



MAY / JUNE 2005

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

FIELD DAY, JUNE 25 - 26 LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

MARC will have Field Day -- that much is certain. **Dick K3IIN** says the committee is working, plans are under way, and anyone who is interested in taking part should get in touch with him as soon as possible. Field Day setup begins on Saturday morning around 10 AM. We take it down early Sunday afternoon.

MARC Field Day does not require you to be an expert operator or contester. We do Field Day to learn, not to show off, so people who already know it all may want to go somewhere else! We build club spirit, get to know each other better, work on some technical and operating skills, and have a good time doing it. Every club member, regardless of license class and operating experience, is welcome to come to Field Day and participate as much as you want to. Friends and family members -- licensed or not -- are also welcome.

Don't be shy about trying operating modes you haven't used before. Remember, at Field Day we use a club callsign -- **W3NWA** -- so if you make a boo-boo, nobody will know it was you. On the other hand, that's not permission to Operate While Stupid, since the callsign trustee has no desire whatsoever to receive a whack on the knuckles from an Official Observer or FCC enforcer **Riley Hollingsworth**. Have fun, try some new things, obey the FCC's Rules. There will be plenty of experienced operators who can answer your questions and give you a hand.

What's still up in the air is the location of our Field Day operation. For over two decades we have used Verizon's training field on

Egypt Road in Audubon, PA, thanks to **Bob W3SA**'s connections with the company. This field is to become part of the Shannondell retirement complex after Verizon's lease ends in August. We are not up the creek, however, since Verizon will move their training activity to another field a short distance away. Verizon has promised us the use of one of these fields. Verizon will let us know their plans in mid-May, and we'll use whichever field they make available.



A special edition of REMARCS will be distributed to let you know which field to go to. A map to the usual site is on page 5, since we believe it is likely we'll use that field this year. Do be on the lookout for the special mailing, however, which will give you the definite information.

Field Day goes on rain or shine and all night long, so bring the necessary stuff to stay dry, avoid sunburn, repel mosquitoes, etc. If you plan to help with set-up or take-down, bring work gear (gloves, boots, hard hat, tool box, etc.) Meals and water / soft drinks are provided by the club. Children are welcome but must be supervised by their adults at all times for their safety. Please drive very carefully on the Field Day property to avoid causing an accident. It's a rough field, not a lawn or park, so wear appropriate footwear.

You do not have to stay the whole period or camp out overnight. Come when you like, stay as long as you like. But do come, and get on the air. You'll have fun and be glad you showed up.

MAY & JUNE PROGRAMS

May: VHF/UHF Single Sideband -- Most people hear "VHF/UHF" and think "FM repeaters," but there is another world above 30 MHz. One of those activities is operating SSB (and CW, too, for that matter) for contesting, DXing, award-hunting, and experimentation.

Used to be, you had to buy expensive multi-mode single-band rigs, use clunky transverters, or build your own gear to get into this side of VHF/UHF. Today, many multi-band transceivers have SSB capability on 6m and 2m, which happen to be the easiest VHF bands on which to begin your non-FM work.

At our May 24 meeting, we'll enjoy a program given by members of our neighbors the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (a.k.a. "The Pack Rats"). The Pack Rats are a world-class VHF/UHF/microwave club devoted to contesting, homebrewing, and technical experimentation above 30 MHz.

VHF/UHF SSB is fun, and you can work the world with a Tech

(Continued on page 5)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR

The Kimberton Fire Company has kindly offered once again to let us use their fairgrounds rent-free for the hamfest if we provide volunteers to sell ride tickets and collect parking donations at their fair. The rental fee is \$900. The dates for which we need volunteers are Thursday, July 28; Friday, July 29; and Saturday, July 30. Check out the schedule details on page 4.

Ticket sellers sit in air-conditioned booths. Parking donation collectors are on their feet, but last year our gang had a blast chatting on their HT's and the time flew by. All of us who worked at the fair last year had a good time. Your non-ham spouses and teenage kids can help out, too, because the work does not involve communications.

By giving a few hours of your time, you are helping send \$900 straight to the bottom line of our hamfest. We already have a few volunteers signed up, but we need quite a few more in addition to the early birds.

(Turn to page 4 for additional information)

ABOUT MARC

wb3joe@marc-radio.org
http://www.marc-radio.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

4th Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township
Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. Guests welcome.
Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Paoli Hospital.
Members may attend as observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R, 445.675/R
145.13 & 147.06 linked, CTCSS 131.8 Hz
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-327-8666,
smaslin@marc-radio.org)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R
Net Manager: Dick K3IIN
(610-688-0874, k3iin@arrl.net)

DUES

\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)
\$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)
Family rate \$5 per ham after first
member pays full dues.

NEWSLETTER

REMARCS is published in the odd
months, edited by Kay N3KN
(610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND
TO A MARC MEETING!

LICENSE TESTS MAY 7

MARC-sponsored license exams will be given on Saturday, May 7, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive by 9:15 AM to do the paperwork.

The test fee is \$14. However, paid-up MARC members may participate in one club-sponsored test session per year at no charge -- the club pays the test fee.

Candidates should pre-register rather than just walk in, because if nobody pre-registers the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' Saturday morning.

For pre-registration, directions, and other information, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

MARC license test sessions are named in honor of **Tom Powell K3YPO** (SK), the club member who made it possible for us to use the facility at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Though not a VE, Tom came to every session, brought refreshments, and made sure examiners and applicants had everything we needed. We miss him!

VOX

Welcome **Gene K3DSM** to MARC membership; he's the president of our neighbor club the Philadelphia Area Repeater Association. Also welcome **Jeff W3JAM**. Real old-timers in the club will remember Jeff when he signed **WB3GUR** and suggested that we should start a traffic net on our repeaters. Another new-member welcome goes to **Norman WB2HVJ** from Palmyra, NJ. Finally, welcome **Phil KB3MAW** to the club. A relatively new ham, Phil runs with a fire company in Chester County. **Lou WX3I** received a NOAA public service award for his service to the Mt. Holly National Weather Service office, including training/retraining over 200 Skywarn spotters last year. Nice to see **Al N3EA** when he was in town for a few days. President **Steve N3ORH** has announced that he and wife **Natalie Maslin** expect an additional harmonic in their family. Congrats to them and to grandparents **Al N3EA** and **Marlene WA3UOC**. Hats off to **Foster K3FXS** and **Dori W3IBH**, who ran for Member-at-Large to fill **Gene N3HG**'s unexpired term. Recently returned from wintering in Florida, **Leroy K2BIZ** says his RV was struck and damaged by a lunatic driver going 70 mph in a pouring rainstorm. Fortunately, Leroy and his wife are okay, but this sure goes to show you that not all the nuts are in the snacks aisle! **Gene N3HG** and **Judy N3MBW** move to Maryland this month, and we will miss them very much.

MARC IS GOING OUT TO THE BALLGAME -- AUGUST 19

The Phillies play Pittsburgh at 7:05 PM on Friday, August 19. You can be part of a MARC group that's going to the game. We are arranging a group rate for a block of seats on the first base line -- not ground-level, of course, but good seats all the same. The outing will produce some income for the **Nick UX0ZZ** fund -- the Phillies have a plan that lets groups come to games and benefit the worthy cause of their choice, so you can have fun and help others, too.

At this point we're not asking for any money. However, we do need to get an idea of how many people would like to come so we can reserve a block of seats. Family members, guests, friends, dates, etc., are all welcome to come.

If you'd be interested in going to the game or want more information, please contact **Dori W3IBH** now at 610-593-6279 or dori@lawsons.net.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At their March 24 meeting, the board welcomed **Dori W3IBH**, who was elected by members at the March club meeting to complete **Gene N3HG**'s unexpired term of office. Reports were given on membership renewals, future programs, and the status of MARC's repeaters. Documentation is lacking on the 220 MHz machine, but recently-discovered files may lead us to some answers. Two public service events are on the calendar for April and May. Former secretary **Bob W3SA** turned over a thick file of past board meeting minutes, which **Steve N3ORH** will scan into electronic storage so the bulky paper copies can be thrown away. Because the usual July board meeting date conflicts with our promise to work at the Kimberton Fire Company Fair, the board decided to change the board meeting date from July 28 to July 21. **Bob W3SA** reported on the status of the Field Day field, and **Dick K3IIN** noted that a Field Day committee is forming. At the suggestion of **Dori W3IBH** the board decided to look into having a family night at the Phillies baseball game in August. This will be a fun social event and also raise some money for the Nick Fund. The treasury balance was \$10,783.64.

At the April 28 meeting, the board voted to purchase a new antenna for the 222 MHz repeater and accessory gear required to install the antenna. The existing antenna is ancient and broken. Reports were given on programs, public service, Field Day, the hamfest, and membership renewals. Plans for the outing to the Phillies game were updated, and members will be asked to contact **Dori W3IBH** if they'd be interested in going to the game. The treasury balance was \$11,194.70.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Another busy summer is coming for MARC. First there's Field Day, then the hamfest, and finally the Kimberton Fire Company Fair volunteer opportunity. Please take the time to learn how important these events are in the life of the club and make a commitment to participate in them. If you have any questions, contact one of the board Members-at-Large. If they don't know the answers, they'll find out and get back to you.

Of course there are people who already know it all. Their lives are dull, since they're deprived of the excitement of ever learning anything new. Their boredom is relieved only by the frustration of having to put up with those of us who do not know everything. I, for one, have made it one of my life goals to be a source of constant irritation to know-it-alls, and I am very good at what I do.

See, I think learning is more fun than most anything else you can do in a public place. For example, I read on the Web about a vaccine for cat allergy that is being tested on mice. That must really [bleep] off the mice. Not only are they being shot full of drugs, it's all in aid of helping people become able to tolerate cats. And you thought *your* life wasn't fair!

I also learned on the Web that they discovered fossils of an early relative of Tyrannosaurus Rex down in Georgia. Okay, but what were they doing digging up my grade school principal?

If you are going to Dayton, please come to the ARRL booth and say hello. Every ham should go to Dayton at least once. The equipment sales and displays are amazing, ham radio kahunas (big and wanna-be) are there to talk to, and the program of educational forums has something for everyone -- maybe even for those who think they know it all!. Though it has shrunk from the cattle stampede of the early 1990's, Dayton is still big enough so newbies have to work at not gaping like bumpkins in the big city.

Field Day is another ham radio event that everyone should try at least once. MARC's Field Day welcomes everybody, and everyone who wants to operate gets to operate. The club callsign we use, **W3NWA**, was originally that of **Bob Young W3NWA** (SK), a founding member of MARC who was devoted to helping others become better operators. Bob would be pleased that his callsign is now on the air for Field Day, when good fellowship and -- yes -- learning are the themes of the weekend. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS: RADNOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, MAY 30 AND MORE

MARC will provide safety communications for the Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade in Wayne again this year. It's fun, but it's also an expression of respect for American service men and women who gave their lives for our country in the past and also for those who are in harm's way at this very moment.

The date is Monday, May 30. Gather at the Micro Center parking lot on Lancaster Avenue at 8 AM. Informal talk-in will be on the MARC 2m repeaters. For this event you really need an earphone, because parades are very noisy environments. Contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) for more information.

MARC communicated for the Multiple Sclerosis Society 5K Run & Walk in West Goshen Park, Chester County, on April 24. Our communicators were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bob W3LIA**, **Charlie KB3CO**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Carter N3AO**, and **Foster K3FXS**. The weather was cold and damp, and so we particularly appreciate these hams who turned out to do the job despite disagreeable conditions.

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MARC HAMFEST JULY 10

MARC's principal source of operating revenue is not membership dues. No one in his right mind and most people in their wrong mind would not pay the kind of dues to a local club that it would take to offer the programs and services MARC members are accustomed to. We must have a successful hamfest.

Hamfest chairman Mike KF3CD (mpilotti@anro.com, 610-935-4429) has hamfest flyers that you can take to other hamfests and to meeting of other radio clubs you belong to. Also, please start talking about the hamfest on the air -- not to the point of being tiresome, but enough to plant the idea in people's minds.

Good news! **Dieter K3DK** and **Dennis KA3QOT** have volunteered to manage the members' gear sales table! This means you can plan to bring your surplus ham radio and high-tech gear and have it sold for you while you shop or volunteer to sell tickets.

Put the hamfest on your calendar now. We need every member to come and bring a friend or two. Every member benefits from the club, and every member should support the hamfest by talking it up and being there.

KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR WORK SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 28 - 6 to 10 PM	4 ticket sellers, 4 parking donation collectors
Friday, July 29 - 6 to 10 PM	4 ticket sellers, 4 parking donation collectors
Saturday, July 30 - 1 to 5 PM	4 ticket sellers, 4 parking donation collectors
Saturday, July 30 - 6 to 10 PM	4 ticket sellers, 4 parking donation collectors

We need to sign up a lot more volunteers than the minimum we've promised to provide. Additional parking donation collectors are particularly good to have because they don't want cars backing up onto the street and blocking traffic.

Please select at least one shift and sign up to help. Your assistance at the fair adds \$900 to the profit for our hamfest! For sign-up and additional information, contact Kay N3KN (n3kn@arrl.net, 610-993-9623). Don't delay! We need to get the schedule filled out as soon as possible.

Ride ticket sellers work in pairs and sit in air-conditioned booths that lock from the inside. There isn't room for more than 2 people in a booth. You are provided with a fire company radio to request more tickets, additional change, and any other kind of assistance.

The evening ticket-selling shifts can run late, depending on when the fire company decides to close down the midway. Last year that was usually closer to 11 PM than 10 PM. Prepare to be flexible about that.

Donation collectors on the evening shifts should bring a flashlight and wear light-colored or reflective clothes.

If you have a MARC club badge, wear it.

APRIL CLUB MEETING: W3GER, Esq. TO THE RESCUE!

The scheduled speaker for the April club meeting was a no-show. Despite program chairman **Dick K3IIN's** repeated efforts to re-confirm things with the representative of the American Helicopter Museum by telephone and e-mail, the phone calls were not returned and the e-mails were not answered.

Sensible fellow that he is, Dick arranged a back-up speaker. **Gerry W3GER** had presented a program for a neighbor club recently and kindly agreed to be prepared to give the program at our April meeting just in case.

That's how we came to hear Gerry's very informative presentation on patent law. He is a patent lawyer, having taken up that profession as a second career after spending many years as an electrical engineer. After a quick review of the laws and regulations governing patents in the USA, Gerry distributed copies of an actual patent application for a new kind of microwave antenna and talked us through the document.

Questions from the group generated a lot of good discussion about patents in technical fields such as computers and radio communications. We are extremely grateful to Gerry for presenting the program and being ready to help the club on a what-if basis.

TONY ENGLAND W0ORE TO BE ARRL EXPO GUEST AT DAYTON HAMVENTION®

Tony England W0ORE, the second US astronaut to ever use Amateur Radio in space, will be a special guest of the League's at ARRL EXPO 2005 at Dayton Hamvention®. Present plans call for England to be at the ARRL EXPO 2005 area in the Ballarena of the Hara Arena complex Friday, May 20, from 9:30 until 10 AM, and at the ARRL youth activities area from 10 until 10:30 AM.

During his NASA career, England served on the support staff for the Apollo 13 and 16 flights. In 1985, England flew the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) during the STS-51F Spacelab-2 mission. He retired from NASA in 1988 after logging 188 hours in space.

England, 62, now is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the University of Michigan College of Engineering as well as a professor of electrical engineering and computer science and professor of atmospheric, oceanic and space sciences.

Dayton hosts the ARRL National Convention this year, highlighted by the ARRL EXPO exhibit area. Don't miss it!

FLEA MARKET

WANTED: A working 2m rig with CTCSS. Willing to buy it or swap something for it. Contact **Leroy K2BIZ** (610-783-0490).

Members' for sale/swap/want ads for ham and ham-related gear are published free of charge. Contact the editor.

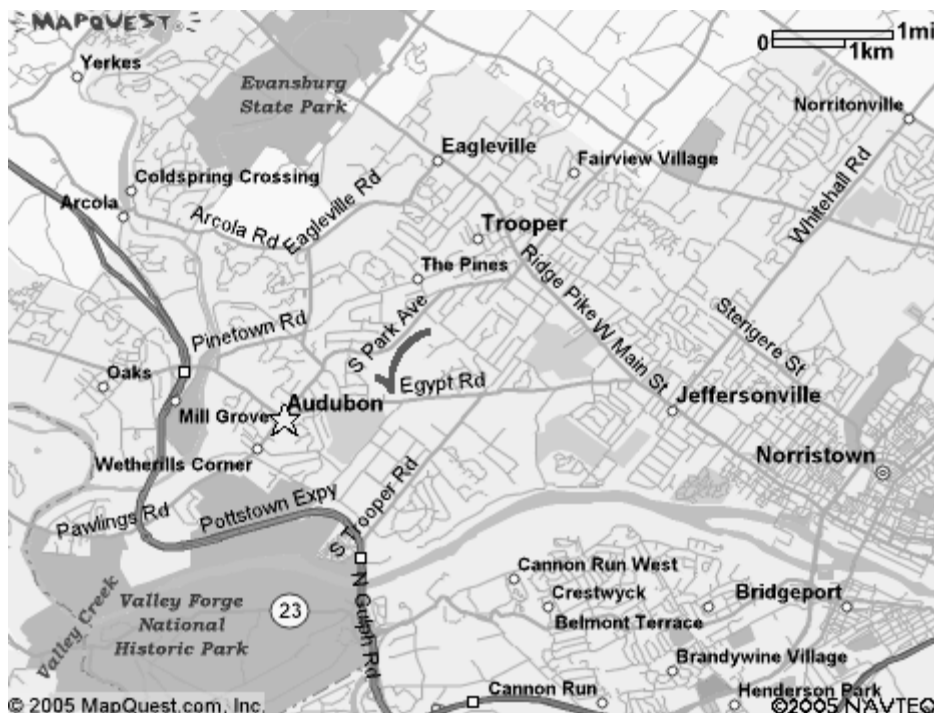
LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD PASSWORD AMNESIA?

After the ARRL's Logbook of the World was moved to a new server, some users reported problems logging into the site. These users reported that their computers' browser software had forgotten their LOTW passwords.

All they need to do is type in the password manually. The problem is that some people depend entirely on their browser to remember passwords and don't keep a list of passwords anywhere. If their browser forgets their passwords, they're stuck.

The LOTW password appears in the body of the e-mail with the most recent .tq6 (certificate) file attached. If users don't have that e-mail any more, they can contact lotw-help@arrl.org for assistance

Although it's convenient to let your browser remember the passwords to Web sites, two cautions are in order. One is not to do this for sites that involve finances -- banking, Social Security, credit cards, e-Bay, etc. -- and the other is to keep an updated list of all log-in ID's and passwords in a safe place where prying eyes won't find it.



FIELD DAY JUNE 25-26, 2005

1800 UTC Saturday to 2100 UTC Sunday

OLD FIELD DAY SITE

For over 20 years we have held Field Day at a site on the north side of Egypt Road in Audubon, PA. It's where the check mark is located on this map.

WHEN WILL WE KNOW?

Bob W3SA expects to meet with Verizon officials in mid-May, at which time they will tell him where we will hold Field Day. Either way, Verizon will still supply a generator truck with a bucket on which we raise our HF Yagi antenna. They do not charge us anything for use of the field or use of the generator. In fact, the Verizon employee who brings the truck to the field for us is a volunteer -- he isn't getting paid a cent to help us out this way.

FIELD DAY FACTOIDS

The very first Field Day sponsored by the ARRL was in June, 1933. The rules required notifying the government's Radio Inspector that you'd be operating portable, and ops were cautioned to obey the requirement. QST reported afterwards that 50 portable stations participated, which was excellent considering the cumbersome equipment of the day. Operating portable was a real production back in those days.

Because of the good turnout and the importance of encouraging portable operation skills in case of disaster, the ARRL decided to continue sponsoring an annual Field Day exercise. Today, Field Day is the most popular operating event in North America with 2,250 entries submitted in 2004.

AUCTION BENEFITS CLUB

The annual MARC junque auction added \$125 to the treasury. Fifty items were sold by 9 sellers, for a total sales value of \$575. Some items were sold on commission, while the proceeds from other items were donated entirely to the club. **Bart K4BF** did a great job as auctioneer again. MARC appreciates his help and thanks everyone who sold stuff, bought stuff, and simply attended for the fun and games.



The first MARC Field Day was held in 1977 -- the club was founded in late 1976 -- and the callsign used was that of founding member **Bob Young W3NWA**. It was held at a private home. That's Bob in the photo at left operating at MARC's 1978 Field Day.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Continued from Page 1

license -- no Internet relay involved, either! Come and learn more about it at the MARC meeting.

June: Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) -- APRS is among the most popular activities using personal computers in ham radio applications. Getting started requires little more than a VHF radio and computer. Connect a portable GPS receiver to your APRS station, and you can transmit your location info even as you're moving.

With APRS you can track moving objects on maps (other stations, public service vehicles, marathon runners, etc.), display weather statistics and storm warnings, and find a hidden transmitter. You can access the APRS network on the Internet, even without a radio. Our speaker will be **Paul Morris AA3SD**.

To explore beforehand on the Internet, check out www.findu.com and the Web site of APRS creator **Bob Bruninga WB4APR** at <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html>.

APRS was originally called "Automatic Packet Reporting System" because it was invented during the first era of AX.25 packet radio popularity. VHF packet radio is making a comeback today as part of radio e-mail emergency communications using the WINLINK network, and APRS is finding a role in that application.

WHAT ARE THOSE ODDBALL CALLSIGNS?

Hams who work HF may have run across some strange-sounding callsigns in 2005: HA80IARU, LZ8IARU, 9A0IARU, DQ80IARU, and maybe others by now.

Stations with IARU suffixes are commemorating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union.

What, you may ask, is the International Amateur Radio Union? It's an organization whose members are the world's national Amateur Radio societies -- ARRL, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc. -- and its purpose is to allow the societies to work cooperatively for the common good. To learn more about the IARU and why it's important, go to www.iaru.org.

DX bulletins report that CF3VEDAY will be on the air May 7 - 14 commemorating the 60th anniversary of VE Day. It's the first time a 5-letter suffix has been authorized for use in Canada. The operators will alternate between modern ham gear and vintage military rigs. Find out more at www.qsl.net/cf3veday.

During the month of May, all Canadian hams may use special prefixes CF, CG, CH, CI0, CI1, and CI2 in honor of WW2 veterans' service to freedom.

In fact, we will hear a lot of special event stations and special callsigns from various countries commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. Some of the callsigns may sound unusual, and the QSL cards will be interesting to collect.

Where do these oddball prefixes come from? The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) allocates blocks of callsigns to countries. For example, in addition to the blocks that start with V (VA-VG, VO, VX-VY), Canada is assigned blocks that begin with C (CF-CK and CY-CZ) and one that starts with X (XJ-XO).

A former FCC honcho was tweaking my leash at a hamfest recently about how much emotion hams invest in our callsigns. Not the first time I've heard that speech from him and likely won't be the last. One of these days I will ask him why he doesn't turn in his Extra class callsign -- issued in the first vanity callsign era many years ago -- request a sequential callsign and get happy with signing AB3-something-something. After all, a callsign is just meaningless letters and numbers, isn't it? It should be entertaining to hear what he says!

TEXAS LAWMAKERS IGNORING AMATEUR RADIO CONCERNS IN BPL BILL ARRL SECTION MANAGER SAYS

A bill in the Texas Senate aimed at amending that state's utilities code to "encourage the deployment of BPL" by electric utilities has received unanimous approval from the Senate Business and Commerce Committee. After holding a hearing April 21 and reporting the bill out of committee, the panel also voted to put it on the "consent agenda" to expedite its passage in the Texas Senate. ARRL North Texas Section Manager **Tom Blackwell N5GAR** says the BPL bill was added to the committee's hearing agenda at the last minute "so we would have the minimum amount of time to submit input." At the hearing itself, "everything was well scripted in advance," he said, and radio amateurs' concerns about the measure have fallen on deaf ears.

CALLSIGN LOOK-UP GIZMOS

Two ways to look up callsign information from QRZ.com have come to my attention recently.

QRZ.com Plug-In for Mozilla Firefox browser

Dean Gibson AE7Q has developed a free plug-in for the Mozilla Firefox browser that adds QRZ.com to the search window box. Go to his web site at <http://amateur.mailpen.net/Lookup.html> and see "Install a browser callsign lookup tool."

The plug-in is also said to work with Netscape, but I'm a Firefox user, so I wouldn't know about that. Install at your own risk, of course, but I can say it works okay for me.

QRZ.com e-mail query service

According to The Daily DX, you can receive address information from QRZ.com on as many as 10 callsigns by e-mail. You address the e-mail to lookup@qrz.com. Leave the subject line empty. In the body of the message, write "lookup <callsign>" on each line. For example, to get the addresses for N3AO, N3KN, and K1ZZ, you'd put the following lines in the body of the message:

Lookup N3AO
Lookup N3KN
Lookup K1ZZ

I tried it, using those 3 callsigns, and the response was instantaneous over my broadband Internet connection. Impressive. Frankly, when I heard about this service I wondered why you'd use it instead of looking up the callsigns individually on the web site. Now that I see how fast it works, I've changed my mind.

IEEE-USA WHITE PAPER ON GIGABIT NETWORKS IS DISMISSIVE OF BPL

A recent IEEE-USA white paper says copper-wire based broadband infrastructure alternatives, including BPL, are lower in capability than optical fiber and "cannot reach fiber speeds," although they may be lower in cost.

ARRL CEO **David Sumner K1ZZ** praised the report, "Providing Ubiquitous Gigabit Networks in the United States," for focusing on the future and mentioning BPL only briefly. "Appropriately, the white paper dismisses BPL with a passing reference to its being a 'controversial and unimplemented' technology that merely illustrates that the present FCC definitions relating to broadband are 'clearly inadequate,'" he commented. "Continuing to focus on such inferior broadband access technologies as BPL will, in the words of the report, 'relegate the US telecommunications infrastructure and US innovators to positions inferior to those of competitor nations, thus undermining all aspects of the nation's current and future life that depend on it.'"

The IEEE-USA Committee on Communications and Information Policy released the 16-page document March 14. You can read it as a PDF document at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/volunteers/committees/ccip/docs/Gigabit-WP.pdf>.

US HOUSE RESOLUTION CALLS ON FCC TO EVALUATE BPL INTERFERENCE, REVIEW RULES

Representative **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 (posted on the ARRL Web site at www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230.pdf), 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.

The resolution's prime focus is on BPL's potential to disrupt critical public safety radio communication. 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 cites comments that the FCC has struggled for years to resolve widespread harmful interference to the radio communications 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 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 (www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230-SampleLtr.doc), 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 at www.house.gov/.

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.

That's from the ARRL Web site. This is from your editor:

The introduction of this resolution will accomplish absolutely nothing without thousands of letters in support of its points. Reading the resolution (which you should do before you write your Congressman about it!) you'll notice that the resolution is about disruption to licensed radio services. It mentions public safety radio services, but does not mention Amateur Radio. That was done on purpose, because it will grab and hold Congress's attention more effectively than talking about Amateur Radio.

There is reference to the Nextel fiasco that is costing a lot of money to sort out at the present time in order to eliminate interference to public safety radio. That mess resulted from faulty spectrum management decisions made years ago, and the argument is that BPL will take public safety radio up the same unmentionable creek all over again.

Letters to our members of Congress should emphasize Amateur Radio's key role in emergency communications and should avoid referring to ham radio as a "hobby." Okay, it is our hobby, but in this instance we want to pound on the "service" aspect. Study the sample letter on the ARRL site, then put things in your own words if you can. I have a copy of the sample letter that I can send you, and I also have a copy of the House resolution.

*If you live in **Curt Weldon's** district, be aware that he has a personal background in volunteer firefighting and has been willing to listen to what hams have to say about the interference BPL causes to licensed services.*

Even if you are not on HF, never been on HF, wouldn't be caught dead on HF, or can't even spell "HF," you need to write your member of Congress asking for his or her support for this resolution. What harms any part of Amateur Radio harms us all -- regardless of what you or I do as individual hams -- and we have to fight this pollution of the spectrum with one voice. It's not just a menace to us, it's also a menace to public safety radio communications, putting first responders and the general public at risk.

It's not somebody else's job. It's yours and mine. Let's do it now.