



WCARC News

April 2005

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US House Resolution Calls on FCC to Evaluate BPL Interference, Review Rules

From the ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/28/3/?nc=1/>

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 28, 2005--Rep Michael Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives calling on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from broadband over power line (BPL). The resolution, [H. Res 230](#), says the Commission should comprehensively evaluate BPL's interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," and--in light of that analysis--to "reconsider and review" its [new BPL rules](#). If approved by the full House, the non-binding resolution, introduced April 21, would express the requests as "the sense of the House of Representatives." The FCC adopted rules to govern so-called Access BPL last October 14 in ET Docket 04-37.

"We are grateful to Congressman Ross and his staff for taking a leadership position in recognizing that the BPL interference issue deserves more careful consideration than the FCC was willing to give it under former Chairman Powell," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, on which Ross serves.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 President's QRM
- 2 Web Site of the Month
- 3 The ARES Report
- 4 WCARC-Owned Equipment List
- 3 Contest Calendar

April Meeting Minutes

by Rick Trommer, W5RHT.

The April meeting of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President, Mark Stennett, NA6M. And we had no visitors at this meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were posted on the WCARC web site and they were approved as posted.

Treasurers report given by Jon Boles:

Beginning balance	\$3,604.63
Receipts/Deposits	\$50.00
Expenditures	\$259.00
Ending Balance	\$3,395.63
ARES Funds Available	\$37.12
WCARC Funds Available	\$3,358.51

Treasurers report was accepted.

ARES Report and Repeater Report

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, told us about the WinLink station that he has up and running and that he is working with the City of Georgetown for a grant to setup another WinLink station.

Old Business

Trailer Report – John Mccolly, W5RQ, is looking into possible funding from FEMA and Homeland Security. John is also looking at how we would set-up a budget and insurance on either a trailer or a RV type of vehicle. John will post a "Q and A" on the club reflector so please check our web site often.

Georgetown Swapfest – Rick Trommer, W5RHT

Rick is still looking for a location to hold next year's event and will keep the club informed as to this effort.

New Business

Jim Bittick, KC5BHF, has scheduled our Spring Picnic for May 7th at San Gabriel Park. We will start serving at 5:00PM and please bring desserts.

Dick W5TA, asked the club about this years Field Day event. The primary discussion was the location for this event, Dick has suggested that we hold this years event at the same location as last year due to scheduling problems at Lake

See April meeting - page 3

President's QRM

Howdy folks!

It has been an exciting month for me. I start a new job with Univision Radio on May 1st which will have me working for their corporate office, overseeing their broadcast radio engineering projects around the country. This is a wonderful opportunity and I am excited to be on their team, plus I don't have to move. I will be pulling double duty for a short period of time while NextMedia finds my replacement.

I recently installed VHF and UHF Motorola Spectra radios in the in truck. These radios will do 130 to 150 watts output with 128 channels available. Prices are coming down too. These are beautiful trunk mount commercial radios.

73, Mark

Web Site of the Month

QSL Cards From the Past - <http://geocities.com/w8jyz/>

The legacy of "Old Time" Ham Radio Operators are in the QSL cards they left behind. This Page is dedicated to those Old Time Radio Operators.

Join Us For Breakfast

WCARC Breakfast - Saturdays at 6:45AM
Monument Café
1953 S. Austin Avenue
Georgetown Texas 78627

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

Club Repeater: 146.640 -600 kHz Tone: 162.2 Hz

2005 Officers and Committees

President -Mark Stennett, NA6M
Vice President - Dick Foster, W5TA
Guest Speaker Committee
Vice President - Dick Foster, W5TA, Chairman
Tom Whiteside
Bob Redoutey, N5KF
Secretary - Greg Worthington, AG5W
Treasurer - Jon Boles K5AEM
Pubic Information Officer - Virgil G. Buell, KD5KQV
Newsletter Editor - Mark Stennett, NA6M (who is looking for you to volunteer for this position.)
Emergency Coordinator - Tom Whiteside, N5TW
Webmaster - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

The resolution's prime focus is on BPL's potential to disrupt critical public safety radiocommunication. It cites National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)) studies that "have determined that broadband over power line creates a 'high risk' of radio wave interference, and that harmful interference to public safety mobile radio receivers can be expected at distances of 75 meters from the power line where broadband over power line is in operation, and at distances of up to 460 meters from fixed stations, such as VHF police or fire dispatch communications facilities."

The resolution notes that the same NTIA study determined that BPL interference to aeronautical and airline travel communications "could be expected at distances up to 40 kilometers from the center of the broadband over power line system, and that interference to outer marker beacons for airline instrument landing systems could be expected at great distances as well."

Many public safety agencies and support services, including emergency medical services, fire, and law enforcement, utilize Low-Band VHF (30-50 MHz), the resolution points out. Thirteen states--California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming-- use the band for state police operations, while it's the primary public safety radio band in nine states.

The resolution further notes that the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Inc ([APCO](#)), and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council ([NPSTC](#)), urged the FCC to withhold final action in the BPL proceeding for at least a year, pending a "conclusive determination" of BPL's potential to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems operating below 80 MHz. APCO and NPSTC jointly filed [comments](#) in the BPL proceeding, and the APCO Region 21 Frequency Advisory Committee filed [separate comments](#).

The resolution also sites comments that the FCC has struggled for years to resolve widespread harmful interference to the radiocommunications of first responders on 800 MHz and "should not have proceeded with introduction of a technology which appears to have substantial potential to cause destructive interference to police, fire, emergency medical services, and other public safety radio systems" without first conducting a comprehensive evaluation.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has urged ARRL members to contact their US representatives to support the resolution when it reaches the floor of the House. A [sample letter](#) is available on the ARRL Web site, although members are encouraged to express their support in their own words. If you're not sure who represents your congressional district, visit the United States [House of Representatives](#) Web site.

To expedite delivery, send all correspondence bound for Members of Congress--preferably as an attachment--to hres230@arrl.org or fax it to 703-684-7594. The ARRL will bundle correspondence addressed to each Member of Congress for hand delivery.

Georgetown and a much higher that expected cost at the lake. Dick will continue to find out if another location can be found, but we can reserve the garden area at any time. Dick is still looking for a captain for the phone station, so please contact Dick and help with this event.

Rick Trommer, W5RHT, was asked to go over the equipment list. The list was updated and it will be posted on the clubs web site.

Rick Trommer, W5RHT, will bring refreshments to next months meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Program by Scott, KI5DR, was GE Delta Radio Conversion.

WA7BNM April Contest Calendar

From: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

May CW Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, May 2
MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW	0000Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z, May 7 to 0600Z, May 8
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 7
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 7 to 0200Z, May 8
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 7 to 0400Z, May 8
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 7 to 1959Z, May 8
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 7 to 0500Z, May 8 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, May 11
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, CW/SSB	0800Z, May 14 to 2300Z, May 15
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z, May 14 to 0400Z, May 15 and 1100Z-2400Z, May 15
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 14
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 14 to 0300Z, May 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, May 19
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, May 21 to 2400Z, May 22
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 21
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, PSK31	1300Z, May 21 to 1300Z, May 22
Manchester Mineira CW Contest	1500Z, May 21 to 2400Z, May 22
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1800Z, May 21 to 1800Z, May 22

ARES Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Last month's meeting

Patrick Cobb from the County EMS attended the meeting and said a few words about the County's plan to add 2M voice and Winlink capability to 2 fixed locations and 3 vehicles. (Patrick's other hat is being the communications strategist for the County). The County has approved the plan and this will get started when funds are released by Homeland Security. They have been asked to improve backup communications and interoperability and they were very positive on this proposal for furthering that plus leveraging our volunteer team. Patrick promised a partnership with us including cross training/exercises. They plan to create a dedicated room for us in the new communications facility which is in the planning stages – hopefully not the jail! He said that the new Winlink capabilities were what drove their decision for this proposal. Very exciting stuff indeed.

Vigil (KD5KQV) again led an updated version of his "plate exercise". We again had about a dozen there for this meeting and those attending got a lot out of it. We had about half the number for folks we normally have at meetings for this – this is YOUR ARES meeting – if you think we ought to have different content, let's discuss it! Tom's opinion is that those not there missed out on a valuable exercise! Thanks to Virgil for this great training!

N5TW Winlink node

I reported last month that we had a new GE Delta VHF radio thanks to KI5DR. I put the information I've learned from Scott to use to convert 4 other radios – two of which are working very well. I ordered a TNC-X kit for my portable station and another Kantronics KPC3+. The KPC-3+ was installed with another GE Delta to create a secondary Telpac (N5TW-10) node on 145.61. Because N5TW-10 is part of the "PMBO", it and the other nodes there can continue to pass local traffic even in a widespread Internet outage. Here is a picture of the N5TW PMBO with the new stuff:

Other Winlink information

We *NEED* more folks to get busy and setup portable response packet stations. I know of a few people working on these and we have 4 or 5 in operation. Our agencies are now sold on this capability and we are at risk of falling on our faces for lack of enough of these stations.

We have instituted a weekly Winlink check-in. Total check-ins will be reported on the Sunday evening net. Winlink check-in is easy, just send a check-in note to

See ARES Report page 4

WA7BNM April Contest Calendar continued

Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 21 to 0200Z, May 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 28 to 2359Z, May 29
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, May 29
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 29 to 0300Z, May 30

ARES Report ...continued from page 3.



WC-ARES purchased the \$800 SCS FACTOR TNC last year and has been purchasing XP licenses and miscellaneous items for the Packet Cavalry. The rest of the items pictured here were funded by my Toy Fund.

Statistics for March:

Telnet: 32 check-ins 17 messages passed
(mostly for Harris County)
VHF: 1411 check-ins 94 messages passed
(several from Harris County)
HF: 10 check-ins 2 messages passed

Other Winlink information

I really appreciate the great response we have had for my plea that you get busy and get more Portable Packet stations going. There has been a flurry of activity that will hopefully net many more stations. NQ5L is organizing a Saturday workshop on May 21st. It would be nice if we could get as many stations finished as possible BEFORE this clinic so we can have more folks to help others get started. Should be a great event. Please let NQ5L and myself know if you need one of the ARES computers for your portable packet station. Congrats to KE6ZJH for getting his portable packet station on the air – congrats, Jerry!

We have instituted a weekly Winlink check-in. Total check-ins will be reported on the Sunday evening net. Winlink check-in is easy, just send a check-in note to nq5l@winlink.org and cc: n5tw@winlink.org and tell us which node you used. You can check-in at your convenience anytime during the week – Jim asks that notes be posted before noon Sunday. We are encouraging folks to vary the node they use weekly to help exercise all the gear and keep you in practice – multiple check-ins via the different nodes are welcome. As a reminder, the current nodes are:

KI5DR-5 145.73 (via ausrly-1)
N5TW-12 145.03
N5TW-10 145.61 (secondary node – not up all the time)

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May Meeting

The May meeting will be John Meeker presenting a Travis County Red Cross history. This should be a great way to calibrate us on the kinds of responses we might be expected to participate in. Remember that the ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station now at 7PM.

And please participate in our Sunday evening nets at 8PM. These are still on 146.64 (PL 162.2) while the 145.13 repeater is under the weather.

Tom Whiteside (N5TW)
ARES Emergency Coordinator for Williamson County

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OWNED EQUIPMENT

Reviewed at 5 August 2005 WCARC Meeting

Tower Work

- 1 Gin Pole - KE5RS, John Benedict - 30-Aug-03
- 1 Tower Step - N5NMW, Jeff Schmidt - 7-Aug-03

Antenna measurement

- 1 MFJ Antenna Analyzer - KI5YG, Steve Cowell - 3-Feb-05
- 1 MFJ Grid Dip Adapter - K5KVN, Stuart Rohre - 3-Feb-05

Antennas

- 1 Butternut HF Vertical 10M-80M - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05
- 1 Cushcraft 6-ele 440MHz Beam - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05
- 1 Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical - W5TA, Dick Foster - 3-Feb-05
- 1 Hygain triband antenna - W5TA, Dick Foster - 3-Feb-05
- 1 Mosley Triband Ant - K5AEM, Jon Boles - 3-Feb-05

Masts

- 2 Push Up Masts - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05
- 1 Push Up Masts - KC5RPF, Ken Larsen - 3-Feb-05
- 2 Push Up Masts - KD5KQV, Virgil Buell - 4-Jul-03

Power Supplies

- 1 20 Amp Power Supply - N5TW, Tom Whiteside - 14-Jul-04

Miscellaneous

- 2 Heavy Duty Power Cords - K5HTK, Jim Hester - 3-Feb-05

Pending sale

- 1 DB Commercial Ant VHF 158MHz - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05