fraternity. What we do as "Hams" is communicate. It is pure and simple. We may employ a myriad of ways to communicate. But what we do is communicate. Thoughts, opinions, good advice, bad advice, boasting, complementing, questioning, inquiring, exchanging ideas, we are always communicating throughout our radio spectrum. 99% of this communicating is individual to individual. It all relates to the individual operator that takes his/her own ideas of what form of communications they want to pursue and develop that form of communication at their own pace. Because we practice communicating, we become experts of how to communicate. Our practice of communicating develops effectiveness and precision. In times of peril, when our communities are threatened, or disaster has struck, it is the individual, working with other individuals and sometimes working alone that uses this practice to save lives, rescue, make the call for help, direct the search, or organize the aid. Sometimes it's Health and Welfare contacts, where individuals in times of disaster give of themselves find and locate victims, to communicate concerns from the victims' family and friends and to pass back to those family and friends a connection to their lost.

It is the individual to individual communication that is the heart of Amateur Radio. Any contact, be it local or DX seems to have an underlying connection that goes beyond the words said into the microphone or tapped on the key. So often today the individual is swamped by data bases, categories, demographics, states, and countries. But that individual, the human in all of us, connects to the individual, the human in all of them, through our contacts. It is a fraternity and our "contacts" become brothers and sisters to us. Individualism reigns! It is through the rank and file of the Amateur Fraternity that individuals have risen to become leaders, not only for Amateur Radio, but in their communities. There is so much room for volunteerism within Amateur Radio. Applicants are needed and loved. How can I not forget the far reaching impact of the individual Ham Operator without mentioning how the family and friends of the Ham Operator is also effected. Family always comes as first priority in a Amateur Radio Operator's life. It should be. But if it wasn't for the family and friends' support, the level of an individual Ham Operator's development would be limited. When a Ham is trained as a storm spotter and is posted to observe a nasty set of thunderstorms, it is the Wife or Husband that is left back home with the fear of the Ham's safety. Sometimes it is support that is important but of not so dramatic nature, such as, putting up with the noise from the other room at 2:00 am when the Amateur Radio operator is trying to take advantage of a night of great propagation to make the elusive DX contact or when the Family car becomes festooned with pokey things from it bumpers, trunk and roof.

"It is the individual to individual communication that is the heart of Amateur Radio"

I would enjoy to relate stories I have of where normally nondescript individuals have stood when the call was made to mentor a group of Boy Scouts, set up a satellite communications port for a High School so the Science class could communicate with the Mission Specialist (many of them are Hams) on the Space shuttle, or in times of disaster, stood with public officials, with their radio in hand, to organize and make sense of the calamity befalling their communities. But I must be brief. In all I have written before and what I am trying to say is, that to be a Radio Amateur, one is a part of a World Wide fraternity where the individual is recognized, where the individual can grow in education and expertise, in a multiple of communication fields, and where the communication is individual to individual. I am glad to be a part of Amateur Radio. It is exciting now and because of the influx of great "individual" new "Hams", I think we haven't seen nothing yet!

# FOXHUNT FOLLIES

Hot news: We're transmitter hunting in July!! And is it hot in July!!! This month's foxhunt was conducted on Saturday, July 12th in the relative cool of the morning. This was a mobile hunt, allowing the participants the opportunity to stay in the relative cool of their vehicles for most of the time.

The hunt was not without problems: The "gremlin" returned to the fox controller, resetting it back to it's 60 minute delay at the start of the program, effectively taking it off the air. The controller is vulnerable to RF and I made the mistake of transmitting on my HT nearby, thus "resetting" the controller back to the beginning of the program. Whoops! I've since taken that delay out of the program so that shouldn't be a problem in the future. Meanwhile, I coped with the problem by making periodic voice transmissions to allow the teams a target to home in on.

The "AHA" moment came when Bernie walked over a rise behind the fox, intently looking at the S meter of the radio. I watched as he slowly swung the antenna around towards me, looked up, and from 100 yards away, you could see the reaction!!! He excitedly ran away out of sight and after a few moments, a blue van bearing Floyd/KC5QBC, Adam/KM5N and Bernie hove into view and captured first place honors.



**The Number One Team**

Eventually, Paul/KD5IVP and Allie/KD5IVO found their way over to me for second place. Third place goes to the remainder of the teams that were hunting, who finally were talked in to the location.

So where was I? Parked in relatively plain sight (some of the hunters disputed that assertion, but I know a good ophthalmologist that can help!) in a new housing development in near Parkerville and UHL roads in DeSoto. Anyone who got within 100 yards of the fox could easily see it.

Let's do it again!!! The next foxhunt will be on Saturday, August 9th: We'll meet at Harrington Park in Duncanville (on Cockrell Hill south of US 67) before 8:45 am and the fox will go active at 9:00 am. This will be another mobile hunt, so teams are encouraged for safety. Also, bring something to drink: DON'T get dehydrated!!!

**RICK'S FOXHUNT TIP OF THE MONTH:** If at all possible, plot your bearings to the fox on a map. A map, compass and protractor are all that's required. After a few bearings, a pattern will begin to develop. Rarely will all the lines cross at the same location, but they should form a trend towards an area that you can begin to narrow down. I even go so far as to mark each line of bearing with an X marking where I took it and a number to indicate the order (in other words, the first bearing is marked "1", the second "2" and so forth. All of this helps me to keep track of how I received each bearing and assists in weeding out possible reflections.



**The Number Two Team**

## VEEP BEEPS

**Bernie McPartland  
KC5MQC**



Greetings again.

I had a couple of great article ideas, but fate stepped in and helped. So, I begin with a question. What happens when, in the torrid Texas heat your car battery decides Heaven is a better place than DFW. After all, perhaps there is a big black Hummer full of antennas and dark tinted glass to power up there...

Right Richard ?

Anyhow, did you know that when the battery dies, so does the hard wired cell phone, and the Hi-power option on your VHF. Not critical learning around South Dallas, but what if you are a few more miles away from friends ? Ponder.

Last Saturday some of this played out on me. Remember the Field Day Fiasco with the truck battery ? Well, what goes around.....

I was sitting in line at my local bank in the drive thru lane with the motor off. My transactions completed and I turned the key to leave, but only the life had left from the battery. Stalled, I employed the frowning face of the guy behind me and we pushed Old Red to the side for diagnostics. Naturally, my meter was in 'her' car and my jump cables were neatly placed that very morning back in their place in the garage.

My first thought was my cell....but its been noisy lately....got to look at that.. Next was the VHF. I'd heard people chatting, perhaps they could make a call for me. I picked up the mic, pressed PTT and watched a quickly dimming display end its life for me. Never fear, the author doesn't die...he remembered another cell he carried with him...purely by chance....or was it. The ordeal got me thinking about aux power for the radio and as of this writing I've come up with a spare battery that will at least give me 5w on the under dash VHF. It's a camcorder battery. Lots of MAh's and fairly compact, it's the perfect answer with the right connectors, coming soon.

Just something to ponder these sweaty days in the finite life of your friendly battery.  
Be safe and 73.

Bernie McPartland

## FOR SALE

Ed Jones suggested I contact the club about a tower I need to sell. My wife Alta (WA5GBX) and I are now living in Hawkins, TX. We still own our home in Duncanville and I have a 48-foot Hightower, which I need to get rid of. I am getting to the age now where I don't think I want to climb it too many more times. There is an ATB 34 triband beam on it as well as rotator, 2 mtr and 70 cm antennas. It also has the heavy duty bearing plate to support the beam. Ed says there is a gin pole that can be had to take it down. I am asking about \$150 for the lot which seems to be fair enough, so what do I need to do is get the word out to SWDARC members. Both Alta and I are past members.

Glenn Jones K5JNZ  
k5jnz@flash.net  
903-769-2048

Cushcraft R-8: 6 meter thru 40 meter vertical antenna. \$225  
AEA KT-2 electronic keyer / trainer. \$25

Larry McFarland KY5S Call me @ 214.908.6962

## July 2003 General Membership Meeting

The July 2003 General Membership meeting was called to order by President, Paul Dryer at the Windsor Park Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas with 33 members and guest present. Bob Best introduced his guest Lucas.

There were no corrections to the minutes and Johnny Roberson gave the financial report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Repeater**-Paul Dryer reported that the repeater was doing an excellent job and today that someone in Waco hit the repeater and this afternoon someone from Oklahoma. **Net Report**-Todd Houvinen reported 14 check-in last night and someone did do the CW net but he was unaware of the total. **Membership**-Nothing new to report

**Special Events**-Rick Ellis advised that 30 QSL cards were mailed from the contacts during the Lancaster Veterans Library special event station. Rick passed around the QSL cards received as well as one of the SWDCARC QSL cards mailed to the recipients. **VE Testing**-Paul Dryer reported that no test session was held. Tests were postponed awaiting the arrival of the new technical test material and it just arrived. Anyone wanting to test should contact Paul Dryer. **Field Day**-Bernie McPartland reported that Field Day went fine and all had fun. A quick vote nominated and elected Bernie as chairperson for next year. Bernie postponed his acceptance stating that health reasons could come into play. **Website**-Nothing new to report

**Special Interest Group**- Rick Ellis reported that the Fox Hunt was held Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>, however there was some technical difficulty. Five teams participated and after 2 hours no one located the transmitter. The first place team was Floyd Rogers, Bernie McPartland, and Adam Adkins. The second place team was Paul and Allie Dryer. The next mobile Fox Hunt will be on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at Harrington Park.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Country Day On the Hill/Cedar Hill**-Bernie McPartland advised that he had been unable to contact the person in charge. The event is scheduled for October and details to follow. **Bike Rally**-Dennis Musslewhite contacted Paul Dryer advising that Dr. David Ross had requested our club participate in a Bike Rally to be held on August 16 between the hours of 7am & 2pm from the Calumet Center in Oak Cliff to Joe Pool Lake. Paul Dryer will contact Dr. Ross and obtain additional details to see what would be required and see if the club wishes to participate. **Boy Scout Merit Badge**-August 9<sup>th</sup> Ben Barber will hold a district merit badge event at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. Volunteers are needed to conduct CW contacts to the scouts as part of their activities. Anyone wishing to help with the event should contact Rick Ellis (KJ5UY) via email.

**PROGRAM:** Danny Cromaz presented a power point show on the Field Day 2003 "What Really Happened" featuring many of our club members. Awards were presented to John KB5NJD and Larry for efforts in antenna set up and CW contacts; each receiving an Alinco calendar and a Kenwood Log Book was presented to Bob Best for perseverance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36PM Respectfully submitted by Danny Cromaz-W5WB-Secretary

## August 2003 Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the #1 Asian Buffet restaurant at Cedar Ridge and Wheatland in Duncanville. The following Board Members were present: Paul Dryer, Bernie McPartland, Johnny Roberson, Danny Cromaz, Richard Baker, Todd Houvinen and Rick Ellis Jr. Guests present were Drena Cromaz, Rebecca Ellis, Pat Roberson and Neal Palmquist.

The previous minutes were approved as read. The financial report was read and approved.

**Committee Reports: Special Events:** There was a discussion on coming up with a date for the club Chili Cook-off that doesn't conflict with other activities. A tentative date was set for September 27<sup>th</sup>. Other special events are forthcoming.

**Membership:** Two new members were brought before the Board and approved by vote. Welcome to the following new members:

Fred Tinsley      NX5H  
Beth Girardi      KD5YTK

**Repeater:** There has been some static experienced on the 2-meter repeater. Johnny will check to see if anything can be done or needs to be done. **VE Testing:** At the July test session, there was one candidate who did not have a Ham license when she started but walked out passing enough written and cw tests to qualify as a General Class licensee. Congratulations to Beth Girardi !

**Fox Hunt:** Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC), Bernie McPartland (KC5MQC) and Adam Adkins (KM5N) won 1st place at the last mobile fox hunt. The next foxhunt is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to have one every month on the second Saturday.

**Old Business:**

**Club Station:** There are some possibilities that the club might get equipment donated for the proposed portable club station. More to follow when we get more details.

**Country Day on the Hill:** No further discussions at this time with Cedar Hill on the possibility that the club would assist with communications.

**Red Hot Chili Pepper Bicycle Rally:** The ride is scheduled to be on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The person that contacted the club was not aware that the Dallas Amateur Radio Club was also contacted. Paul met with the chairperson @ DARC for the ride and we will

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participate along with DARC for this project.

New Business:

**General Membership Meeting Food:** It was discussed that the pizza that we got at the last meeting was well received. At the next meeting, an addition of chicken wings will also be available. Rick and Rebecca will bring the makings for salad. The cost of \$5 per person also worked out so we will continue that price. Paul mentioned that he would need some assistance to set up the tables in the meeting room at the church prior to the meeting.

**Assistance to Blind Ham:** Paul has visited a local blind Ham that needs some assistance in antenna work and shack setup. There was some discussion on our liabilities with doing so. Paul will look into our insurance coverage to see if there was any exposure to those that assist or to the Club.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Danny Cromaz-W5WB-Secretary

## **BPL IS "SPECTRUM POLLUTION," ARRL PRESIDENT SAYS**

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--if widely deployed--would represent "spectrum pollution" on a level that is "difficult to imagine." Haynie reacted after seeing videotape and early data from recent ARRL field studies in four states where BPL is undergoing testing. "BPL is the most crucial issue facing Amateur Radio and the one that has the most devastating potential," Haynie said. In terms of interference potential on HF and low-VHF frequencies, "nothing is on the same scale as BPL."

A form of power line carrier (PLC) technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses. Because it uses frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz, BPL could affect HF and low-VHF amateur allocations wherever it's deployed. BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets, and one reportedly is already offering the service. FCC rules already allow BPL, although industry proponents want the FCC to relax radiation limits. It's feared such a change could exacerbate BPL's interference potential.

During the ARRL forum at the West Gulf Division Convention (Austin Summerfest 2003) August 1-2 in Austin, Texas, Haynie previewed a short video highlighting a recent tour of BPL field trial sites by ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. In late July, Hare traveled to BPL trial communities in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York to take measurements over significant parts of the HF spectrum and initial readings at low-VHF. Driving a specially equipped vehicle loaded with radio gear and measurement devices, Hare said he didn't need to look long to find BPL interference. "The signals were all over," he said. "The interference found ranged from moderate to extremely strong." The video shows the S meter of an HF transceiver holding steady in excess of S9 as the speaker emits a crackling din, which one observer described as sounding like a Geiger counter. Only the very strongest amateur signals broke through on 20 and 15 meters. Hare noted, however, that the field strengths of the various systems all were within FCC Part 15 limits for power line carrier (PLC) devices. Each BPL system exhibited a unique sound depending upon the modulation scheme it used. While in most cases it sounded like static or pulse noise, in one city warbling "birdies" blanketed the bands at closely spaced intervals.

The ARRL already has filed a 120-page package of text and technical exhibits in response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry in late May. The League plans to file reply comments--responses to comments already filed--by the recently extended August 20 FCC deadline. Haynie has been doing a bit of traveling of his own, including more than two weeks in Washington so far this year dealing with the FCC and with members of Congress on BPL and other Amateur Radio-related issues. Countering critics who suggest that the League is only using BPL as a fund-raising ploy, Haynie said the League would not be putting as much effort into attempting to quantify the BPL threat and to put a face on it if it weren't real. "The BPL industry and their associations have told the FCC and the world that there is no interference potential from BPL systems," Haynie said "Anyone seeing these BPL signals for megahertz after megahertz for miles along a power line should be convinced that BPL--even operating at the present FCC limits--poses a serious threat to all HF and low-VHF communications."

More information is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/07/08/1/>

Additional information and video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>.

*Thanks to the ARRL and the ARRL Letter for this article.*