

# QRZ

## A Monthly Publication of The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

### In this month's issue....

Latest on the ARRL & BPL 3

Announcements 4

Club announcements & information

From the Kickapoo QRP 5

Gary Auchard - WB0MNA

League Notes 6

News & other items from the ARRL



### MEETINGS

Date: First Thursday of each month  
Time: 7:30 p.m., Central Time  
Location: The American Red Cross  
525 Shawnee  
Leavenworth, KS

### PKARC

#### Club Officers 2007

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Vice President

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*Comments or suggestions regarding the QRZ format are welcome and appreciated.*

## ARRL Files Federal Court of Appeals Reply Brief over BPL



On July 31, the ARRL filed its reply brief at the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This brief follows the FCC's brief that attempted to rebut the ARRL's challenge to the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules enacted in late 2004 and affirmed by the agency in 2006. According to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, "The FCC's brief does not accurately describe ARRL's arguments concerning harmful interference." The ARRL, in its reply brief, accuses the FCC of, "engaging in misdirection -- rebutting hyperbolic arguments ARRL never made, refusing to address the precedents ARRL cited and attempting to rewrite the *Orders* as if they made factual rather than legal determinations."

The League's reply brief, according to Imlay, "focuses largely on the FCC's unprecedented failure to protect mobile stations from interference if the BPL operator reduces its radiated emissions by 20 dB below the Part 15 maxima, even if harmful interference persists thereafter. The reply brief also addresses the inapplicability of the 40 dB per decade of distance extrapolation factor applied to BPL system measurements in the high frequency bands."

The ARRL's reply brief looked at four main points:

- The FCC's failure to reconcile the Orders with the FCC's decades-old interpretation of Section 301.
- The FCC's failure to justify its nondisclosures of portions of the studies on which the *Orders* were expressly based.
- The FCC's failure to justify its refusal to consider contrary evidence, as well as a proposed alternative to its extrapolation factor for measuring interference.
- The FCC's failure to justify its summary dismissal of an alternative that could have accommodated BPL without causing the same harmful interference.

### FCC Refuses to Enforce Section 301

#### *Mobile Operations*

The ARRL's brief states that this case "is about an unlicensed operator's legal duty to cease harmful interference once it arises, not the standard for authorizing unlicensed transmissions."

For decades, the FCC has interpreted Section 301 to mandate two restrictions on unlicensed operators: The proposed operations will not have a significant potential for causing harmful interference, and; if harmful interference does occur, the unlicensed operations are to cease immediately. For the first time ever, the FCC excluded mobile operators from the second part of the mandate.

The FCC suggests in its brief that BPL emissions (that are reduced by the 10 or 20 dB that are the minimum notching requirements in the rules) will "never cause harmful interference to licensed mobile users, but there is no evidence to support this," the ARRL's brief states. The ARRL contends the FCC's brief "ignore[s] the express acknowledgement in the *Reconsideration Order* that 'harmful interference...may occur' even when BPL systems meet the FCC's technical standards and that when it occurs 'we will not provide further protection to mobile operations.'"

The FCC goes on to say, according to the ARRL's brief, that licensed mobile users "do not need the protection of the cease-operations rule because mobile users suffering from interference can move elsewhere." The ARRL contends that the FCC "has never before put the burden on the *license-holder* to move away from an unlicensed interferer, to the contrary, its rules require the interferer to cease interfering immediately. A BPL system deploys radiation-emitting devices *ubiquitously* throughout a service area, making it difficult to avoid harmful interference and impossible to conclude that harmful interference will 'never' occur."

#### *Unintentional Radiators*

The ARRL's brief states that "the FCC cites nothing to defend the Reconsideration Order's ruling that Section 301 is inapplicable to 'unintentional radiators.'" The ARRL's brief points out that the FCC's brief "fails to defend the Reconsideration Order's holding that unintentional radiators like BPL devices 'as such' are outside the scope of Section 301's license requirement. The brief actually admits the contrary -- that unintentional radiators are within Section 301." The FCC's brief mentions "but fails to acknowledge Section 302, which extended the FCC's authority to cover the manufacture and sale of interfering devices, is irrelevant to the scope of Section 301."

For more on ARRL's legislative fight over BPL, visit the ARRL at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



# Announcements



## PKARC TEST DATES

Club members and others interested in taking the FCC examinations for the various license classes should know that testing sessions for the Club have been set at the American Red Cross building on Shawnee Street, Leavenworth at 7:30pm. The next testing date for 2007 is scheduled for 31 August. Please notify Martha Auchard, **WBOERI**, at 772-7350 of your desire to take the test, so Volunteer Examiners can be notified and all the elements you need are on hand.

If you need assistance preparing, please ask any of the Club officers. Classes will be held also throughout the year depending on the number of those interested in devoting the time.



**CKARC To Host Kansas State ARRL Convention and Hamfest-** Central Kansas ARC will host the Kansas State ARRL Convention and Hamfest on Sunday, August 19th, at the Salina Bicentennial Center in Salina, KS. Doors open at 8:00am and the Convention runs until 4:00pm. For more information, contact Ron Tremblay, WA0PSF at [rtremblay@cox.net](mailto:rtremblay@cox.net)



**Special Event to Commemorate Beginning of New England Ship Building Heritage** (Aug 5, 2007) -- In honor of the 400th anniversary of the Popham Colony in Maine and the beginnings of shipbuilding in New England, the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association (MARA) is organizing a Special Event Station. Call sign N1P will be operating on various bands and modes August 17-19, 2007. The Popham Colony -- established on August 13, 1607 by English adventurers at the present day site of Phippsburg, Maine -- was part of the same business venture that established the better known Jamestown Colony in present-day Virginia. In 1608, the President of the Colony unexpectedly inherited a considerable fortune and he and all the colonists went back to England (that is the English version; according to Penobscot storytellers, the natives drove them out). The Popham colonists used locally available materials to construct a ship, the pinnacle *Virginia*, which subsequently made several trans-Atlantic voyages. The construction and launch of *Virginia* is considered to be the start of New England's shipbuilding tradition. QSL via W1ZE. If you are in Maine that weekend and would like to take a turn operating N1P, contact Steve Kerchel, AA4AK. N1P will be operating at Meadowbrook Camping Area, 33 Meadowbrook Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562. Other events celebrating this milestone include the building of a replica of the *Virginia*, Maine's first ship.



**International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2007** (Aug 8, 2007) -- More than 380 lighthouses in more than 48 countries -- from Argentina to Wales -- will be on the air for 2007 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group, Scotland. The event, held for the ninth year in a row, takes place Saturday, August 18 0001 UTC-Sunday, August 19 2359 UTC. While not a contest, the ILLW is more of a QSO Party and Amateur Radio demonstration. The ILLW aims to raise public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and the need for their preservation and restoration, promote Amateur Radio and foster international goodwill. Stations at more than 40 US lights are expected to be on the air for the event, and several stations will identify with special event call signs.

Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself; a Field Day-type setup at or adjacent to the light is sufficient. More information about the event, including a registration form, is available on the ILLW Web site.

# FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP ARC OPERATING DESK

-- GARY A, WB0MNA



## Wouff Hong

How many people have heard of the Wouff Hong? Believe it or not, it's an old time ham radio name created by none other than "The Old Man" himself. Yep, that's Hiram Percy Maxim the Father of Amateur Radio.

"Have you heard of a tool designed to punish amateur radio operators?" I heard this question asked a few evenings ago on one of the local two meter nets. While the question was valid to some degree, the "Tool" was never used to physically harm anyone with a hot CW key or over modulating microphone in their hands.

The history behind the "Wouff Hong Tool" or instrument came from HPM during his early days in ham radio operation. He was unhappy with the amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish their meaner instincts on the air.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong instrument was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air.

While amateur radio technology and ingenuity have advanced, we have discovered many new and improved techniques of bad operating practices still being used on the ham bands today.

A short time spent on the HF bands will show plenty of profanity, big guns overpowering a DX station in a pileup and just plain discourteous people acting like lids. Some of that operation is also occurring on the VHF and UHF bands.

While we have progressed considerably in the technology and state of the art electronics concerning ham radio equipment, it seems the Wouff Hong instrument could still be very useful yet today.

Poor operating practices like not signing off correctly with your callsign at the end of a conversation, using profanity and not showing courtesy on the air are never acceptable practices. If you listen long enough on some of our local repeaters, you will see these problems crop up way to often. Maybe it's time we brought out the Wouff Hong instrument and used it here locally. The person asking the Wouff Hong question above was guilty of not signing off with his callsign at the end of his conversation. That's a FCC requirement. Where's the Wouff Hong instrument when you need it?? This instrument actually does exist and currently is in a frame hanging in the office of the Secretary of the ARRL in Newington. If you're ever at ARRL headquarters, check it out.

For those that are not aware, there is an official "Wouff Hong Ceremony" held at ARRL conventions. While I cannot inform you of the proceeding during a ceremony due to secrecy, I can tell you I have been to two of these events and have the certificates to prove it. Maybe if you're lucky you will some day be able to join in a Wouff Hong ceremony and become a member of this select group. Being a member of the Wouff Hong ceremony group is not a bad thing. In fact it's a very good thing and that's all I can tell you. The rest you'll have to find out by attending a ceremony sometime.

I'm including a picture of the Wouff Hong instrument. Draw your own conclusions on how it may have been used.





# League Notes

## Postings from the ARRL



### The 2007 ARRL National Convention Is Just About Here!

ARRL is tying the ribbons on its planning for the 2007 ARRL National Convention, held in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest. The convention and hamfest will be held August 18-19 at the all-air-conditioned Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The event is preceded by the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference -- GAREC-07 -- held in the adjacent Embassy Suites Hotel, August 16-17.

"The ARRL National Convention will be chock-full of activities and exhibits," said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "The centerpiece of the convention will be ARRL EXPO -- an entire exhibit area showcasing many ARRL programs and services." A preview of what is planned for ARRL EXPO, as well as a downloadable exhibit and activities guide, can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site.

"If you can't make it to Huntsville," Inderbitzen said, "you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog." ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, and ARRL Web and Software Development Manager, Jon Bloom, KE3Z, will be posting news and happenings direct from the ARRL EXPO area (and beyond!) in Huntsville.

Another convention activity is ARRL Passport -- the ultimate hamfest scavenger hunt. Available to the first 2500 visitors to ARRL EXPO, the Passport opens up the possibility to win one of two terrific all-mode mobile transceivers: the Icom IC-7000 and the Yaesu FT-857D. Passport holders qualify by collecting different ARRL Passport codes at participating exhibits and activities while they enjoy the convention. Turn in your completed entry form at ARRL EXPO by Sunday at 12 noon, and you could be a winner.

"The Huntsville Hamfest Committee has organized a fantastic slate of presentations and forums. More than a dozen mini-forums will be given on the ARRL Stage, located in ARRL's big exhibit area," Inderbitzen said. A provisional list of hamfest forums can be found at the Huntsville Hamfest's Web site.

Presentations on the ARRL Stage will include an update on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) given by Ed Hare, W1RFI; suggestions for energizing young -- and potential -- hams, presented by ARRL Youth Contributing Editor and Georgia Assistant Section Manager/Youth Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM; a "how-to" session on writing for *QST*, presented by ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA; an introduction to ARRL Operating Awards and the ARRL QSL bureau with ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L; tips for contesting with *QST* Contributing Editor and ARRL author Ward Silver, N0AX, and an overview of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) presented by Rob Suggs, KB5EZ, NASA Space Environments Team Lead from the Marshall Space Flight Center. A schedule and a complete list of ARRL Stage presentations can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site.

THE PLOT KNOB  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 632  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
<http://www.pkarc.org>

AFFILIATIONS

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY  
LEAGUE  
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
THE LEAVENWORTH COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

The purpose of the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club is to further the exchange of information and cooperation among members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual efficiency, to provide assistance to the best advantage in the event of emergency, and to conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio.

Anyone interested in the activities of this organization will be eligible for membership. Members must comply with FCC rules and regulations, as well as rules established by the club. Dues are \$20 per year (no extra cost for spouse or minor children who are amateurs).

MEETINGS

Date: First Thursday of each month  
Time: 7:30 p.m., Central Time  
Location: The American Red Cross  
525 Shawnee  
Leavenworth, KS

The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club conducts 2 nets every week, with a 2 meter net every Wednesday evening at 7:30 on the 147.00+ (PL 151.4) repeater, and a 70cm net every Sunday evening at 7:15 on the 444.80+ repeater. All amateurs are welcome to join.



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