



# TARC Bulletin



W5LM Repeaters:

146.820- MHz (PL 123.0) — 444.700 MHz (PL 123.0)

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## Ham Expo Is May 22—Really!

Despite what last month's Bulletin said, and after additional starts and stops, Ham Expo really has a date for spring—it is May 22. on May 21). Mark your calendar now. We will need your help soon. — WA5EQQ

We had many complications and missed communications in arriving at this date. I apologize to everyone who was confused by the "dancing date." It jumped around. It confused—and that is unfortunate. However, we are now getting mostly positive comments from vendors and from attendees, which is what we want.

So, here we go with a date of May 22 (setup



May 22  
Bell County Expo Center

## Slow-scan and ATV Nets Change Skeds

Attention Slow-scan TV enthusiasts. Leon K5ZZM from Waco advises that the Central Texas Slow-Scan and ATV Nets have changed their group net schedules as follows:

MMSSTV— Sundays, 8-10 p.m., and Monday-Thursday, 9-10 p.m.

DIGTRX— Fridays and Saturdays, 9-10 p.m.

Everyone is invited to check in and send a picture or two whenever you can. They hold the nets all week so you can pick the session you want and spend the time you have available. They hope to see you on one of the evening nets on 147.240 R tone 97.4.

### At Our Next Meeting

Our program on March 4 will feature Darwin Geiselbrecht K5DOA of Gatesville with a program on "Boat Anchors We Know and Love." He will have show-and-tell from his collection of vintage ham gear. We'll also have a door prize and lots of fun. We meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Western Hills Church of Christ in Temple. Come enjoy the refreshments and fellowship.

### In this issue

Ham Expo Is May 22 — Slow-Scan ATV Nets — At Our Next Meeting	1
FCC Okays BPL Proposal — Key Clicks	2
TARC Breakfast — Voting Results — New Ham License? — Freqs to Monitor — New Repeater	3
Regular Meeting Info	4

## FCC Okays BPL Proposal

via ARRL Letter, February 13, 2004

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted nearly 5200 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in emission limits for unlicensed Part 15 devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that attended the February 12 FCC open meeting in Washington later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference," Sumner said, "but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM:

\* Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted.

\* Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands."

\* Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database that would include the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.

\* Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting," although he conceded that BPL has "a long way to go." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC has posted additional information, including a public notice <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-243879A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243879A1.doc)> on its Web site. The Commission is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after publication.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.



### KEY CLICKS FROM THE ARMADILLO

...**Ham Expo** has a date. The spring *Expo* will be **May 22** (setup on 21). Spread the word and watch for details.

...**There was** a GREAT turnout for the February meeting, and a terrific program on DXpeditioning by **John McColly, W5RQ** of Georgetown.

...**Darwin Geiselbrecht K5DOA** of Gatesville will present a program on "**Boat Anchors We Know and Love.**" He will have show-and-tell from his collection of vintage ham gear. A fun program.

..."If you look on the ARRL website you will see that there is not a hamfest scheduled on the week after Dayton anywhere in the country. So, once again *Expo* is a '**FIRST.**' Good Luck...It will take more than a date change to keep me away from *Expo*. Keep up the hard work, I appreciate it." - **Henry Allen W5BUG**

...**Remember the Net** — Mondays at 7:00 p.m. on 146.820- MHz (PL 123.0).

...**See you** at the club meeting on March 4.

AMATEUR RADIO—  
A National Resource!

**FREOS TO MONITOR****TARC VHF Repeater**

146.820 PL 123.0

**TARC UHF Repeater**

444.700 PL 123.0

**Texas ARES Net**(Monday nights, 7:30) on  
3.873 kHz**Texas ARES**

(During emergencies) 7.285

**Williamson County ARES**

145.130 PL 162.2

**McLennan County ARES***(Bakers Dozen)* 145.150 PL  
123.0**TARC BREAKFAST**

We have reserved the North section of **Golden Corral** for the third Saturday of each month, at

9 a.m. Our next TARC Breakfast will be **March 20** at 9:00 a.m. It is a Dutch Treat activity. Bring your wallet, an appetite, and come **enjoy!**

**Bell County EOC Repeater Online**

It looks like the new 147.140, plus offset, tone 123.0 W5BEC repeater is now operational on the KCEN-TV6 tower.

Gerald N5ZXJ, Bell County ARES Coordinator, should be able to fill you in on the details. Feel free to give it a try.

It should have terrific performance and wide-area coverage from its lofty perch. The Cen-Tex area continues to be repeater prosperous.

**Important Votes Taken At February Meeting**

*Submitted by Steve Bosshard, NU5D, TARC Secretary*

A special election was held during the February club meeting to fill the unexpired term of Jim Shepherd, W5RYV, as a member of TARC's board. Jim found it necessary to resign for personal reasons. The board reluctantly accepted the resignation at its Jan. 29 meeting.

In accordance with the bylaws, nominations were accepted from the floor. The nominees were Bill Killebrew, WD5ELK; Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ; Richard Prewitt, KD5OGF; and Eddie Huntsman, KD5UBP.

The first ballot failed to produce a winner with a majority of votes. A runoff ballot between WD5ELK and

KD5OGF elected the latter candidate. Richard Prewitt, KD5OGF, a previous club treasurer, took office upon election.

In other voting, an amendment to the club's bylaws was up for approval by members. The section amended did say

8.02 The President has singular authority to authorize expenditures and make payments of \$250 or less on his own authority. Amounts beyond this level must be approved by the Board of Directors or brought to the membership for a vote.

Because the amendment was approved, that section

now reads as follows:

8.02 The President has singular authority to authorize expenditures and make payments of \$250 or less on his own authority. Amounts beyond this level must be approved by the Board of Directors.

The amendment took effect immediately upon approval.

**Buy, Sell & Swap**

Send your list of items for sale or trade to TARC Bulletin Swap, P.O. Box 616, Temple, TX 76503. Or e-mail to [wa5eqq@arrl.net](mailto:wa5eqq@arrl.net)

I have the following eqpt for sale, all in great shape from a smoke-free environment:  
—AMP SUPPLY LK500NT (no tune) 2-3-500Z desktop HF amp, \$875.00;  
—AMP SUPPLY LK450ZC 1-3-500Z desktop HF amp, \$650.00;  
—MFJ-986 Differential-T Tuner, 3KW roller inductor tuner, \$175.00;  
—KENWOOD 440SAT with extra SSB & CW filters, hand mike, service manual, \$500.00;  
—CLASSIC 33 element beam, \$185.00;  
—CDE HAM Rotator, \$195.00;  
Contact Ron AA5RT (near WACO) 254-857-3166.

**WANTED:** Outboard 5-band audio equalizer, line-in/line-out, 12VDC or 120VAC. Tom KG5II, 254-773-6178.

**ARRL Proposes New Entry-Level License**

*via ARRL Letter, Jan, 20, 2004*

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League will propose consolidating current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement—now 5 WPM—only for the highest class.

The ARRL Board approved the plan during its Annual Meeting.... The proposals...are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the International Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago....

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN....

The entry-level license—being called "Novice" for now—would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and 50

*(Continued on page 4)*

# TARC Bulletin

Temple Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 616  
Temple, TX 76503

Temple Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Church of Christ in Western Hills, 210 N. General Bruce Dr., in Temple—across I-35 from La Quinta Motel. Refreshments are served, and guests are invited and welcome!

**First Class Mail**

Address Label

**TARC BULLETIN – MARCH 2004 – PAGE 4**

*(Continued from page 3)*

W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the plan, current Novice licensees...would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit), and Generals would be merged into a new General license that would not require a Morse exam. Current Tech and Tech Plus licensees would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General exam would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board saw no reason to change Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM code exam, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of ac-

complishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus, and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

Sumner said the plan allows new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice reformatting" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/), for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.