

March 2005

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater PL 131.8
{K3FI} CLUB CALLS {WM3PEN}

Celebrating Over 25 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Editor: KB3AKK

UPCOMING EVENTS

*General Meeting
Thursday March 24th.
8PM @ 8th District
Academy & Red Lion Roads*

The Northeast Philadelphia Walk America is on Sunday, May 1 at the Polonia Bank Flyers Skate Zone, 10990 Decatur Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154. Time is 8 am. We're waiting for details of this event, but we can use 10 people to help provide safety and logistical communications along the route. Contact Bob (WA3PZO) or Mike (N3LXN) if you can assist.

THE PREZ SEZ

We would like to welcome everyone to spring. This starts the new year's activities for the club. First is the March of Dimes Walkathon at the Skate Zone next to the Northeast Airport stay tuned for more details. Then field day in June, not to mention all the hamfests now that the warmer weather is coming. Our speaker this month is K3RJC Ron Cardullo, our tech committee of one, will bring our new voter for the repeater and explain the operation of it with our system.

In April we have two special speakers, Rich N3XKU and Jason N3RAY to give an introductory presentation on APRS and the tiny trak 3. This should be very interesting and something we could use to enhance our communication abilities.

Hope everyone is well and looking forward to this years events. Don't forget to mark your calender for the April meeting and spread the word.

Meeting dates for the rest of the year are:

- March 24th
- April 28th
- May 26th
- June 23rd
- July 28th
- August Picnic
- September 22nd
- October 27th
- November not selected yet.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

73
Mike N3LXN

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April - Rich, N3XKU and Jason, N3RAY, will give an introductory presentation on APRS and the Tiny Trak 3

May 26th - Dennis, K3DS will demonstrate the earth-bound *Mars Rover*, a semi-autonomous vehicle with a 2M packet digital data telemetry and control system and a 3/4M ATV transmitter. The *Mars Rover* was an undergraduate senior design project in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Temple University in 2003-2004. The *Mars Rover* was featured in November 2004 QST.

June-Field Day

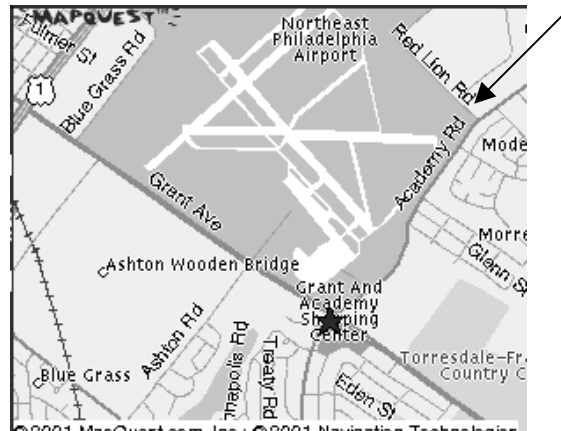
Guerrilla Tactics to Get the Information You Want & Know What You're Getting

Anthony A. Luscre, K8ZT, Contributing Author for the ARRL web recently provided a link to a presentation he did on searching on the web. While Google is one of the more popular search engines, did you know if can't find something you can look in the dogpound? The presentation gives helpful hints for all Web searchers. Print your own free copy of the 16-page searching booklet. Visit

http://www.mogadore.summit.k12.oh.us/in-service/searching_workbook.html and click the link labeled "Workbook as PDF."

H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2004
President : N3LXN : Mike Wurgley
Vice Pres: WA3PZO : Bob Josuweit
Treasurer : W3KZA : Sid Kalos
Secretary : N3ZZN: Frank Flanagan
Trustee : N3UBY: Sol Volen
Trustee : KB3AKK : Dave Hogan
Trustee : K3CJ : Charlye Johnson
Tech Committee : K3RJC : Ron Cardullo
Newsletter Editor : KB3AKK: Dave Hogan

H.A.R.C. Maintains a Web Page @www.harcnet.org
All members online can be emailed via their callsign @harcnet.org. Articles, pictures etc. submitted for the newsletter should be in standard ASCII or MS Word, .jpg or .gif formats and E-mailed to the Editor no later than the 1ST of month to be included in the next edition! **Send info to WA3PZO @ Harcnet.org**
H.A.R.C. Nets meet on 146.685 weekly
The Chaverim Net: Tuesday @ 9:00 PM
CW Practice: Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
Weekly net: Wednesday @ 8:00 PM you can listen to the Amateur Newsline & ARRL audio reports.
SSB Net on 28.450 +- mhz Sundays @ 9:00 AM
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 8:00 PM. General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM.
8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila., PA EXCEPT AS ANNOUNCED



H.A.R.C maintains the 146.685 repeater located @ Univ. of PA., Phila PA with inputs in Abington, N.E. Phila, and Cherry Hill, NJ; More Club Information & Member Applications can be had by contacting any of the Directors via E-mail. Info@harcnet.org, the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.



HARC is an ARRL Special Service Club.

9-1-1 Magazine Editor receives ARRL PR Award

Randall D Larson is the winner of the 2004 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Award for professional media. His six page article, "Ham Operator Assistance," appeared in the July 2004 issue of Homeland Protection Professional.

Larson is very familiar with emergency communications work as a San Jose Fire Department (CA), Senior Dispatcher and Director of an Incident Dispatcher Team [field comms/mobile comm unit] since 1993. He's also a Communications Academy Instructor since 1995.

As a writer, he has written articles for Homeland Protection Professional, Firehouse, Fire Engineering, American Fire Journal, 9-1-1 Magazine, APCO Public Safety Communications, and many articles in other fields. He is currently Editor of 9-1-1 Magazine.

HARC member Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO provided the public relations support for the article. In addition Josuweit was interviewed for the article.

The Bill Leonard Award is given annually to the professional media person who covers the topic of Amateur Radio in print, photo essay, audio or video forms best in the previous year.



Who won the 2005 Jeopardy "Teen Tournament"?

Feb 9, 2005 -- ARRL member Michael Braun, K3LNT! Asked what he'll do with his \$75,000 grand prize, he replied: "Most of my money will be in savings for college and future expenses. However, I may use a small fraction for radio equipment."

ARRL Seeks Nominations for 2005 McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 16, 2005--Nominations are due May 20 for the 2005 [ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award](#). This annual League award recognizes and honors achieved success in public relations on behalf of Amateur Radio at the local, state or national level. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, encourages and invites nominations for this year's McGan Award of candidates who reflect the high standard of achievement the award's namesake epitomized.

"Throughout the year ARRL Public Information Coordinators, Public Information Officers and other public relations volunteers strive to keep Amateur Radio visible in their communities by publicizing special events, writing press releases and maintaining good relations with local media--among many other valuable activities," Pitts says. "Their efforts benefit us all."

The award's namesake, journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ (SK), served as the first chairman of the ARRL's Public Relations Committee, which helped reinvigorate the League's commitment to public relations. Unfortunately, McGan never got to see the fruits of his efforts. In McGan's honor, his friends in the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association joined with the ARRL Board of Directors to establish a lasting tribute to the important contributions he made on behalf of Amateur Radio.

"The 2005 McGan award will go to a ham who has demonstrated success in Amateur Radio public relations and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of Phil McGan," Pitts said.

The McGan award is given only to an individual, and a candidate must be a full ARRL member in good standing at the time of nomination. The nominee may not be compensated for any public relations work involving Amateur Radio--including payment for articles--and may not be a current officer, director, vice director, paid staff member or member of the current selection committee.

Pitts notes that some confusion persists between what constitutes public relations as opposed to public service. "Public relations activities for which the McGan Award is given include efforts specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention in a positive light, typically via the news

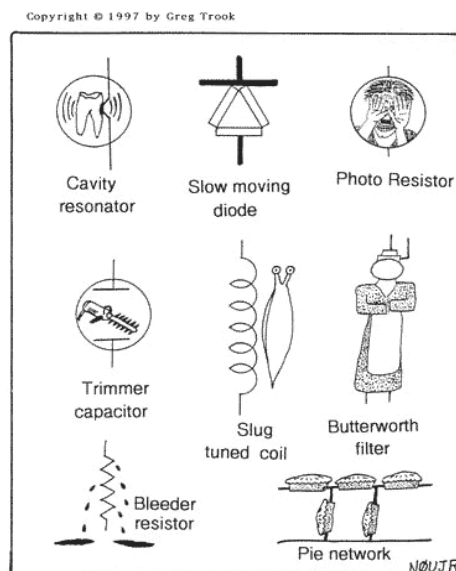
media--TV, radio or print publications," Pitts explains. "This may include traditional methods like news releases or less-traditional methods that could include such activities as hosting a radio show or being an active public speaker."

Pitts says that past candidates have been nominated for *public service* contributions such as emergency communications, net leadership and other activities. While these do help to maintain a positive public impression of Amateur Radio, they don't fit the definition of *public relations*. "So, if you're considering nominating someone in your area for the 2005 award, please ask yourself if your candidate's work fits the *public relations* criteria."

Anyone may make a nomination. Nominations must be on an official [entry form](#), available from the ARRL Web site or via mail from League Headquarters. To obtain an entry form directly from HQ, contact Allen Pitts, W1AGP; 860-594-0328. Whenever possible, nominations will include a written summary.

A committee of PR-savvy Amateur Radio operators will screen eligible nominations and forward its recommendation to the Volunteer Resources Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors. The Board makes a final determination at its July meeting.

Send the completed entry form and supporting materials to: Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, c/o Allen Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Nominations must be received at ARRL HQ in Newington by 5 PM on Friday, May 20, 2005. Nominations arriving after the deadline or without an entry form cannot be considered.



Little known standard electronic symbols.

Local Writer Expands Audience Readership

HARC member Bob, WA3PZO, goes Spanish. This summer Bob will start writing for CQ Radio Amateur. The Spanish-language edition of CQ magazine is published in Barcelona, Spain, by special arrangement with a Spanish publisher. It contains a mix of original material and translated articles from the English-language edition, bringing readers the best of CQ with a European flair.

Bob recently gained recognition in Spain for his coverage of the international response to the tsunami disaster. This year Bob has written several articles on amateur radio and emergency communications for 9-1-1 Magazine. His public service and emergency communications column appears in CQ Amateur Radio each month. His March CQ article on the tsunami will appear in the May issue of HRS, the Croatian Amateur Radio Association.

CQ Introduces the "CQ DX Field Award"

(Hicksville, NY - March 14, 2005) -- CQ Amateur Radio magazine today announced the introduction of a new operating award, the "CQ DX Field Award," recognizing achievements in contacting at least 50 of the world's 324 10x20-degree "grid fields." This is the first of three new programs to be announced by CQ over the next three months with the goal of revitalizing ham radio's core activity of DXing, or contacting stations in faraway places.

The CQ DX Field Award is based on the Maidenhead Grid Locator system, already popular among VHF DXers and contesters, in which the world is divided, based on latitude and longitude, into 324 10x20 degree "fields" and each field is broken up into 100 1x2 degree "grid squares" or "locators." CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF, has calculated that there are 177 fields with which the active ham stands a pretty good chance of making a contact, noting that many fields are in Antarctica, the Arctic or wholly within oceans.

Williams estimates that a ham who has achieved the basic levels of the traditional CQ DX Award program and/or the ARRL's DXCC program - both of which require confirmed contact with at least 100 DX "entities" - will probably also qualify for the basic CQ DX Field Award level of 50 confirmed fields.

Endorsements will be issued for each additional 50 fields up to 150, then in increments of 25 fields to a final level of all 324 fields.

Contacts made on or after January 1, 1980 (the year in which the grid system was adopted for amateur radio use) will count toward the new award. Complete details and rules will be published in the April 2005 issue of CQ magazine and posted on the magazine's website at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>>. In addition, Williams has developed an online cross-reference guide for converting countries to fields. It will be accessible at <<http://home.earthlink.net/~bfwillia/gridfieldsx.html>>.

CQ Amateur Radio magazine is published by CQ Communications, Inc. of Hicksville, New York. CQ Communications also publishes CQ Radio Amateur (Spanish), CQ VHF, and Popular Communications magazines. CQ sponsors the CQ DX Awards, the CQ Worked All Zones Awards, the CQ WPX Awards, the USA-CA (Counties) Award, and a variety of contests including the world-renowned CQ World Wide DX Contests.

Reminder from AMSAT Concerning 2 Meters (Mar 11, 2005) -

Once again satellite operators would like to bring to the attention of the amateur community that operation in the 145.800 to 146.000 MHz range is restricted to satellite operations only. This is because there are several satellites that use this frequency range as their *input* to the satellite. Output comes in the 70 cm satellite subband. This is called Mode J. Says John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL's Regulatory Information Branch, "The users of this subband usually don't know they are causing interference, because the downlink is in the 435 MHz range." If you happen to monitor local hams having FM simplex QSOs in the 145.800 to 146.00 MHz segment, please ask them to QSY off the satellite subband. FO-29's SSB transponders are rendered useless when these strong FM signals hit the bird. Your help is greatly appreciated.--Bruce Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT

ZCZC AG08
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 8 ARLB008
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 1, 2005
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB008

ARLB008 FCC Morse, restructuring proposals could be out by mid-year

The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC plans to tackle all 18 in a single proceeding.

On the code issue, petitions--and comments in response to them--run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.)

The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class. At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions.

While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-year, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

Once public, the NPRM would initiate another round of public comments on what the FCC has proposed. An FCC Report and Order implementing any new rules is unlikely before the second half of 2006, although it's possible the Commission could wrap up the proceeding before then.

NNNN
/EX

FCC UPHOLDS FINE FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION ON AMATEUR FREQUENCY

The FCC has affirmed a \$10,000 fine against a now-closed New Jersey restaurant and its owner for alleged unlicensed operation of a radio transmitter on 2 meters. The Commission's action strongly defended amateur spectrum against unlicensed intruders. In a memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released February 9, the Commission denied a Petition for Reconsideration from Pang Cheng, doing business as Best Wok restaurant in Westville. In 2004, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) in the case, which involved operation of a so-called long-range cordless telephone on 145.8376 MHz. Best Wok, the FCC says, failed to respond to the NAL. But it did reply to the subsequent Forfeiture Order (NoF), arguing that its unlicensed operation was unintentional and minor and

caused minimal interference. The FCC disagreed, noting that the unlicensed operation generated a number of complaints from amateur licensees.

"Any use of Amateur Service frequencies for business communications creates a great potential for harmful interference to authorized Amateur Service communications," the FCC said in the MO&O, signed by FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon. "We must take strong action against such use because failure to do so would only encourage others to engage in the same conduct."

The FCC also denied Best Wok's claim that its unlicensed operation was unintentional. The FCC had warned the restaurant in 2001 and again in 2003 that operation of transmitting equipment without a license violated the Communications Act and could lead to penalties. In 2003, FCC agents from Philadelphia tracked the 2-meter signal to the restaurant and inspected the radiotelephone equipment, used to communicate between the restaurant and a vehicle. The eatery's manager said Best Wok had stopped using the long-range cordless telephone after the FCC's 2001 Warning Notice. But, the FCC says, the manager admitted that the restaurant resumed using the long-range cordless telephone after another communication system proved inadequate.

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD011
ARLD011 DX news

ZCZC AE11
QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 11 ARLD011
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 17, 2005
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD011
ARLD011 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, OH4MDY, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, 425DXnews, DXNL, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Igor, UA9CDC, Oleg, UA9CDV, Vadim, UA9CLB, Nick, UN4L and Willy, UN9LW are QRV as 8Q7DV until March 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK and possibly RTTY. They will participate in the Russian DX contest and the upcoming CQ WPX contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

MALTA, 9H. Andrea, IK1PMR and YL Claudia, K2LEO are QRV as 9H3MR and 9H3LEO, respectively, from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, until March 31. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using all modes. 9H3MR is active mainly on CW and 9H3LEO mainly on RTTY. They will also participate in the BARTG RTTY contest and the upcoming CQ WPX contest. QSL both calls via IK1PMR.

CHILE, CE. Marco, CE6TBN/7 will be QRV from Ascension Island, IOTA SA-043, from March 19 and 20. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 meters using SSB and some CW. QSL direct.

ANGOLA, D2. Janne, D2DX has been QRV on 20 meters between 1930 and 2030z. QSL direct via operator's instructions.

TAJKISTAN, EY. Operators Arkady, UA4CC, Vladislav, UA4LU and Sergej, RX3APM plan to be QRV as EY0R in the Russian DX contest. Before the contest, they are active as EY8/homecalls. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL contest call via UA4CC and all others to home calls.

KERGUELEN ISLANDS, FT5X. The Micro-Lite team may be QRV beginning late on March 19. Their callsign will be announced at the start of the operation.

SVALBARD, JW. Andy, UA3AB is QRV as JW/UA3AB until March 21. This includes an entry in the Russian DX contest. Activity is on all bands using CW and SSB. He may also try some RTTY. Outside the contest, he will concentrate his activity on the newer bands. QSL to home call.

GREENLAND, OX. Look for OH4JGE and OH4HJI to be QRV as homecalls/OX from March 23 to 30. OH4MDY will be QRV as OX3RZ. They will be active on 80 to 10 meters, including 30 and 12 meters, using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL via operators' instructions.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1FJ. Alex, R1FJL has been QRV on 20 meters CW around 1230z. QSL via operator's instructions.

CHAD, TT. Michael, PA5M and Pierre, HB9AMO are QRV as TT8M and TT8AMO, respectively, from N'Djamena for approximately two months while on work assignment. They are active on 160 to 6 meters during their evening hours and spare time. QSL both calls via PA7FM.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. A group of Japanese amateurs are QRV as V73JY, V73KJ, V73HE and V73OP from Majuro Atoll, IOTA OC-029, until March 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL via operators' instructions.

INDONESIA, YB. Sanyi, HA7VK and Gyszi, HA2VR will be QRV as YB0/homecalls from Jakarta from March 23 to April 5. This is a casual operation. QSL YB0/HA7VK via HA0HW and YB0/HA2VR to home call.

ALBANIA, ZA. Florian, ZA5G has been QRV on 17 meters using SSB from around 1630 to 1930z. QSL direct.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Iraq, YI9KT, from May 7, 2004 to February 8, 2005; Iraq, YI9GT, from May 7, 2004 to February 8, 2005; Afghanistan, T6KB LRM, current operation; Bhutan, A52CDX, from October 24, 2004 to November 12, 2004; Chad, TT8M, current operation effective March 14, 2005; Somalia, 6O0CW, from February 3 through 17, 2005.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Mobile Contest, BARTG HF RTTY Contest, Russian DX Contest, CLARA and Family HF Contest, Virginia QSO Party, UBA Spring 6-Meter Contest and the 9KCC 15-Meter Contest are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see March QST, page 92 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details. NNNN /EX

==>AMATEUR RADIO IS "POSTER CHILD" OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTEES GATHERING

Amateur Radio earned high marks and frequent praise this month during a gathering of Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) homeland security grant recipients. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, and Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, represented the League at the series of meetings March 2-5 in Washington. ARRL--a special volunteer program--received a 2002 CNCS grant to subsidize Amateur Radio emergency communications courses, now available on three levels. The League was among 29 CNCS homeland security grantees attending.

"I wish that every ham--whether or not public service is their primary interest--could have been at these meetings to celebrate this grant and the reputation ham radio enjoys among these volunteer service organizations," Hobart said. "It really validated Amateur Radio's contribution. There is new and rekindled appreciation for the sustained public service that Amateur Radio operators are able to provide nationwide."

Indeed, at the opening session, USA Freedom Corps Director Desiree T. Sayle used Amateur Radio and the success of the League's CNCS training grant as a prime example of a successful program. White says she was amazed to hear Sayle recite the exact number of ARRL emergency communications course graduates and talk about their continuing work in disaster preparation and response.

Noting that the CNCS grant tuition subsidies--now in their third and final year--will expire in June, Hobart strongly urged anyone considering taking the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses to sign up now. In that vein, White noted the comments of CNCS Executive Director David Eisner, who told the CNCS grantees: "Jump aboard a moving train, rather than find fuel for a new train that hasn't left yet."

Hobart and White said that during the various conference sessions, it was not unusual to see attendees nodding in assent whenever the discussion turned to Amateur Radio's positive role in their communities. As White recounted, "it was roundly acknowledged that Amateur Radio operators are always needed--for assisting in the wake of blackouts, floods, earthquakes, fires and other emergencies."

Hobart said that in every session were representatives of volunteer organizations who are working with Amateur Radio and recognize it an integral component of what they do.

White says there are several steps hams can take to keep the momentum going. "If you are a Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator or District Emergency Coordinator, make sure your state and local emergency management teams know who you are," she said. "If you are a club president or ARES team leader, please encourage your members to enroll in the grant-funded emergency communications course before it's too late." To date, more than 4000 radio amateurs have taken advantage of the grant-subsidized ARRL emergency communications courses.

Hobart also noted that two of the volunteer programs represented at the CNCS meeting expressed interest in the ARRL Education and Technology Program. "The reception Amateur Radio received at this meeting was like a welcome for a good friend," she summed up.

The gratitude and goodwill cut both ways. The ARRL delegation expressed the League's thanks to Eisner and CNCS for "taking a chance on a non-traditional organization" in awarding the 2002 training grant. Hobart and White assured Eisner that radio amateurs are proud of the program's success and "have voiced the renewed commitment of Amateur Radio to provide emergency communication whenever and wherever needed."

President Taps Commissioner Kevin J. Martin to Head FCC:

President George W. Bush this week announced his intention to designate Commissioner Kevin J. Martin to chair the FCC. He'll replace Michael K. Powell, who stepped down this month. Martin, 38, a North Carolina attorney with close White House ties, has served on the FCC since 2001. In congratulating Martin on his appointment, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, also took the opportunity to refresh Martin's memory regarding Amateur Radio's stake in the broadband over power line (BPL) issue. Last July, Sumner and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, met with Martin and aide Sam Feder to discuss their fears about radio interference from BPL systems. When the FCC unanimously adopted new BPL rules last October, Martin acknowledged Amateur Radio's concerns, said he would take them seriously, and expressed confidence that the Commission would take the necessary steps to address interference.

"Unfortunately, I must advise you that the Commission's record of addressing BPL interference has proved to be woefully inadequate," Sumner continued, citing continued BPL interference complaints. "To date the Commission has not ordered a single BPL system to be shut down, despite the failure of BPL system operators to resolve interference," Sumner pointed out.

This week, the League renewed its complaint of ongoing BPL interference in Briarcliff Manor, New York, and filed a complaint with the Enforcement Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology outlining an ongoing BPL interference case in Irving, Texas (see below).

"The ARRL and the nation's radio amateurs are anxious for a sign that we can expect this sorry situation to be corrected under your leadership," Sumner concluded. Since he already sits on the FCC, Martin's appointment will not require US Senate confirmation.

Considered the front-runner for the job, Martin said he was "deeply honored" to be tapped as the next FCC chairman. While Martin and Powell reportedly clashed over telephone deregulation and media ownership issues, they essentially were on the same page regarding the promotion of BPL. News accounts say that Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a Republican and a BPL booster, is also planning to leave the FCC. Abernathy's now-notorious "broadband Nirvana" remarks about BPL drew sharp opposition from the amateur community.

BPL manufacturer Ambient Corporation promptly issued a news release hailing the appointment of Martin as "a vocal proponent" of BPL systems and citing segments of Martin's laudatory comments about the technology following the FCC's October 14, 2004, adoption of new BPL rules.

Sumner pointed out to Ambient, however, that its news release ignored some of Martin's other comments in his statement last fall, in which the commissioner acknowledged Amateur Radio operators' and broadcasters' interference worries and concluded, "I am confident that the Commission will continue to monitor these concerns and will take steps, where needed, to address interference problems going forward."

Sumner reminded Ambient that the League "already has called on Commissioner Martin to do exactly that."

Attending his 90th FCC meeting and his last as chairman, Powell said good-bye to his Commission colleagues March 10. "I've loved it! Every single day of it," he proclaimed, his voice beginning to crack. "It will be the greatest memory of my life."

Source:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 24, No. 11 March 18, 2005



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

Next Meeting: Thursday March 24th.
8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.
Speaker: Ron Cardullo ---Tech Committee Chairman to explain the
upcoming changes and upgrades to the repeater.