

# STATIC



SEPTEMBER 2004

## ARRL Goes to Bat for Arizona Amateurs Seeks BPL Field Trial Shutdown



The Cottonwood BPL field trial uses Mitsubishi Electric PLCLINK equipment. [Ernie Cummings, K6XF, Photo]

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 17, 2004--The ARRL has [asked the FCC](#) to immediately shut down a broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. [Electric Broadband](#) LLC and utility [APS](#) have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted to Electric Broadband in March. Michael Kinney, KU7W, filed the first Amateur Radio [complaint](#) in June. It cited testing by the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association ([VVARA](#)) in the 1.8-30 MHz range showing that BPL interference makes attempts at ham radio communication useless.

"The interference on typical Amateur Radio equipment shows received undesired signal levels in excess of 60 dB over S9 on the receiver's signal strength meter," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told FCC officials on the League's behalf. "The utility and Electric Broadband were contacted, and no response was received." The ARRL asserted that both companies are aware that the BPL field trial has been causing harmful interference and "neither has taken any steps to either resolve it or terminate the test."

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The League said VVARA and ARRL testing indicates levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations is "extremely high," well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which Electric Broadband told the FCC it would comply. VVARA testing revealed "actual harmful interference" from the BPL system to mobile stations in the vicinity and to the fixed station of David Kiggins, KB7KMR. Distances ranged from between 30 and 70 feet from BPL equipment to 0.56 mile and 0.71 mile from Kiggins station antenna, the League said.

The League's [shutdown request](#) went out August 16 via e-mail and courier to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon and Deputy Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Bruce Franca.

ARRL called on the FCC to instruct Electric Broadband and APS to shut down the BPL trial immediately and not resume operation until it can demonstrate that all interference issues have been resolved. It also insisted that the FCC immediately revoke any STAs granted for the Cottonwood or nearby operations, and that it institute forfeiture proceedings against the two companies for knowingly causing harmful interference.

VVARA submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report to the two companies and to the Commission in late July detailing the interference issues arising from the Cottonwood BPL field trial. There's been no response, the ARRL said.

The VVARA took baseline measurements in January, before the BPL trial began, and it's continued taking measurements since the system's startup to determine the extent of interference. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, conducted independent tests of the Cottonwood BPL system in July, and the League attached a summary of his findings to its letter.

"Mr Hare found strong BPL noise levels across a wide geographical area surrounding the BPL site and made measurements that show that the system is operating at levels several orders of magnitude higher than the FCC Part 15 limits," the League said. One measurement cited was more than 32 dB higher than Part 15 allows.

"The measurements taken were consistent with the levels seen on the Amateur Radio station receiver signal-strength meter by the Verde Valley group," the League added.

The VVARA and ARRL measurements, ARRL said, indicate widespread interference to Amateur Radio communication in an area within a mile of the BPL field trial and radiated emissions from BPL modems well in excess of what FCC regulations permit. The League further accused Electric Broadband of misrepresenting facts to the Commission by saying it would comply with §15.109 of the FCC's rules.

The ARRL said continued operation of the system while violating the conditions under which the STA was granted constitutes "willful and repeated interference," and both the utility and the BPL provider should be subject to fines as a result.

"ARRL requests that this test station be shut down immediately and that the appropriate monetary forfeitures be imposed against both Electric Broadband and APS," the League concluded.



ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, in Arizona to take measurements on the Cottonwood BPL field trial system. [Bob Shipton, K8EQC, Photo]

LBARA MEETING SCHEDULE		
MONTH	BOARD	REGULAR
SEPTEMBER	9/14	9/16
OCTOBER	10/19	10/21
NOVEMBER	11/16	11/18
DECEMBER	12/14	12/16

**SEPTEMBER'S  
GUEST SPEAKER**

**CLIFF HAUSER**

**KD6XH**

**ARIZONA ARRL  
SECTION MANAGER**

## MONDAY NIGHT NET FREQUENCIES

System	Location	Frequency	Offset	PL (Hz.)
MCARS	Bullhead/Laughlin	145.270	-	131.8
	Kingman	146.760	-	131.8
	Kingman	448.250	-	131.8
	Lake Havasu	146.610	-	131.8
	Willow Beach	147.120	-	131.8
CRRRA	Lake Havasu	146.960	-	162.2
		224.240	-	156.7
		449.950	-	141.3
BARN	Lake Havasu	447.540	-	136.5
	Las Vegas, NV	449.950	-	136.5
	Onyx (Palm Spngs)	449.340	-	136.5
	Orange County, CA	447.540	-	100.0

"MCARS" is Mohave County Amateur Radio System

"CRRRA" is Colorado River Repeater Association

"BARN" is Bikini Amateur Radio Network

## Did You Know?

**A duck's quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.**

**People say "Bless You" when you sneeze because when you sneeze, your heart stops for a millisecond.**

**It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.**

**Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times (remember that next time you are in contest!)**

**The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.**

**Most lipstick contains fish scales.**

**A cat's urine glows under a black light.**

## Amateur radio operators shine in crises

By Glenn Bischoff

It's common -- almost startlingly so -- to hear about total strangers banding together in times of crisis. For some unclear reason, basic human instincts governing compassion and charity that usually are suppressed by the dog-eat-dog world in which we live are unleashed when disaster strikes, and people who normally wouldn't even acknowledge each other's presence stand shoulder-to-shoulder to help those less fortunate, and often each other.

Such a scenario is playing out in Mobile, Ala., as Hurricane Frances bears down on the state of Florida. As you read this, a cadre of amateur radio operators are providing whatever assistance they can to those affected by the storm.

They are plying their craft at WLO Radio, the nation's sole provider of high-frequency ship-to-shore radiotelephone service, which it has been doing since 1948. WLO makes space available to an amateur radio club known as the Maritime Mobile Service Network ([www.mmsn.org](http://www.mmsn.org)), which consists of 68 members who voluntarily monitor the 14.300 kHz band on a rotating basis from noon to 10 p.m. eastern time. The club was formed in 1968 by Navy Chaplain A.W. Robertson to handle phone-patch traffic during the Vietnam War and today still handles third-party traffic for military personnel stationed overseas, according to Rene Stiegler, co-owner of WLO. (cont. page 4)



## Are You Radio Active?

Well how was your summer? I know it isn't quite over, but I think it is drawing to a close and we hope cooler temperatures are just around the corner. Did you stay here and brave the heat or did you go away somewhere. My wife and I did a little traveling in search of cooler climes.

In addition to seeing many wonderful sights as we traveled around our state, I hoped to get into some interesting QSO's with some of the locals or other visitors in the various areas. I had a UHF/VHF radio in the mobile as well as a handheld for when I was relaxing in our trailer. I usually had it tuned to what my research told me was the appropriate local frequency (or frequencies). Now I suppose it is possible that I was not on the correct frequency, but several times I heard other hams talking but when I got on the repeater everyone seemed to go away (no snide remarks please). I would often come up on the frequency and ID, but very seldom did anyone come back to me. This did not give me a very good feeling for the people in these areas.

When we returned home, I wondered if we aren't sometimes guilty of similar behavior. When we hear a new call sign on the local repeaters, do we welcome them or do we ignore them because they aren't one of our "friends". When we get into our vehicles, we should ID and tell everyone listening that we are there. When we are in our shacks we should also ID and tell everyone that we are there. Perhaps there is a visitor or new resident out there that would like to talk. To steal a phrase, there are no strangers in this world, just friends we haven't met yet. Your new best friend could be just a QSO away.

This is just something to think about. Hope to see all of you for the next LBARA meeting at the Mohave County Library on September 16, at 7:00 PM.

73 de N6BRH (Bruce)

Should one of the volunteers pick up a distress call, he or she connects the call via a phone patch to the U.S. Coast Guard; they also provide location information. "That frequency definitely has become a calling frequency for help, especially for vessels at sea," Stiegler said.

The service provided by the club is especially critical for smaller ships (under 300 gross tons), which are not required to have on board the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Those vessels generally place mayday calls over the 2182 kHz frequency monitored by the Coast Guard, but propagation challenges limit the effective range of those signals to 200 miles, Stiegler said. Ships beyond range of a Coast Guard receiving station then revert to the 14.300 kHz frequency, he added.

Stiegler said the club occasionally receives a distress call from larger commercial ships on that frequency, something he's not sure FCC rules allow. In times of trouble, that becomes a moot question, however.

Tnx Dick, W7DXJ

## **Did You Know?**

**It is impossible for you to lick your elbow.**

**A crocodile can't stick it's tongue out.**

**A shrimp's heart is in it's head.**

**KINGMAN**  
**12th ANNUAL**  
**FALLFEST**

**SPONSERED BY THE HUALAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2004**

**MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**(OFF OF STOCKTON HILL ROAD ON JAGERSON AVEUNE IN KINGMAN, ARIZONA)**

**GRAND PRIZE**

**KENWOOD TM-G707A  
2M/440 FM TRANSCEIVER**

**2ND PRIZE**

**JVC DVD VIDEO PLAY  
MODEL xv-N310B**

**3RD PRIZE**

**\$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE  
FROM WORLD RADIO**

**TICKETS**

**\$3.00 EACH**

**2 FOR \$5.00**

**5 FOR \$10,00**

**TAILGATERS**

**WELCOME**

**“FREE TAILGATING SPACE”**

**MANY— MANY**

**DOOR PRIZES**

**STARTS AT 7:00 A.M.**

**AN ARRL SANCTIONED HAMFEST**

**ART GODDARD, W6XD, SW DIVISION DIRECTOR**

**CLIFF HAUSER, KD6XH, AZ SECTION MANAGER**

**TUCK MILLER, NZ6T, VICE DIRECTOR**

**MANY VENDORS ON SITE**

**TALK-IN: 146.760 (PL 131.8)**

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## ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just content, that your name is on the list.

Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock?

Or do you meet in private, and criticize and knock.

Do you take an active part, to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to be, the kind that just belongs.

Do you work on committees, to this there is no trick,

Or leave the work to just a few, and talk about the clique.

Please go to meetings often, and help with hand and heart.

Don't be just a member, but take an active part.

This little poem is over,. You know what's right from wrong.

## ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER, OR DO YOU JUST BELONG.

Author Unknown

(tnx to Cliff, W7IRC)

## FOR SALE

**Kenwood 2m TM241A**

**Astron 35 Power Supply**

**2— Larson Antennas**

**\$250 (Package Deal Only)**

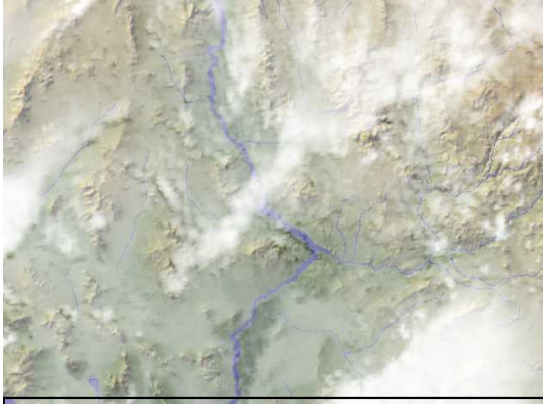
**Bob Parker— KI7LO**

**680.4841**

## Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Registration

Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level II on-line course (EC-002) opens Monday, September 13, at 1201 AM EDT and will remain open through the September 18-19 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Friday, October 1. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. Seniors are strongly encouraged to participate. During this registration period, seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL [Certification and Continuing Education](#) Web page. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, [cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org); 860-594-0340.

# WHAT'S OUR WEATHER DOING?



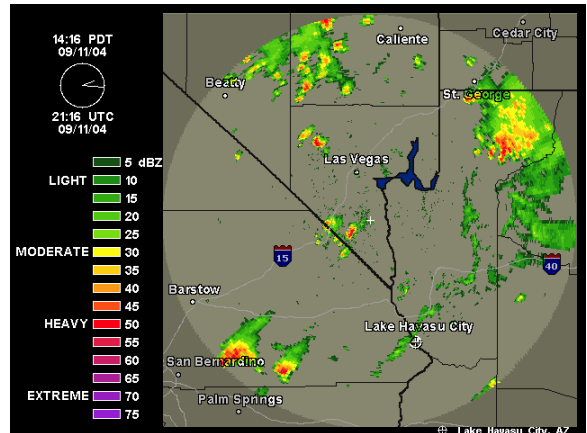
Satellite view of Lake Havasu City via Weather Underground

Getting tired of turning on your television to find out what the weather is going to be here in Lake Havasu City only to watch a forecast for the weather 175 miles away? Want to know the current temperature? Is it okay to go fishing on the lake today? Does the approaching storm mean I should unplug my antenna cables?

There are a number of ways you can use your computer to get real answers to

these questions. First of all, did you know that our Club maintains a weather site that can be accessed via your computer? Take a look at <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=K7LHC-1>. Here you can find the current and last week's temperatures, wind speeds, rainfall, dewpoints, and barometer readings as well as a look at

our weather radar. Want to see how close and the magnitude of lightning in an approaching thunder storm. Try: <http://blitz.tnet.com/southwes1.htm>. Another great site is Weather Underground where you just enter the name of the City or zip. Try it at: [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).



Radar view of Lake Havasu City weather via the Weather Underground

## IDIOTS AT WORK

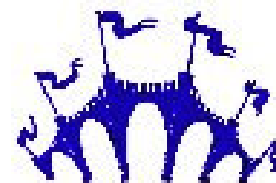
I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why! , she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

## IDIOT SIGHTING #1

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the life of her couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

## IDIOT SIGHTING #2

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?!"



L.B.A.R.A  
P.O. BOX 984  
LAKE HAVASU CITY  
ARIZONA 86405

# STATIC

## ATTENTION READERS

Please note that this issue represents a “work-in-progress” and there are a number of changes to be made in subsequent issues. I would greatly appreciate your comments, both good and bad, as well as any suggestions for future issues. This issue also begins our first attempt to deliver the **STATIC** to your doorstep electronically. Please keep me abreast of any email address changes you may have and I promise to have this delivered promptly and accurately. Also, I still have a number of articles awaiting publication and will do so in the future. This is your newsletter, so keep the articles, letters, and pictures coming. I can be reached at home (855.7941), at work (855.3081) or via email at [grf@uneedspeed.net](mailto:grf@uneedspeed.net) .

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** List your items for sale here. Ham radio related only, please. Include a picture if you like (please use a jpg format). Email all to me at [grf@uneedspeed.net](mailto:grf@uneedspeed.net)) along with your name and phone number.

