

# Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



# Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

May, 2004

## Winston Hamfest June 5

### Congratulations to:

#### Wally Bernath, K4UAS

Wally recently completed seventy, yes 70 years, as an ARRL member! In May, 1994 Wally was featured in QST for 60 years of service to Amateur Radio. Wally is a published author in the ham radio press with a number of articles to his credit. He has DXCC many times over and is listed in the DXCC Honor Roll. On 160 meters he is a Top Band DXCC Award Achiever. The list goes on-and-on. Wally served as president of our club in 1965. Congratulations Wally!



A smiling Melissa, W4RXG at the FARC Banquet in 2003..

Wally Bernath, K4UAS at the Shelby Hamfest in 2000.



#### Melissa Hall, Now W4RXG, ex-KD4RGB

Melissa recently applied for, and has now received her father's call. Melissa has served as a past president of FARC. Beacham Leonard, her father, passed away last year and is dearly missed. Beacham was active in so many areas of Amateur Radio is hard to know where to start the list. He was among the first to be involved in repeaters and was also among the first to set up digi-peaters. He was involved in early TV broadcasting in North Carolina.

Melissa will get an opportunity to give her "new" call a workout at Dayton Hamfest next week.

### License Exams

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club continues to offer license exam sessions on the FIRST Saturday of EVERY month (includes holidays!) at the American Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive, in Winston Salem. This is across the parking lot from the Arts Council Theater ("Little Theater"). Examinees need: Photo ID, ORIGINAL and COPY of all documents (License, CSCEs, anything else submitted for exam credit), Social Security Number, and fee of \$12. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Exams begin at 9:00. Please arrive before 9:00 because if you aren't there we might leave!

### Put BPL Proceeding On Ice for Further Interference Evaluation, ARRL Says

NEWINGTON, CT, May 5, 2004--Calling broadband over power line (BPL) deployment on HF "a mistake, purely and simply," the ARRL asked the FCC to put its BPL proceeding on hold to allow more thorough research of its interference potential to licensed radio services. In [comments](#) filed May 3 in response to the FCC's February 23 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in ET Docket 03-47, the League also called on the FCC to apply "considerably more conservative radiated emission limits" to BPL than those applying to "normal" Part 15 devices. Five technical exhibits, including an ARRL-commissioned [independent study](#) at BPL trial areas and [additional research](#) accompanied the League's comments.

"The Commission cannot be in such a hurry to deploy BPL as a potentially competitive broadband delivery mechanism that it must sweep under the rug the mounting evidence that BPL is a significant source of interference to licensed radio services and is not in the public interest," the ARRL declared. The League was among more than 1000 individuals and entities commenting in the proceeding by the May 3 deadline. Reply comments are due Tuesday, June 1. On the eve of the comment deadline, the FCC denied several requests--including one from the ARRL--to extend the comment period.

The League reiterated its assertion that the BPL proceeding "constitutes a blind rush to judgment" for no apparent reason other than to foster broadband competition. And it took the FCC to task for its willingness to balance BPL's presumed benefits against the potential of harmful interference. "*The principal obligation of the Commission in permitting unlicensed devices or systems is to establish a radiated emission level that is sufficiently low that by their operation they will predictably not interfere with licensed radio services,*" the ARRL emphasized.

*Continued at top of the next page*

### Club Meeting, Monday, May 10, 2004

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 690 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to "hob-nob" with your fellow hams. The meeting this month will be a program by Dale Merisch, WB9SZL about planned and soon to be implemented upgrades to the repeater systems.

"Indeed, in this proceeding, all indications are that the Commission simply does not want to hear the bad news, only the good, about BPL," the League said. "The Chairman has self-described himself as a 'cheerleader' for the technology." The League said it wanted the opportunity to review the lengthy National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Part 1 BPL study released April 27 (see "[NTIA Study Documents Radio Interference from BPL](#)").

The ARRL told the FCC that applying existing radiated emission limits to so-called "access BPL" systems is inappropriate. "Those levels are far too high and were designed to address the interference of point source radiators," the League said. "It is obvious that access BPL systems are distributive, line-source radiators" and the FCC should apply a limit "sufficiently low as to prevent interference to mobile stations" that might operate in a BPL-served neighborhood. The ARRL suggested that 0 dBuV/m at the antenna measured at 10 meters (approximately 39.4 feet) from the power line would be an "acceptable" radiated emission level.

The League proposed amending Part 15 rules (§15.109) to require BPL systems to incorporate adaptive interference resolution techniques adequate to cause them to cease operation within an hour following a report of harmful interference to an FCC licensee's station. The BPL system then couldn't resume operation within one kilometer

**Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc** is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 690 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes inaccurately and wrongly called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-723-7388; or visit our web site at [www.w4nc.com](http://www.w4nc.com). Club email is to [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com).

Officers for 2004 are:

President: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ  
[n4ioz@triad.rr.com](mailto:n4ioz@triad.rr.com)

Vice-President: Don Edwards, WS4NC  
[ws4nc@arrl.net](mailto:ws4nc@arrl.net)

Secretary: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI  
[kg4eci@webtv.net](mailto:kg4eci@webtv.net)

Treasurer: Don Donadio, KT4KV  
[kt4kv@bellsouth.net](mailto:kt4kv@bellsouth.net)

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC  
[ws4nc@arrl.net](mailto:ws4nc@arrl.net)

To join our list server send a blank email to  
[w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

All content is Copyright 2004 by Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc, unless otherwise noted. Permission is given to reproduce for non-commercial purposes provided proper credit is given. If you would like to help support the newsletter with an ad, please contact Don Edwards (email: [wb4kqn@triad.rr.com](mailto:wb4kqn@triad.rr.com)). Ad deadlines are 7 days before the end of the month. Rates are \$50 for 12 months. *Cheap!*

We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many local clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

(approximately 0.62 mile) of the complainant's station "unless and until the harmful interference is resolved." The ARRL also would require BPL systems to supply detailed information on their systems to a public Web-based database.

The League says the FCC's *NPRM* offers no support for its conclusion that interference to licensed services would be minimal, and it noted that amateur licensees have filed more than two dozen BPL interference complaints with the FCC.

"Some of these interference problems have persisted, notwithstanding the good faith efforts of some BPL service providers to resolve the problems," the ARRL said. In other cases, the complaints are simply ignored. None has been adjudicated by the Commission, as far as the ARRL can tell."

Instead, the League said, amateurs' BPL complaints "remain under wraps" in the Office of Engineering and Technology instead of being handled by the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, which typically deals with power line noise complaints from radio amateurs.

"Mere mitigation" of interference is not sufficient, the ARRL said. "It is the absolute obligation of the operator of a Part 15 device or system to prevent interference," the League's comment said, pointing out that the FCC's *NPRM* does not require interference resolution. "It only requires some unspecified 'mitigation,' and the determination of what level of mitigation is sufficient is apparently left to the subjective evaluation of the BPL provider."

"The interference to fixed amateur stations located in residences in normal geographic proximity to overhead power lines will be devastating and will preclude Amateur Radio communications," the League said, calling the mitigation techniques the FCC has proposed "too little, too late to avoid widespread interference."

Referring to its main BPL study, the League said measurements at one site within a BPL test system in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, "exceeded FCC Part 15 limits by up to 20 dB or more. At another test site in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, where another technology has been deployed, the study concluded that the BPL signals, while apparently within Part 15 limits, "would have interfered seriously with reception of Amateur Radio signals."

The ARRL contends that the FCC's "overly aggressive timetable" to proceed with BPL systems will effectively preclude the development of cooperative interference avoidance and resolution mechanisms.

"This proceeding should be placed on hold for a year in order to work out appropriate interference avoidance and resolution standards," the League concluded.

Other entities filing comments in the proceeding included [AMSAT-NA](#), the [North American Shortwave Association](#), and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International Inc (APCO) and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), which filed [joint comments](#).

*From the ARRL*

## Minutes

### Club Meeting, March, 2004

The monthly meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club was held Monday, March 8 at the Red Cross chapter house in Winston- Salem. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Tom Gallagher N4IOZ. (The meeting was opened with introductions by all in attendance.)

Program: Presentation of video from Hurricane Floyd and the damage to Oak Island, NC by Don Edwards WS4NC.

(A short break was called at 8:20, after which the business portion ensued.)

Technical: All three FARC repeaters remain operational.

Treasury: The FARC remains fiscally sound.

Education: Tom Gallagher N4IOZ reports that the FARC will begin amateur license testing sessions at the Red Cross chapter house the first Saturday of every month starting April 2004.

Contest: Henry Heidtmann W2DZO reports excellent participation in the FARC-sponsored NC QSO party (2004).

No new business from other committees.

A motion was made, and the meeting so adjourned, at 8:40.

*Respectfully submitted for approval,  
Dan O'Leary KG4ECI  
F.A.R.C. Secretary  
(2001, '02, '03, '04)*

## Upcoming Hamfests

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>May 15</b> | Roanoke ARS Swapfest, WILLIAMSTON, NC      |
| <b>May 29</b> | DurHAMfest, DURHAM, NC                     |
| <b>June 5</b> | Winston Classic Hamfest, WINSTON-SALEM, NC |

## The Newsletter Hamfest:

I guess everybody has everything they want and have nothing for sale since I have no items this month.

## 2004 NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Well it's over. Lots of participation. Awards will be announced at Dayton Hamfest and will be in June's newsletter.

## And in other news . . .

### Want to hear a Ham Radio Song?

Type the following into your internet browser:

Http://www.acidplanet.com/components/embedfile.asp?PID=250466&T=4999

It's called QSB by Hinesight.

## North Carolina ARRL Section News

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC: K4ITL. BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W. ACC: N4JCK.

This is a busy time for regulatory matters. Comment deadlines for two FCC matters are rapidly approaching. Comments on the RM-10867 petition, ARRL's license restructuring proposals are due by Friday, April 23rd. The FCC has not issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on license restructuring yet, but is seeking initial comments on this and related proposals. Comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ET Docket 03-104 (Broadband over Power Lines) are due on Monday, May 3rd. I hear lots of amateurs in the section talking about these two proposals, but the only real way to have some say in what ultimately happens is to file thoughtful, considered and factual comments to the FCC.

The FCC also has just released a wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rulemaking WTDocket 04-140 covering many different aspects of the Amateur Radio Service rules. It consists of many smaller items and it's not generally as controversial as the first two proposals, but still worth a look. The comment deadline for this proposal is Monday, June 15th.

This year for my "Field Day Marathon" I am planning to start in the northeast corner of the state, and will focus on Areas 1, 2 and 3. If you're in that part of the state, please send me information about your group's Field Day plans so I can try to visit.

With hurricane season upon us soon, it's a good idea to check a few things to make sure you are ready for whatever happens.

1) Make sure you are personally prepared to deal with a disaster - if you aren't, then it is unlikely you will be able to help us out with communications. I have some personal disaster preparedness information on [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org), and there are other good sources of this information listed there. Also try [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

2) Make sure any equipment you might use during a disaster is in good working order. Make sure your radios are still working and you know how to use them. Crank your generators regularly, not just on Field Day.

3) Make sure you practice and train with your ARES group regularly. If you only show up for actual disasters, you won't be of much help. Professional athletes practice at least weekly, sometimes daily; not because they don't know the game, but because teamwork and performance are maintained only with consistent practice. Hams who only pass traffic once a year won't be efficient at it if they have to do it on short notice. Work with your team regularly, and it will show!

Everyone has something to contribute; some of us are good at putting up portable towers, others are good at operating, and others still are good at gathering supplies. Find out where you fit and work with the team.

Hamfests: Saturday, May 15: Williamston NC (sponsored by Roanoke ARS); same day in Winterville NC will be an Antique Radio Show and Sale (sponsored by East Carolina Antique Radio Club). Saturday, May 29: Durhamfest. I expect to be at the Dayton Hamvention the weekend of the 15th and therefore will miss the first two, but I am planning to be at the Durhamfest.

March Traffic: W4EAT 5638 (BPL), W4DAC 1186 (BPL), W4UEF 348, K4IWW 273, W0UCE209, AA4YW 196, K4RLD 173, WD4LSS 151, K7UGT 108, KE4JHJ 89, KF4OCU 80, W3HL79, WA4OBR 78, AD4XV 68, W4LN 39, KG4OQA 35, KE4AHC 32, K4BMH 19, WA4SRD 17, W4IRE 14, AG4ZB 13.

March PSHR: K4RLD 175, K7UGT 170, W4EAT 130, K4IWW 120, AD4XV 120, W4DAC 110, KE4JHJ 110, WD4LSS 101, W0UCE 100, K4BMH 97, KG4OQA 89, W4LN 89, KF4OCU 85, AA4YW 80, N4JBP72.

*ARRL North Carolina Section Manager  
John M. C Covington, W4CC  
[w4cc@arrl.org](mailto:w4cc@arrl.org)*

