

SPARC GAP

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

January, February, March 2004



Freddie KF4FCW scales SPARC clubhouse tower to install new VHF-UHF antennas as Dee N4GD checks the installation.

Photo by Bob Burke KC4SXO

Entry-level license sees no code test

From the ARRL
(See related stories Pages 5-6)

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licenses into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement, now five WPM only for the highest class.

The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan Jan. 16 during its annual meeting in Windsor, Conn.. The proposals developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a board instruction last July are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radio-communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago, but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the U. S., especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL first vice-president Joel Harrison W5ZN in presenting the executive committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'"

The entry-level license class, called "Novice" for now, would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80,

(Continued on page 2)

Broadband growing threat to hams

By DAVE ARMBRUST AE4MR
ARRL WCF Section Manager

Imagine tuning through the HF bands and hearing nothing except one birdie of interference after another all across the bands!

This is exactly what Ed Hare W1RFI found when he visited the areas that have implemented Broadband over Power Line (BPL), a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. Ed also has prepared a very alarming video that show exactly what he found while conducting his tests.

It seems that we are always facing one threat after another that may affect one band or another. However, I have never seen a threat that can so effectively eliminates HF communications as BPL appears to do. Still, if BPL is so damaging to the HF spectrum, the FCC could not possibly seriously consider implementing it, right? Unfortunately BPL is the only system that shows the potential to deliver universal broadband Internet access in the near future. The federal government is under enormous pressure to make this a reality. Ham Radio in the U. S. is currently in a fight for its life and it is going to be a very tough fight.

If all of this is not bad enough, here is the

really scary part. So far only about 80 Florida hams have commented to the FCC on the BPL proposal and only a small handful of these are from West Central Florida! While technically the comment period ended on July 7, 2003, the FCC has extended the reply comment period which now ends August 20.

The ARRL has been continuing the work on this for months and will continue through the FCC Notice of Inquiry period, the months afterward, and through any follow-on rulemaking. We are getting donations from the fund-raising effort, but this one will probably cost a lot more than that by the time all is said and done.

The most important thing people can do right now is to stand with ARRL and offer the financial and political support of their membership. Those who can do so should make what additional contributions to the spectrum defense fund they can and spread the word about the real scope of the problem. This is a serious situation, requiring a serious response.

ARRL president Jim Haynie W5JPB recommended that hams write their congress (Continued on Page 8)

Dah-di-dah of a key is music to the ears of purists

By **CANDY HATCHER**
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

DI-DI-DIT DA-DA-DAH DI-DI-DIT.

If the earth shakes violently again, fires consume our forests or a windstorm blows away our cell towers, we'll be thanking heaven for the people who know how to broadcast that call for help.

It's SOS in Morse code, the 170-year-old radio language that the Merchant Navy declared a few years ago had "died of old age." A satellite-based mayday system is replacing code, the communications method that spelled out the demise of the Titanic and the end of the world wars.

But as amateur radio operators have shown in so many natural disasters, including forest fires in Nevada last week, code is still the fastest -- and sometimes the only -- way to get

help in an emergency.

Recently, a bunch of amateur radio operators from the Puget Sound region spent the day at Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island, testing their emergency preparedness and trying to contact as many other operators as possible in 24 hours. Starting at 11 a. m., they hunkered down in a bunker, in tents and campers near the beach, sending signals by code and voice to thousands of other operators around the country and in Canada.

The Mike and Key Club, operating as K7LED, went to the hinterlands, away from hotels and restaurants and electricity, for Field Day. To an outsider, it appeared to be a bunch of geeks with lots of radio antennae getting together for a weekend of pranks and tall stories around the campfire.

But Field Day is more important -- and more personal -- than a weekend camping

trip.

Field Day is erecting 30-and 40-foot towers using ropes and strong arms and a fly-fishing rod. It's setting up a generator that will power ten radio stations, each using different frequencies and technologies. It's technical skills, several organizers and a chef coming together to demonstrate how they can kick into gear when power lines go down, cell phones don't work and no one knows whether this part of the country is living or dead.

Said Jim Hamlin of Federal Way, a radio operator for 45 years, "During the last earthquake, we had no dial tone on land lines and no service on cell phones." Within minutes, ham radio operators were broadcasting from their homes and cars, and with hand-held radios, letting police and medical workers know about injuries and damage.

I am vaguely acquainted with Morse code, having grown up with a brother who became a ham radio operator when he was 11. But I didn't appreciate, until I went to Field Day, all the benefits kids gain when they make ham radio a hobby.

They get to experiment with technical equipment. They learn geography and social studies and science. Piqued by his radio hobby, my brother studied electrical engineering in college. He brought his 12-year-old son to Field Day in his home state, operating for an amateur radio club near Chicago, W9DUP.

In Western Washington, I met 11-year-old Aaron Torres from Kent, who, "with no help from anybody," his mentor said, learned about ham radio on the Internet, got a book about it, took the test and passed. Aaron's 11th contact after earning his license was Tyler Gill, 12, from Ravensdale, whose father got his license at age 13, but had let it lapse. Mitch Gill took the test again, got relicensed and now works with both boys.

Carolyn Pasquier, 55, of Sumner got her license about 18 years ago because she believed it would help her in her job as an electronics sales representative. "I was trying to learn about my career, and I got this great hobby handed to me."

Her daughter, Adrian Roth, and son, Richard, got their licenses soon after their mom. And then Adrian married a ham.

All operators, code or voice, know basic radio technology. They've passed tests on regulations and operating principles and obtained a license from the federal government.

In times of trouble, they're good folks to have on your side.

New license proposed

(Continued from page 1)

40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of amateur radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees, now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs, would be grandfathered into the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees, Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General, would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements.

The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a five-WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level

of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime five-WPM Morse credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters.

The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice reformatting" plan the league put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413).

The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF sub bands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.



Lou N4SAL, Rick KG4BUA and Art KG4TGR looking futility to go on TV at Orlando HamCation
Photo by Tom KG4HGP

Orlando's HamCation a huge draw

By TOM WEDDING KG4HGP

This year, Orlando's HamCation came on Valentine's Day and that might have posed some problems for some hams.

However, from the turnout I saw, I would say that everyone worked out their weekend plans. The place was packed!

Last year's event was cool and windy, but the weather was better this time around, at least a bit warmer.

We went over Saturday morning, King Aurther KG4TGR, Lou N4SAL and myself. It was a good drive over and we arrived about 9:45 a. m.

We contacted Richard KG4BUA on a simplex frequency and he met us at the front gate. We walked around through all the vendors and out to the tailgaters.

There were plenty of good bargains, offering just about anything you could want or need, but I could not find that \$20 like-new HF rig. Maybe next year. I did get a 40-meter Hamstick for \$10.

After the first walkaround, we went to the World Radio Booth to visit with Nancy Kott WZ8C. She's the World Radio magazine editor and the Keynote, the newsletter of the FISTS CW Club. Nancy really was very warm and friendly and loves ham radio and CW. John KU4BT and I hugged her and gave her a Valentine's Day card on behalf of SPARC. This was World Radio's first time to HamCation.

We took a lunch break and saw Leslie WA4EEZ and Roger K4SHI, who stayed the weekend.

We also visited with a number of SPARC club members and other friends from around the state whom you might see only once a year at these fests.

As with the Tampa Bay Hamfest, I had a great time.

Tampa Bay Fest a crowd-pleaser

By TOM WEDDING KG4HGP

The 2003 Tampa Bay Hamfest was put on by the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council. The turnout was good even though the weather was a little cool. It was in the upper 40's Saturday Dec. 6 and the wind was a little brisk, a tough day for tailgaters. Inside, the Manatee Civic and Convention Center was nice and comfortable and things were buzzing.

The SPARC table was set up right across from the ICOM booth, a good location and we had many hams stop by. Plenty of large lies were swapped and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

We want to thank Dee N4GD for seeing that everything was set up and ready to go for Saturday morning. I got there about 7:45 a. m. and shortly after came Rich KG4BUA and Emory KD2DN with coffee and biscuits from Mickey D's. I think that this is the hams' Breakfast of Champions!

Now we were ready for any-thing the day would bring. Jim KG4JSZ came to man the SPARC table with his remote control SUV, complete with remote video camera inside. He goes first class! This brought a crowd of interested

onlookers to the table.

There were plenty of vendors to keep us busy going from booth to booth or table to table. Many good bargains were on the tables and, I for one, was having a good time at the Vibroplex booth. John KU4BT also enjoyed a good time there.

Carolyn N5MUU was one of the vendors, a joy to talk to about the future of CW. I purchased a Vibroplex square Black Standard Racer. It's really a joy to work and will certainly improve my speed. I also picked up a few good books on code and keys, featuring some interesting ads. but people in the booth would not honor these 70-year-old ads with the great prices! Leslie WA4EEZ bought a good book on DXing around the world by sailboat! She also got a good buy on an amp.

I think everyone had a good time, I know I did and I am looking forward to Orlando in February 2004. (See Tom's rundown on the Orlando Fest on this page). I hope everyone had a great holiday season and Santa brought them all the radio gear they asked for.

73's and remember, it's great to be "RADIOACTIVE".



Brrrrrrrrrrrrr.....

SPARC's annual picnic was held Feb. 8 at Lake Seminole Park. It was 42 degrees at noon picnic time with a biting wind. However, every daredevil who showed had a great time!

Sam N4SLT does double duty, staying warm and grilling the dogs and burgers.

SPARC prexy Donn Davis N4KII (top right, center) chats with C. Michael KG4PMC and Steve KA7RNY.

John Stark KU4BT (above) chills out on chili.

Pat N4RAT and Dee N4GD (center) smile through it all.

Richard KG4MRH (far right center) forks in the chow and looks none the worse for wear.

And, Ron KP2N (right) visiting the birdies on the lake.

Photos by Ron Hall KP2N





John Stark KU4BT sends Sumo Report via his fast-fisted CW at SPARC meeting
Photo by Bob Burke KC4SXO

Here's what a purist thinks of the CW proposal

(Stark intends to send this letter to the ARRL, FCC and other parties)

"There's not a chance in Hades they'll read it, but it's worth the try." —Stark.

By JOHN STARK KU4BT

I've had some time to think about the latest restructuring proposal; I've perused the comments on QRZ and on eham. I've read W1RFI's explanations about sending your comments to your regional director, as they will be ignored if sent elsewhere. We must follow the chain of command. How military.

Being a member of SPARC, the second oldest affiliated club in the entire southeast, your division, I know about being ignored. I've taken a survey of the hams that check into my Thursday night net, and seen how they feel about the proposal. As far as I know, this is the only survey ever taken on the issue.

True, we were asked to e-mail or write our director, which I did. This was a half-hearted attempt at best to collect information. With all of the junk mail requests I get asking for more money from headquarters, you'd think that, for an issue this important, a membership survey could have been taken. It reminds me of the missing ballots that were never mailed to our members during the last WCF SM election. One of the pleasures of belonging to a membership organization. I have also been a VE for many years. Since the ARRL VEC appears to have had input on these decisions, one might assume that my opinion may have been solicited. Again, the answer is in the negative.

I feel you have done a good job marketing the new proposal to the ham community. We are the target of most of the marketing, not the general public. (This might account for some of the lack of growth.)

It was a nice touch calling it the "NOVICE" license, as this might bring back fond memories to many of the old-timers, and since there is already an existing NOVICE license, it adds to the general obfuscation. The original NOVICE license in its earlier iterations worked and worked well because of its limited duration and lack of privileges both of which encouraged upgrading in a timely manner.

(Continued on page 6)

Tampa Bay Challenge continues

Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council (FGCARC) president Jim Schilling KG4JSZ and first vice-president Pete Secrist WB2SUN presented to ARRL Southeastern director Frank Butler W4RH a check fulfilling their group's part of the "Tampa Bay Challenge."

Last year FGCARC voted to give one dollar from every ticket sold from their hamfest to the ARRL's BPL Defense Fund. Additionally, the group challenges other groups to do the same. The

check was for \$1,354, for which Butler thanked the group.

The FGCARC was formed in the mid 1970's to bring together the clubs of the Tampa Bay area. Each member club sends a representative, plus an alternate, to the council to speak for their club members at the council's proceedings.

The council's main function, for which it is primarily known, is putting on the "Tampa Bay Hamfest".



Schilling KG4JSZ (center) presents check to Butler W4RH while Sandy Donahue W4RU, southeastern vice-director (left) and Pete Secrist WB2SUN look on.
Photo by Dee N4GD

INFORMAL CW POLL

During his SPARC Net watch recently, Stark took a poll of checkins to grasp a feeling they had about CW and it's inclusion or exclusion in a new license now being considered by the ARRL\FCC.

Here are the informal results:

CLASS	NO	YES	YES	UND	NC	COMMENT
A	1					
A	1					
G	1					
G	1					
G			1			
G	1					
G	1					
G			1			
G			1			FOLLOW THE MONEY
G	1					
G	1					
T			1			
T			1			
T			1			
T	1					
T			1			
T	1					
X						1 HUMPTY DUMPTY DUCT TAPE AP- PROACH
X			1			LIKES IT
X	1					PRESTIGE GONE, FLUSHED DOWN TOILET
X	1					MOST UNTECHNICAL PERSON IN SPARC
X	1					
X					1	
X					1	

	11	4	4	4	3	

no , no to all of it
 no yes, no to instant upgrade of techs, yes to the rest
 yes, yes to all of it
 un, undecided about all of it
 nc, no comments

totals by class, a = advanced, g = general, t = techs with or without code, x= extra

CLASS	NO	NO YES	YES	UND	NC	total
A	2					
G	3	4	3			10
T	2	3	1			6
X	4	1	3			8
						total 26

CW proposal draws fire from diehards

(Continued from page 5)

Once the license became permanent, the desire to upgrade vanished, and we are still stuck, to this day, with novice license class holders. The new license class which you propose is a general-class license with power restrictions and no access to 20 meters and the WARC bands. This license has no expiration date. The power restrictions can't be enforced and the band restrictions will be an enforcement nightmare.

In the year 2000, the mantra from headquarters on restructuring was two fold. Number one, "No we are not dumbing down the tests. If anything, the tests will become harder". Number two was "no instant upgrades. Nobody gets new privileges without testing."

In three-and-one-half years, how the story has changed. We need a new, shorter, simpler test. We need instant upgrades for Technicians,

Technicians with code privileges, current novices, and advanced licenses. Everybody except the generals and extras gets something for free.

I am surprised and bothered by how quickly the story has changed. If it was right in 2000, why is it wrong now? Are we seeing an example of incrementalism? Was the league lying to its membership in 2000?

I wondered about this. Then I finally realized that the "refarming" issue itself, being bundled into this change, logically pointed to just that assumption as being true. Much of the verbiage on the issue reminds me of the Good Cop (ARRL) Bad Cop (FCC) dialogue from TV shows.

So my issues are more with the organization itself than the proposal which, in the end, is only a product of that organization. I don't like membership organizations that don't listen to the members.

I can't believe you intend to reward whining, lazy people for doing nothing. You seem to have developed a very elitist, dare I say, European attitude believing that you are able to decide these issues without the input of the great unwashed majority of hams.

This proposal, if passed, will cheapen the worth of all of our license classes and cause great changes in ham radio both inside the ARRL and for the majority of operators. As you said, change is good. There is another widely circulated aphorism, "Be careful what you ask for."

This dizzy ham gets it all right with new vertical!

By PHIL GULICK KG4IGX

At my age (71), sporting hearing aids (\$3,000) and still nursing a long-ago back operation (\$29,500), I often find it difficult to stay steady on my feet.

Such was the case when my new Hy-Gain, eight-band AV-640 Patriot vertical antenna arrived from Amateur Electronic Supply in Orlando the other day.

I stood the 8-foot-long box on end, looked up – and got dizzy. Not from the price, a reasonably \$400 (including S&H), but from the very height of it. Oh, boy, I thought, I'm going to have to get my son, Taz, to help with this piece of hardware, 25 feet tall, 22 pounds.

I cemented three feet in the ground a 10-foot section of 1 1/4-inch steel pipe. Since the manual calls for the base counterpoise to be at least five feet above the roof of my shack, I added a 6-foot section of pipe to the cemented section. The thin 72-inch counterpoise whips droop drastically, so I wanted the most clearance I could get and still have the mounting plate reachable by Taz.

Assembling the AV-640 was a piece of cake. I joined the four main aluminum sections, called center radiator assembly in the instructions, together in my Florida room. The base insulator is a 12x1 1/2-section of aluminum enclosing a solid plastic insulator. Joined to that is a 71x1 1/2-inch section, then a 69x1 3/8-inch section, another 69x1 1/4 section and, finally the coil assembly, carrying the 20, 30 and 40-meter coils and the four capacity hat spoke rings.

Then, I had to move the whole assembly outside and stack it on a lawn chair to continue the final assembly.

There are 12 stub insulators, some plastic, some metal. Each is mounted to the center radiator with 16 radiator clamps at specified lengths along the radiator. The stub insulators had to be assembled, then mounted to the center radiator. That was a real chore, since each one demanded nuts and bolts and finger dexterity I seem to have lost with age. Dropping the bag of nuts-bolts into the grass and fumbling to find the strays only compounded my problem. Have you ever tried to find a tiny nut or bolt in grass?

After the stub assemblies were mounted, the four rod stubs were slipped through the stub assemblies. The 10, 12, 17 and 6-meter stub rods fit well, and I had only to reverse one mismatched stub assembly. I measured the rods to fit the SSB specs and other specs for CW and Center are listed. The 6-meter rod was tuned to 52-54 MHz so I can pick up the Suncoast Sixers' repeater and net. I



did not mount the counterpoise whips until the antenna was erected.

The capacity hat was another story. I had to elevate the top end of the antenna so that the four, 35-inch 40-meter spokes would clear the ground. Four 24-inch spokes went into the 30-meter ring assembly and tightened down with 8 nuts and bolts, another lesson in dexterity. The 30 and 20-meter spokes were inserted into their respective rings and tightened. Each of the spokes can be trimmed to resonate on the proper frequency. Several charts in the instruction manual detail the spoke length trims.

So far, so good. Now the AV-640 took on a more business-like look.

After the cement had set and the pipe was firm and tight against the shed eaves, I called Taz. He's in his 40s, but still strong and agile. He was to come over that Friday eve and we'd put up the antenna, but he had a fender-bender and didn't arrive until near dark.

"Can we put this thing up in the dark?" I asked.

"Piece of cake," he responded. I could just see him losing a bolt or nut or tool in the dark atop that shed.

We got started anyway, Taz screwing down the added length of pipe, which carried the already assembled mounting plate.

The next-door neighbor, a lady inclined to cussing our tiny King Charles English Toy Spaniel at every bark, poked her head out

the back door. "What's going on out there?" she shouted. We assured her we were not house intruders and she kindly turned on her porch light to help us.

It was dark, no wind, and ambient light helped our cause.

I foresaw the biggest problem would be how to balance that 25-foot antenna long enough for Taz to slip it through the mounting brackets. If he could manage that without losing the antenna and bending the rods or dropping it wholesale on the ground, it would be a miracle.

After a couple of misses, Taz balanced the antenna in one hand, lifted it like a matchstick on the end of his finger, and dropped it into the brackets. I breathed a sigh of relief. I was standing on the ground because even two rungs up a ladder brings vertigo.

So, there she stood in all her majestic glory, towering 36 feet in the air, although we couldn't see the end of it.

Taz attached one end of the coax and I left the other end unattached, looking forward to Saturday's dawn and my first look at the new piece of hardware added to my radio inventory.

"What else?" Taz asked.

"Well, seven counterpoise whips have to be bolted in, but I can do that in the morning," I responded.

Taz well knows my condition. "Like hell," he quipped. "I don't want you up on this roof. What has to be done?"

He inserted the whips and bolted them down, fumbling in the dark with the tiny nuts and bolts.

Finally, it was done. I patted him on the back, fed him and sent him home.

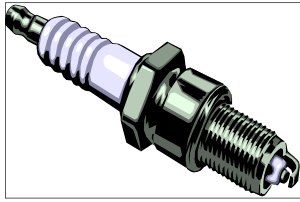
The instructions say the AV-640 barely needs tuning out of the box, so I was eager to fire up my Icom-746 and find out.

Should I tune it through the Icom or the LDG AT-11MP Autotuner? I decided on the autotuner, didn't want to fry the Icom.

Twenty-meters first and the AV-640 tuned right in. Then the other six bands and it tuned in seconds. I tried the 6-meter and it had a momentary problem, but finally rattled to a tune.

I couldn't believe it! I had bolted together a complex piece of machinery and it worked, right out of the box. So, now, I can go horizontal and vertical!

Dee N4GD came over later with his antenna analyzer and fine tuned the antenna. A couple of spokes have to be trimmed up into the workable bands, but that's for another day and another free meal for Taz.



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In This Issue...

A look at the CW world, it's people, it's proposed changes and it's great fun! Pages 1-2-5-6

DATE LOG - 2004

SPARC meetings - First Friday every month, 7:30 p. m., 818 4th St. N, St. Petersburg
Testing sessions - Fourth Monday every month, Gulfport Senior Center.
Chester's Tailgate, March 13, 7 a. m. 'til ?, 311 N. Missouri Ave., Largo.
Florida QSO Party, April 24-25, SPARC Clubhouse.
Lake Maggiore Tailgate, May 2, 8 a. m. 'til 3 p. m., South St. Petersburg.
Training classes—TBA

AREA REPEATERS & WEB SITE

SPARC repeater: Nightly, 6:30 p. m., 147.06+, 224.66-, 444.475+.
Web site: www.qsl.net/W4GAC - Webmaster Dee Turner N4GD
CARS repeater: Wednesdays, 8 p. m., 146.970- PL103.5, 224.940-no pl, 444.150+.
Metro repeater: Mon-Wed-Fri, 7:30 p. m., 147.360+, 127.3.
WCF Section Net: Sun 7:30 p. m., Wed, 9 p. m., 145.430+ & 442.950+(100Hz).

SPARC'S 2004 BOARD

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Broadband

(Continued from Page 1)

men and to remember to use the word "pollution" when referring to the interference of BPL. This term has great weight in the Washington political circles and should help to get their attention.

If you would like me to attend a local club meeting and talk about the BPL threat I would love the opportunity to do so. I will bring Ed Hare's video as well if you can provide me a TV and VCR to play it. Let me forewarning you, the video is very sobering.

You may view Ed Hare's video at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2/?nc=1>)

