



Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

October, 2004

Progress Energy Dismantles BPL Trial Equipment

Progress Energy is dismantling the BPL hardware used in their Phase II trial in Wake County south of Raleigh. Hank Montgomery K4HM rode by the James Slaughter Road site that fed the Woodchase neighborhood on the north side of Fuquay-Varina on Friday, September 30, and reported that "the hardware is off the poles." Progress Energy engineer Bill Godwin confirmed that the company was taking the system down, and said that the hurricane recovery effort may have slowed that job by pulling crews out of the area.

The power company is not bowing to pressure from ham radio in ending the trial, at least not officially. In a company memo and reports to the press, spokesmen have said that the trial reached its predetermined end, and the company considered it to be successful. Still, they have no specific plans to go forward with a full roll out.

The FCC investigated a complaint by Wake County ARES EC Tom Brown N4TAB (one of many complaints) in late June, and reached the conclusion that most of the signals generated by the trial BPL system did not create harmful interference. Brown responded by filing an additional complaint on Thursday, September 29 (<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/09/30/2/?nc=1>), in which he says that he recently repeated and expanded on his initial tests and found substantial interference where the FCC said there was little or none. Brown demanded that the system be shut down as required by FCC rules. It turns out that the system was already being dismantled as he filed his complaint.

I noted that while the FCC told Progress Energy to reduce the strength of some weak signals that bled into the 10 meter band in the Woodchase area, the FCC completely missed strong signals that sat on the top of the 20 meter band at Holland Meadows. When that information reached Progress Energy (for the 4th or 5th time - it was included in several follow-up complaints filed with the FCC and copied to Progress Energy), their engineers asked vendor Amperion to clear it up. Amperion did - they moved the BPL signal block on the offending power line up the band a bit. The result: instead of having the lower end of the block sit full-strength on 20 meters, the upper end covered the bottom 100 kHz of the 15 meter band. That

Continued at the top of next column

problem demonstrated the difficulty that Amperion had controlling the spectrum used for its BPL signals, and was not fixed before the system shut down.

Ham radio complaints got under the skin of at least one Progress Energy BPL project leader. At the United Power Line Council's recent BPL seminar, Matt Oja told the group that the company initially began working with area hams, but the hams kept "raising the bar" until Progress Energy "put it's foot down," leading to ham's complaints to the FCC. More on that story at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/09/29/4/?nc=1>.

About 40 BPL trials continue across the US, with at least two full commercial roll outs in their early stages. The PR battle continues unabated. In the early days, the BPL industry claimed that their was no interference. When that claim was proved wrong, they shut up for a short time. Now the cry is "the problem is fixed."

It is being fixed. The equipment vendors are making improvements, and there's no reason to expect the progress to stop. But observations so far mostly find that the changes are inadequate, and the industry is just playing word games to demonstrate that hams will never stop complaining, no matter what.

73, Gary KN4AQ

Nominating Committee Report

These names were presented at the September meeting. No nominations were made from the floor. The officers for 2005 were accepted by acclamation and are:

President: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ

Vice President: Melissa Hall, W4RXG

Treasurer: Henry Heidtman, W2DZO

Secretary: Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP

Respectfully submitted:

*Melissa Leonard Hall, W4RXG
Chairman, 2004 Nominating Committee*

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!

Club Meeting, Monday, October 11, 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 program is TBD.

September Club Meeting

Another great turnout at our September, 2004 membership meeting! Checked-in were Dan, KG4ECI; Don, WS4NC; Brad, K4BLR; John, N4JP; Mike; WA6KWW; Larry, WD4LXC; Woody, KF4PLQ; Terry, KC8OEX; Van, KC4WSK; Tim, AG4RZ; Gene, WB4MSG; Henry, W2DZO; Benny (REACT); Henry, KE4CSO; Carl, N4PAA; Dick, W4UW; Cedric, WB4ZWS; Don, KT4KT; John, N0KTY; Melissa, W4RXG; Steven, KG4JWU; Dale, WB9SZL; and Robert, KG4NEP. It's always great to see everybody--- hope to see YOU next month!

Tom, N4IOZ

The Newsletter Hamfest:

TOWERS & HARDLINE

I have come into several towers over the last couple of weeks and as much as I would like to erect them at my QTH I really need to move them! Heres a list of some of the towers and hardline.

Fifteen sections, total 150 feet with 12 inch face looks like Rohn BDX but is guyed tower. Very good shape no rust. Base section has flanges with 7/16-inch holes for J-bolts to mount. Top section has nice heavy plate with hole thru middle. Guy points are made into appropriate sections. I think it is a Tylon tower but I am not sure. Asking \$650.00.

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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. Club email is to w4nc@triad.rr.com.

Officers for 2004 are:

President: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ
n4ioz@triad.rr.com

Vice-President: Don Edwards, WS4NC
ws4nc@arrl.net

Secretary: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI
kg4eci@webtv.net

Treasurer: Don Donadio, KT4KV
kt4kv@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC
ws4nc@arrl.net

To join our list server send a blank email to
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). 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.

Rohn 25G: Four 10-foot sections. Good and straight. No rust. Seven 10-foot sections, good, straight, very lite surface rust. Two 10-foot sections damaged. Would make fine base section. One 8-foot top section, good condition Asking \$500.00.

Rohn 6N, three 20' sections 4-foot face. Very good condition. One 18-foot section. Had to be cut off for removal! Otherwise in excellent shape. Top section has a platform. You could mount other tower like 25-45G in top to extend height. This is a very strong (BIG!) tower. It was used for small doppler radar. Perfect for large array like 80m beam. Asking \$1,500.00.

I also have several pieces of hard line I have taken down. 7/8-inch, 1-1/4-inch and 1-5/8-inch diameter. It is in lengths over 200' some 275'. I also have the connectors. Every piece will be checked with the TDR before I sale it. Im looking to sell it, not get rich off of it. \$0.75-1.50 per foot by size.

I also have hardline connectors from \$20.00 - \$75.00 by size. If you should wonder why you should use hardline - just checkout the db loss per 100' compared to RG-213.

If your interested you can reach me by e-mail or or call!!

Delivery can be arranged within 50 miles or so. But pick-up is desired!

P.S.A friend of mine also has a Triax 51'crank up tower in very good condition he would like to sell. Includes the base section! (mount) \$450.00

KG4NEP, Robert L. Whitaker Jr.
336-997-6896
kg4nep@yahoo.com

Equipment for Sale: Ten-Tec 227 antenna tuner; Bird Wattmeter; MFJ 949C antenna tuner; Swan WM-1500 wattmeter; Ten-Tec keyer paddle; A&A Engineering 20-meter QRP transceiver; B&W 550A coax switch, Small Wonder Labs 40-meter QRP transceiver w/ audio amp; Vibroplex Bug No. 168864; Heil Operator headset; Astron RS-35M Power Supply; The Morse Machine MM-3 w/book and pwr supply; QRP or FD padded carrying case; Mirage B1016 2-meter amplifier (10 in - 160 out); Micronta multimeter; various coax cables w/ connectors installed; Vibroplex Bug no 171146; MFJ paddle and keyer model 422B-X; MFJ Versa Tuner III model 962B w/ manual; Micronta battery tester; the Power Station (portable 12-V gel cell); Ten-Tec model PM1 transceiver; Hobbico expanded-scale voltmeter for batteries; Lafayette Dyna-Com 23 handheld CB; CW audio filter; Heathkit VTVM; AEAPK-88 Packet controller; Zenith video cassette recorder; JVC Phono turntable; Brother electronic typewriter; 3-element Hygain 10, 15 and 20-meter Beam; 4-element 10-meter beam, 8 or 10-element longjohn wide-spaced 2-meter beam; 435-mHz beam; Butternut 4BTV 10, 15, 20 and 40-meter vertical; Ten-Tec Omni 6 HF rig; Icom IC251A all-mode 2-meter transceiver; Ten-Tec Scout with plugins for 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 meter bands; and 2 TV antennas.

Val Valentine, K4JO, Heritage Woods, 3812 Forestgate Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27103 336-768-4469

1. Kenwood TS-520S with manual, in great condition (my back-up rig for Africana Net control while overseas); 2. Swan 500C with manual and mike. Operational, but could use a new pair of finals (6LQ6's or 6MJ6's or 6JE6's); 3. Swan 350 with manual and mike, also operational, but could use a new pair of finals (6HF5's). I need a 2 meter handheld and will consider an arrangement on a trade or purchase. Contact AI, KI4FJS 940-2147 day or night.

For Sale: 1. Icom 207H dual-bander, \$200. 2. Motorola Ht600 plus convertacom with new battery, new antenna, programed for 4 local ham repeaters, 145.58 simplex and National Wx Service. \$100.00 each. 3. TriEx tower 51 foot crank-up with base, \$400.00. 4. GE TMX 900 Mhz \$150 each. 5. Icom V8000 \$160.00 6. Icom T7H battery drop-in charger, case, 1400 mah battery, \$180.00.

Raymond Taber, WX1NCC 336-202-6108

Upcoming Hamfests

October 2, Rockhill SC Hamfest at the York County Community College.

October 10, Hamfest, Maysville, NC

Nov. 13, GAARC Swapfest, Gastonia, NC (NEW!)

Nov. 21 JARSFest at American Legion, Benson, NC

I don't have a date, but I've heard rumors that there will be a hamfest in Wilkes county, possibly in October.

DTV	Antenna	Type	Call	Channel	Network	City	State	Compass	Miles	Assignment
*	yellow	uhf	WXII-DT	31.1	NBC	WINSTON-SALEM	NC	344°	23.1	31
*	yellow	uhf	WFMY-DT	2.1	CBS	GREENSBORO	NC	130°	24.9	51
	green	uhf	WLXI	61	TBN	GREENSBORO	NC	64°	10.2	61
	green	uhf	WXLV	45	ABC	WINSTON-SALEM	NC	345°	23.1	45
	green	uhf	WUNL	26	PBS	WINSTON-SALEM	NC	345°	23.1	26
*	green	uhf	WUNL-DT	26.1	PBS	WINSTON-SALEM	NC	345°	23.1	32
	green	uhf	WTWB	20	WB	LEXINGTON	NC	130°	25.8	20
	lt green	uhf	WUPN	48	UPN	GREENSBORO	NC	130°	24.9	48
*	lt green	uhf	WLXI-DT	43.1	TBN	GREENSBORO	NC	130°	25.8	43
	lt green	vhf	WGHP	8	FOX	HIGH POINT	NC	138°	27.1	8
	lt green	vhf	WXII	12	NBC	WINSTON-SALEM	NC	344°	23.1	12
	lt green	vhf	WFMY	2	CBS	GREENSBORO	NC	130°	24.9	2
	blue	uhf	WWWB	55	WB	ROCK HILL	SC	235°	71.9	55
	blue	uhf	WCNC	36	NBC	CHARLOTTE	NC	235°	73.2	36
*	blue	uhf	WGHP-DT	8.1	FOX	HIGH POINT	NC	138°	27.1	35
	blue	uhf	WGPX	16	PAX	BURLINGTON	NC	75°	33.5	16
	blue	uhf	WUNG	58	PBS	CONCORD	NC	212°	53.8	58
*	blue	uhf	WUPN-DT	48.1	UPN	GREENSBORO	NC	130°	25.7	33
*	blue	uhf	WXLV-DT	45.1	ABC	WINSTON-SALEM	NC	130°	25.7	29
	blue	uhf	WJZY	46	UPN	BELMONT	NC	235°	71.9	46
	blue	uhf	WTVI	42	PBS	CHARLOTTE	NC	214°	60.3	42
	blue	uhf	WCCB	18	FOX	CHARLOTTE	NC	215°	62.6	18
	violet	uhf	W66BT	66	TBN	STATESVILLE	NC	252°	42.1	66
	violet	uhf	WLNN-LP	24	IND	BOONE	NC	286°	84.1	24
	violet	uhf	W25AY	25	PBS	JEFFERSON	NC	299°	76.1	25
	violet	uhf	W35AD	35	PBS	SPARTA	NC	309°	59.6	35
	violet	uhf	W65DT	65	PBS	BOONE	NC	286°	84.1	65
*	violet	uhf	WTWB-DT	20.1	WB	LEXINGTON	NC	130°	25.8	19
	violet	uhf	WBRA	15	PBS	ROANOKE	VA	10°	78	15
	violet	vhf	WBTB	3	CBS	CHARLOTTE	NC	236°	73.1	3
*	violet	uhf	WBTB-DT	3.1	CBS	Charlotte	NC	236°	73.1	23
	violet	vhf	WUNC	4	PBS	CHAPEL HILL	NC	110°	60.1	4
	violet	uhf	WUNE	17	PBS	LINVILLE	NC	278°	91	17
	violet	vhf	WRAL	5	CBS	RALEIGH	NC	113°	97.7	5
	violet	uhf	WRAL	5	CBS	RALEIGH	NC	113°	97.7	50
	violet	uhf	WRDC	28	UPN	DURHAM	NC	113°	97.7	28
	violet	uhf	WPXR	38	PAX	ROANOKE	VA	10°	77.9	38
*	violet	uhf	WPXR-DT	38.1	PAX	Roanoke	VA	10°	77.9	36
	violet	vhf	WSLS	10	NBC	ROANOKE	VA	10°	78.4	10
	violet	vhf	WSOC	9	ABC	CHARLOTTE	NC	215°	62.7	9
	violet	vhf	WTVD	11	ABC	DURHAM	NC	113°	98	11
	violet	uhf	WUVC	40	UNI	FAYETTEVILLE	NC	126°	79.1	40
	violet	uhf	WNCN	17	NBC	GOLDSBORO	NC	113°	98.1	17
	violet	uhf	WLFL	22	WB	RALEIGH	NC	114°	81.8	22
	violet	uhf	WDRL	24	UPN	DANVILLE	VA	60°	51.3	24
	violet	vhf	WCYB	5	NBC	BRISTOL	VA	292°	108.8	5
	violet	uhf	WHKY	14	IND	HICKORY	NC	257°	66.7	14
	violet	vhf	WDBJ	7	CBS	ROANOKE	VA	10°	77.9	7
	violet	uhf	WAXN	64	IND	KANNAPOLIS	NC	215°	62.7	64
	violet	uhf	WFXR	27	FOX	ROANOKE	VA	10°	78	27

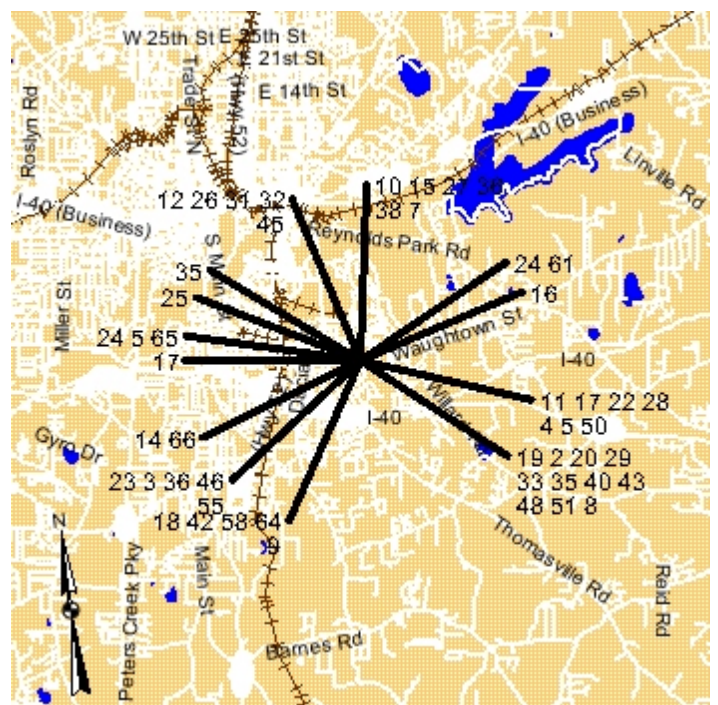
What's This Chart All About?

If you go to

www.antennaweb.org/aw/welcome.aspx

on the web and enter your street address it will calculate all the over-the-air TV stations that can be received from your address. It will even draw a map. The list above is for my house in Winston-Salem, so it's probably not all that different for most of Forsyth County.

The colors correspond to what type of antenna is needed. From yellow (small omni-directional 3dB above a wet noodle) to pink (a large directional antenna with amplifier). Not really ham-radio but I though you'd be interested.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Editor's Corner

Don't forget that November is supposed to be a Homebrew Show-&-Tell. I've heard from a few people that they have something planned. There is plenty of time to "whip-up" something. It doesn't have to be as complex as a spaceship. Just related to ham radio (or maybe not - but you'll be the one to face the crowd!)

For information to make it into the Newsletter, I need it a few days before the end of the month. Sometimes I can squeeze it in on the last day, depending on when the 2nd Monday falls. Email me at ws4nc@arrl.net with any submissions. Just plain text is all that's required, most formatting will be redone to match the Newsletter's form anyway. Pictures can be most any form, but jpg's are probably best. Pictures need to be of the highest resolution possible.

73, Don, WS4NC

Moment of Zen

eBay item from a Nevada dealer: Item number: 2269802140 which sold for \$16.38. "This is a nice early printed postcard showing street scenes in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, North Carolina. Businesses in the views include Asbell's Drug Store, the Carolina Hotel, a book store and O. Hanlons. Publisher: S H Kress, #894. The corners have heavy wear. The image is nice and clean. Postally used 1914."

