



# SARA Newsletter

April 2004

Shreveport Amateur Radio Association

## Meeting:

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. in the Bossier Main Library History Center

## SARA Net:

Each Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M.

## Local Amateur Information

Available at:

[www.k5sar.com](http://www.k5sar.com)  
[www.qsl.net/nw1arn/](http://www.qsl.net/nw1arn/)

## SARA Repeaters:

145.050 - K5SAR  
DX Packet Cluster  
145.110 - N5FJ  
146.700 - K5KDO  
146.820 - K5SL  
440.900 - N5FJ

## 2004 Club Officers

President – [David Crosby, K5SRZ](#)  
Vice President – [Glenn Pettiet, K5TGP](#)  
Treasurer – [Randy Fulco, K5SL](#)  
Secretary – [Laura Webb, KD5IHT](#)

## Bill Robertson

of the

## Public Service Commission

Addresses BPL Concerns at May Membership Meeting

## Meet Mickey Cox, K5MC

### LA ARRL Section Chief at the May Meeting

There are many possible changes to our hobby on the horizon. Most of you probably already know about the April 23 deadline for comments on the various restructuring plans submitted by the ARRL and others. The deadline for comments on the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) was May 3.

In addition, the FCC recently announced an "omnibus" NPRM that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The deadline for filing comments on this latest NPRM is June 15. Everyone is encouraged to submit thoughtful comments to the FCC on each of these petitions. In particular, I believe it is important that we all file comments on the BPL NPRM.

K1ZZ has some very good suggestions on page 9 in May QST for us to keep in mind before submitting our comments to the FCC on BPL. Be sure to check the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org/](http://www.arrl.org/) for the latest news on these NPRMs.

*Reproduced in part from the LA ARRL Section News Summary*

## Illinois Amateurs Support

### Tornado Relief & Recovery Efforts

Illinois ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, reports Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) team members and local radio amateurs in LaSalle County this week supported American Red Cross relief and recovery efforts in the wake of tornadoes April 20 that left at least eight people dead. LaSalle, Putnam, Kankakee and Will counties were designated as disaster areas. Especially hard hit was the LaSalle County town of Utica.

"There was an outstanding turnout by local and nearby hams," Ryan told ARRL. "Many local hams are assisting in recovery efforts and damage assessment." SKYWARN teams and severe weather spotters also helped

spread the word of approaching tornadoes. Grundy County amateurs also turned out to assist in LaSalle County. LaSalle County ARES Emergency Coordinator Frank Carraro, KF9NZ, said electric power was out, the roads were clogged with debris and "panicked residents of the area--some trying to get in, and some trying to get out."

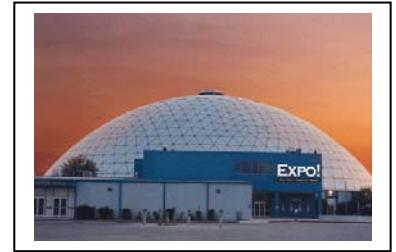
"We used SKYWARN and our SATERN folks to keep us abreast of reports as the weather conditions turned sour," said Salvation Army Team Emergency Network National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, who's headquartered in Chicago.

---

## Belton Hamfest

May 22, 2004

- Ham Expo -- Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas
- From I-35 take Exit 292 to the Dome
- Doors open at **7:00 a.m.** on Saturday, May 22
- VE Testing at 1:00 p.m. onsite
- Admission: \$1.00



---

## Field Day 2004 Rules

**1. Eligibility:** Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

**2. Object:** To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

3. ...

**Don't forget to sign-up for Field Day 2004, June 26 and 27, 2004. Lots of food, drink, fun, and fellowship.**

---

## *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (NPRM)

on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, ET Docket No. 04-37

The purpose of the *NPRM* is *not* to allow BPL to be deployed. BPL systems may now operate under the existing Part 15 rules. If the FCC did nothing, BPL systems could continue to be installed and operated. Licensed radio services, including the Amateur Radio Service, would continue to be protected by the rule that prohibits unlicensed devices from causing harmful interference. BPL systems would continue to have no protection against interference *to* their operation by licensed services.

The *NPRM*, which follows a *Notice of Inquiry* (NOI) in which the FCC sought information about BPL technology and the interference environment, does not propose to change any of that. Indeed, the *NPRM* reaffirms that the "no interference" principle must remain inviolate.

The *NPRM* proposes *new requirements* for BPL systems. The intent is to make it easier to track down who is responsible for interference and to make sure that the BPL system operator can

immediately take whatever steps are necessary to mitigate interference. These include requirements that BPL systems "shall incorporate adaptive interference mitigation techniques" as well as "a shut-down feature to deactivate units found to cause harmful interference."

So, why the hue and cry against BPL? There are several reasons.

There are BPL proponents who from the very beginning have denied that interference is a problem. They have continued to deny it even in the face of clear and mounting evidence to the contrary. Their comments filed in response to the *NOI* were laughable, as we pointed out on this page last October.

Finally, the *NPRM* does not deal at all with a problem that concerns many amateurs almost as much as interference from BPL: interference *to* BPL. Yes, Part 15 says that "interference must be accepted that may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station." Try explaining that to your drunken neighbor when he can't download his dirty movie because you're on 20 meters.

Our concern is to support the FCC's proposals as far as they go (remember, they're better than the *status quo*), to document exactly how they fall short of providing the protection that over-the-air services--especially the Amateur Radio Service--need and deserve, and to provide specific proposals for improvement.

The improvements we have in mind include:

- Performance standards for interference mitigation. Mitigation must be available 24/7, and must be immediate upon receipt of a complaint.
- The BPL data base must be readily accessible to the public and kept up to date.
- Because mitigation is impractical in the case of mobile stations, a radiated emission limit sufficient to protect mobiles must be established and enforced.
- BPL systems must be tested for rules compliance by an independent laboratory prior to initiation of service.
- To ensure an informed marketplace, marketers of BPL services must give clear notice to consumers that licensed radio services have priority and that the delivery of BPL services therefore cannot be guaranteed. Receipt of this notice must be acknowledged in writing prior to the signing of any contract for service.
- There must be severe penalties for non-compliance with these rules.

If you want to file comments -- and we hope you will -- *read the NPRM first!* Pay particular attention to paragraphs 39-43; the FCC asks for comments on several aspects of its proposals. The *NPRM* is available on the FCC Web site in [Microsoft Word](#) and as an [Adobe PDF](#) file.

How the FCC handles BPL is important, but the most important decisions about BPL deployment will not be made at the FCC. They will be made in corporate boardrooms; the smart money will choose to go elsewhere, not to BPL.

*Reproduced in part from ARRL "It Seems to Us..." BPL: What Now?"*

## Transmitter Hunt

Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM at the Bossier Main Library

**Plan to meet afterward for lunch and conversation**

