



The Listening Post



Voice of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

June 2004

In this Issue...

Field Day 2004
Page 1

82 is Back!
Page 2

BLP and you
Page 2

Participation Contest
for 2004
Page 4

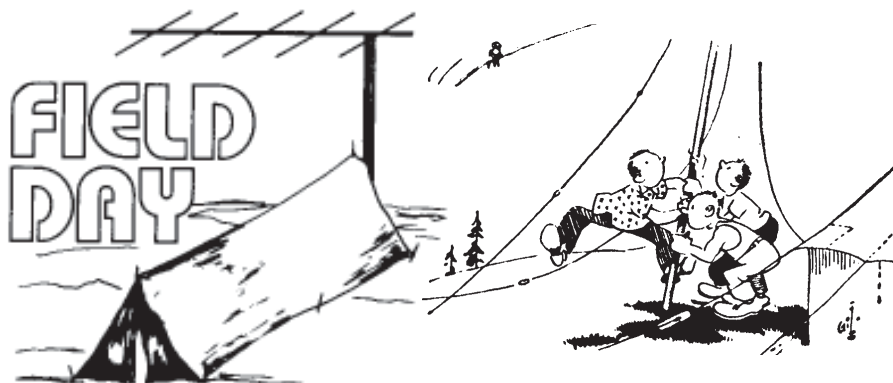
Regular Features

From the President
Page 4

VE News
Page 5

Comments for
the Net...
Page 6

ARRL News



Field Day 2004 will be held June 26-27, 2004.

The location is at Ogden Park site #2, the same place as last year. Dinner will be provided by the club around 6:00 PM on Saturday night.

To get there: From Market Street turn west onto Gordon Road and go 0.4 miles to Ogden Park Drive (there is a Kangaroo service station on the left). Turn right onto Ogden Park Drive and go 0.6 miles. Picnic Shelter #2 is on the right.

Field Day operations officially begin at 2PM on Saturday, and setup will begin at 10AM. HELP erecting the wire antennas and beam is needed. Field Day is over on Sunday at 2PM. There will be the capability to operate on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters phone or cw. Band conditions will determine which bands are used.

While Field Day is not a contest as such, it is a great way to demonstrate and improve our operating capabilities in a portable environment in an emergency. Please support your club and amateur radio by coming out and operating.

If you know when you want to operate, contact Glen Day:

Email: gday@ec.rr.com

Home phone: 256-8358

82 is Back on the Air!

This is great news to all of us. The 82 repeater plays an important part in Amateur Radio's role in this region, and is the wide-area coverage machine. We have missed it, and are thankful to the Wilmington VHF group for all the work they have done. This is especially noteworthy as we start Hurricane Season.

The following details have been reported by Tom Jacobs / KD4BFQ:

The 146.82 (K4GMP) repeater was returned to service last Monday (5/24/4). The people most involved in relocating the machine were Jerry (K4GMP) and Maurice (N4CAI).

What follows are some statistics, provided by Jerry, about the current configuration of the Wilmington VHF associations equipment at the Winnabow tower. All elevations are to the base of the antenna. (The antennas are 24 feet long.)

The new DB 224 antennas were installed along with new Andrews 1/2" Heliac to connect the antennas to the 146.820 cabinet.

The 146.220 (receive) antenna is at the 1700 foot level or 170' lower than before. The 146.820 (transmit) antenna is at the 1510 foot level or 240' lower than before. The orientation of the antennas have been rotated from about 330 to 030 degrees.

The 444.850 antenna remained at the 1700' level.

Both the VHF 146.820 and the UHF 444.850 cabinets are located at the 1700' level mounted on adjacent tower legs.

The Link is operational but somewhat limited. A new antenna and feedline will be installed later.

BPL - Broadband over Power Lines

One hears about delivering internet over powerlines and the problems with the technology. If you have not been following the story, you should be. This is yet another thing that could change Amateur Radio forever, if not shutdown HF use altogether. Ever had to put up with a bad street light, and the spectrum blanking noise it gives off each time it re-lights? Powerlines make great antennas, but only for noise transmission.

Fellow Amateurs around the world have been dealing with this problem. What follows are some ARRL articles about BPL. Education and action by all of us is needed.

Thanks to many, the FCC has extended the deadline to file reply comments in its broadband over power line (BPL) proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, from Tuesday, June 1, to Tuesday, June 22. This almost never happens.

CQ Magazine has good information, some by NC's own Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. His articles and more can be found at www.cq-vhf.com/, and is a good place to start. Take a look at the article "Talking Points: at www.cq-vhf.com/BPL%20Talking%20Points.html .

Other places to look is the IEEE site, www.ieeeusa.org/releases/2004/051004pr.html and GoBPL - The BPL Website at www.gobpl.com.

The ARRL also has information on their web site, www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/
Selected articles follow:

Why Amateur Radio Is Concerned about Its Deployment

Radio amateurs are not opposed to broadband services. On the contrary, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However, there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio spectrum as Broadband over Power Line (BPL) does. These include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and wireless broadband. The ARRL--The National Association for Amateur Radio--is supportive of broadband access for all Americans; however, it opposes the use of BPL as a solution to achieving this goal.

BPL is "Spectrum Pollution," ARRL President Says

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 6, 2003--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.

From the President

Hi Everybody,

Today I was talking with Shirley down at Com Inc and we were talking about The Dayton Hamvention. As many of you know I have been going to that hamfest for many years (26). I really enjoy the weekend and I will continue to go as long as I am able. Over the past few years attendance has been down but this year according to figures that were mentioned at the closing, attendance was up 350 over last year.

While many of you may not want to make the trip to Dayton, hamfest attendance in general has been declining over the past few years and some hamfests have cease to exist (Gathersburg, MD.). I believe the reason for this is the internet. Perhaps it is easier to purchase something over the electronic highway.

I think the real fun is the fellowship one gets when you get up at zero dark thirty and drive several hours to get there. Breakfast at Mickey D's or La Hardeys and then on to the fair-grounds or wherever. Hamfests have been a part of the amateur radio history. I now go to hamfests to see old friends and not necessarily to purchase something. I will get off the soap-box but I would like to suggest that each of us owe the hobby something, support the local hamfests in the area and go to these affairs. With the number of hamfests within 200 miles each of us could well afford the expense.

Thanks for your time.

73

ED / W4EBR

COMING HAMFESTS

JUNE

5	Dixie Classic	Winston-Salem, NC
6	Old Virginia Hams	Manassas, Va.
12	Franklin	Franklin, Va.

JULY

3	Fire Cracker Hamfest	Salisbury, NC
17	Cary Hamfest	Cary, NC

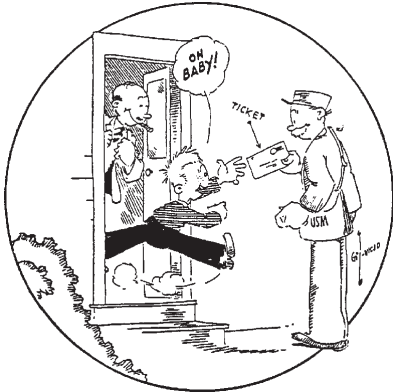
AUGUST

1	54th Winchester Hamfest	Berryville, Va.
14	CFARS	Fayetteville, NC

SEPTEMBER

4 & 5	Shelby	Shelby, NC
18 & 19	Virginia Beach	Virginia Beach, Va.

VE News



The next test session is Saturday, 12 June at UNCW Morton Hall, second floor. The testing will begin at 10:00am.

Jack and Jeff thank all the VE's who have worked to make the club's testing a success.

Come Join many of the group at the K&W for breakfast at 8am.

VE News from the ARRL:

20th Anniversary of the ARRL's VEC program

July 21, 2004, marks the 20th Anniversary of the ARRL's VEC program. A July QST article is in the works to reflect on this momentous occasion. All ARRL VEs are to be congratulated on helping us continue to be the premier VEC program. More on this occasion will be reported as the anniversary approaches.

FCC Form 605 is History

FCC recently announced that they will stop accepting "FCC Form 605" applications on pre-December 2003 forms--these are forms that non-examinees mail directly to FCC.

This FCC announcement has nothing to do with "NCVEC Form 605" used by VEs at test sessions, or NCVEC forms submitted directly to VECs!

VEs and VE test Sessions are unaffected! SSNs can still be written on NCVEC Form 605 at test sessions and will still result in automatic CORES registration.

For applicants doing business with FCC by mail, this will mean that amateurs without an FRN who send FCC an application for renewal, address or other changes by mail can no longer use the simple March 2001 form that allowed them to write an SSN in box 9a on that earlier form to accomplish automatic registration. Under the new form situation, filing an FCC Form 160 by mail, waiting for FCC to mail back an FRN, and then filing FCC Form 605 would be required.

Yes, this all can be done simply, via the internet at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> (step 1 is CORES/Call Sign Registration, then step 2 is ONLINE FILING).

General Element Question Pool Update 1 July

Once again, we have an impending pool update that will take effect on July 1st. This year it is the General Element 3 pool that will change as of 12:01 am local time, July 1, 2004.

FCC Proposes Several Rules Change - These Do Not Include Morse Code Issues or License Restructuring

FCC announced that they are proposing several changes to the amateur rules. These do not include, however, the substantive changes in license requirements -- either Morse code or restructuring -- that are currently being widely discussed.

There are a few matters that could directly affect the VE community. These include:

- o eliminate §97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times.
- o add to §97.505(a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element.
- o eliminate the requirement for Volunteer Examiner Coordinators to submit or forward applications from test sessions within 10 days.

The remaining affect would be residual changes to pool questions as necessary.

Interested amateurs are invited to submit comments on the this NPRM by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30.

Comments for the Net...



A lot has happened in the last year and a half. Bev and I spent as much of that time in Virginia with my Dad. Though Spinal Stenosis was taking it's toll, his mind was clear and he was a joy to be with. This sadly came to an end a month ago. In our culture, death and dying is not something we talk about much. For your own sake, and those you love... become as knowledgeable as you can on the subject. If you wait too long, others will make the decisions for you. They may not be the decisions you want.

In the past, the newsletter was designed to be printed and mailed. That limited the number of

Continued on Page 7...

Nets and Meetings:*(Please Note: Some may be subject to change.)*

Every Monday **ACARC Net, 9pm - 147.180**
 Every Wednesday ARES Net, 8pm - 146.670
 Monday - Friday Nut Net, 7:30am - 147.180



June 12 **VE Test Session**, UNCW Morton Hall at 10am (Breakfast 8 am at K&W)

15 **ACARC Dinner Meeting**, Smithfield Barbecue on 17th and College Road
 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting at 7:30 pm

July 15 **ACARC Meeting**, Cameron Hall, Room 123, UNCW
 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting at 7:30 pm

2004 Contests*(For more information, please see QST, June 2003, page xx.)*

June 12 - 14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

19 Kid's Day

July 10 - 11 IARU HF World Championships

2004 Special Events:

June 26-27th Field Day 2004, Ogden - New Hanover County Park
 Dinner at 6:00pm Saturday the 26th.
 See Page One for more details.

Comments for the Net... from Page 6

pages and use of photos. With electronic distribution, those limitations are gone. The type size is larger and the column format is gone. This one is eight pages long. The next issue will be complete with Field Day coverage and more.

The BPL issue is one we do need to watch, but copyright laws prevent reprinting much of the information in the newsletter. Sounds like a topic for a future meeting. How about APRS? Do you think it would be a good thing to implement here?

What do you think? This is your newsletter. Thoughts and comments on the format change are welcome. Anyone who wants to submit an article, send it my way.

tnx es 73 de KE4LKB

ACARC
Participation Contest for 2004

Attention all club members!!!

Here are the rules and point assignments for the ACARC Participation Contest for 2004. The contest starts on January 1st, 2004 (those with dues paid already have a jump into the contest)! The first event of the year will be the ACARC Ragchew Net on Monday January 5th, 2004 starting at 9:00 pm on 147.180 Mhz. Please check-in to the net to receive your first 2 points of the year! If you would like to serve as Net Control for the net for additional points, you must contact the Net Control Coordinator, AG4PA, prior to the start of the net (first come first serve - so sign up soon)!

http://ac4rc.org/Contest2004/contest_2004.htm



Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club
June 2004 Newsletter



Officers and Committee Chairs for 2004

President: Ed Redington / W4EBR

Vice-President: Glen Day / AG4NO

Secretary: Dave Williams / KG4CQS

Treasurer: Larry Modlin / KG4SYQ

Net Control Coordinator: Bill Usher / AG4PA

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Jolly / KE4LKB

VE Testing: Jeff Jolly / KE4LKB
Jack Jacobs / WD4OIN

Special Events Planning: Tom Jacobs / KD4BFQ

Public Affairs: Bill Morine / N2COP

Social Events Planning: *Position Open*

www.ac4rc.org



Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 4044
Wilmington NC 28406

FIRST CLASS MAIL