



# DRUMLIN'S RUMBLINGS

DARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday**  
**April 15, 2006**  
**Meeting 9 AM**  
**New York State EMO**  
**Route 31 Newark, NY**  
**or try 146.745**

**Breakfast 7:30am**  
**Crosspark Restaurant**

### **RACES-ARES APRIL 2006**

Remember the Ginna Drill coming up May 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a big reminder to all RACES members with Wayne County EOC badges-CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES ON YOUR BADGE! Badges are only good for one year. I think there are quite a few of you out there that will need to make a trip to the County Offices by Lyons and get your EOC badge renewed.

There are quite a few articles coming out about emergency communications in the post-Katrina aftermath in any "ham" magazine you can get your hands on. An article by the Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club in their April 2006 "The Long Wire" got my attention. One of the problems arising out of hams, helping at disasters, was all hams look alike. To us that may sound silly. In reality it was a problem to the non-ham disaster management. How could you tell what ham could do what?

The article is titled "New FCC Requirement." The first paragraph says, "An unexpected new regulation from the Federal Communications Commission requires that as April 1, 2006, all licensed amateur radio operators must wear color-coated apparel while engaging in amateur radio activities."

"It was apparent that while amateur radio operators were

Continued on page 2

## MINUTES

**The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, LTD.**

### **Minutes**

**Date:** March 15, 2006      **Call to Order:** 1930 local

**Attendance:** KB2ROP, W2CDW, N2RUS, W2GIV, Brenda Cook, K2MPE, Wa2SOK, KB2SOZ, N2MKT, N2EVU, K2WPO.      **Guest:** KC2ONA.

**Minutes:** As Printed in Newsletter

**Treasure's report:** To Be presented at next meeting.

**Public Service:** Contact Keith Freeburg N2BEL for information and to volunteer. Empire State Games will be needing lots of help. Tour de Cure June 11<sup>th</sup> at Mendon Ponds.

**Repeaters:** 146.745: OK, 146.685: OK, 144.95: User port still needs help. 444.95: Still on the bench

**VE Team:** Report from KB2SOZ, 5 out of 7 passed their tests.

**RACES/ARES:** Al Cook K2MPE has been keeping the Races Net active while Dave recuperating. Average four (4) checkins.

**Newsletter:** Accepted as printed in newsletter.

**Remembrance:** Dave kb2kby recuperating quite well from knee surgery and should be back with us soon.

**Old Business:** Setup for hamfest Friday Mar. 31 7pm. Dave will be there to order pizza. Doug kb2rop received box of goodies from ARRL. Setup Friday evening 7pm. Provide coffee service to vendors.

**New Business:** Field Days, We really need a commitment from enough people in order to lighten the load on each person. Without that commitment there probably will be not be any participation. Considering the Light House in Sodus Point as field day site, Bob W2GIV will check it out.

Continued on page 3

## The Drumlins Leaders 04-05

|               |                         |              |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| President     | Doug Peeso, KB2ROP      | 315-587-2889 |
| V-President   | Jim Collinsworth, N2JC  | 315-483-8136 |
| Secretary     | Irv Walter, WA2SOK      | 315-597-2192 |
| Treasurer     | Dave Taylor, KB2KBY     | 315-597-4293 |
| Program       | Charles Escriva, KB2SOZ | 315-986-5779 |
| Director 3 yr | Russ Millspaw, N2RUS    | 315-483-8024 |
| Director 2 yr | Bob Wilkin, W2GIV       | 315-923-2620 |
| Director 1 yr | Steve Elliott, N2COJ    | 315-789-2701 |
| Sysop .745    | Jeff Jenson, N2MKT      | 315-483-1537 |
| Sysop .685    | Bruce Blair, WB2QKO     | 315-597-9731 |
| News Letter   | Irv Walter, WA2SOK      | 315-597-2192 |
| Club Trustee  | Dave Taylor, KB2KBY     | 315-597-4293 |
| Web Master    | Doug Wakeman, W2CDW     | 315-331-2980 |

RACES from page 1

willing and able to efficiently provide emergency communications during an emergency, the 'first responders' that were working with the amateurs had problems in identifying the skill levels of the individual operators." The article continues, "It was not unusual for a first responder to request an amateur to pass information using 2M simplex, only to find that amateur was a Novice class and not eligible to use the 2M band. Or, a technician class operator would be requested to make contact using 13-wpm code. Clearly something needed to be done." (First off I found the 13-wpm code a funny thing seeing all Morse has supposedly been dropped by the government? Interesting!)

"To solve this problem, the FCC decided to require amateur operators to wear clothing that is color-coded to their skill level as follows:

- Black: Shortwave Listener
- Brown: Novice
- Red: Technician
- Orange: Tech Plus
- Yellow: 5-wpm General
- Green: 13-wpm General
- Blue: Advanced
- Purple: 5-wpm Amateur Extra
- Gray: 20-wpm Amateur Extra
- White: Reciprocal alien"

To do away with your doubts of this system and what about the proper shade of color, the ARRL will be shortly issuing official "color swatches" to all Official Observers to ensure that amateurs will be using the proper color shade. Plus the ARRL says this will give incentive to upgrade and make it more rewarding to do so. The higher licensed operators would get preferred venues. Interesting concept, isn't it? (Hope no one is color blind!)

Remember this is for individual hams, we talking about here. If you had a communications center lets say by WA2AAZ than it is a whole ball of wax. I believe I am correct on this matter. This month's RACES-ARES article should cause a little lively discussion. See you next month.

73 & 88 Dave KB2KBY

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Amateur Radio Operators:

April 1<sup>st</sup> has come and gone, and with it our 2006 hamfest. It may not have been the most perfect of days as the weather goes, but on the first of April if you are not plowing snow or knee deep in mud then you are doing fine. As always the hamfest is a lot of work packed in to less then 24 hours from set up to tare down. My deepest thanks go out to all who helped. Some were there from beginning to end and others helped when they could. Some cooked, and some cleaned. Some sold tickets, and some moved tables. Thank you.

The hamfest is not quite done. There are a few items yet to be addressed. We started a practice last year, and I would like to continue this year by having a follow up meeting to review the event while it is still fresh in our minds in order to identify problems and to suggest changes for next year. Improvement must be an ongoing process.

I ask you to remember this month the meeting is on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there.

Ye ol' ham saying: Rainy days and QRM always get me down.

Doug Peeso KB2ROP

## HAMFESTS 2006

- Apr 22 Pioneer Radio Operators Society, Sardinia, NY  
rschwedt@netscape.net
- May 6.....BARA Owego Hamfest, Owego, NY  
<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/bara/>
- Jun 2-4.....Rochester Hamfest, Henrietta, NY  
<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org>
- Jun 4.....Breezeshooters Hamfest, Butler, PA  
<http://www.breezeshooters.net>
- Jun 10.....Skyline ARC, Cortland, NY
- Jul 22.....RadioCom 2006, Frankfort (Utica), NY  
tbd2626@#yahoo.com
- Jul 29.....Batavia, Alexander, NY  
<http://www.hamgate.net/~gram/>
- Aug 5.....Tompkins County ARC..Ithica, NY  
<http://www.hamgate.net/~gram/>
- Aug.....Convention / Williamsville, NY  
<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>
- Aug 19.....Rome Radio Club, Westmoreland, NY  
<http://pages.prodigy.net/romeradioclub>

Minutes from Page 1

House in Sodus Point as field day site, Bob W2GIV will check it out.

**Next Saturday meeting to be 9am April 15, 2006  
50/50 Drawing: No Drawing**

**Program:** W2GIV will demo his kit radio in radio room after meeting.

**Adjournment:** 2020 hrs

**Respectfully submitted:** Irv Walter WA2SOK

## INJURED MINER

### RANDY MCCLOY, KC8VKZ, GOES HOME

Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago Mine disaster in West Virginia, left a Morgantown rehabilitation center March 30 and returned to his home on newly named Miracle Road in Simpson, West Virginia.

"I'd just like to thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers," McCloy remarked on his departure. Neurologist Julian Bailes told reporters that he believes McCloy, 26, has a great potential for "a possibly complete" recovery. McCloy did require some assistance walking as he left the Morgantown facility.

West Virginia Gov Joe Manchin announced the new street name at a press briefing this week, and he presented McCloy with a Miracle Road street sign.

Earlier this month McCloy visited his home in for the first time since the mine tragedy.

On March 2, McCloy's wife Anna told CBS The Early Show co-anchor Hannah Storm that her husband has told her he remembers "bits and pieces" of the mining disaster that left 12 of his co-workers dead of carbon monoxide poisoning. McCloy this week told the Associated Press that he doesn't understand why he was the only one to survive. He also said he will not go back to work in the mines.

Well-wishers have been sending cards and QSLs to McCloy at PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435. A fund has been set up to accept donations for McCloy's benefit: The Randal McCloy Jr Fund, c/o Clear Mountain Bank, 1889 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505. From the ARRL Newsletter on Line

### Various 2 meters Nets

**Auburn Radio Assoc.** on-air Meeting 147.00(-600) 7 p.m. Sun.  
**Central District Emer. Net** 7 p.m. 2nd Tues. . 147.00(-600)  
**Onon. County Radio Emergency Net:** 7:30 p.m. 1st/3rd Mon.  
146.90(-600)  
**Oswego RACES Net** Wed. 7 p.m. 147.15 1st.& 3rd Sun. 8 pm  
**40/00 Swap Net:** 7 p.m. Wednesdays 147.00(-600)  
**Cent. N. V. Traffic Net:** 9:15 nightly 146.90(- 600) except  
Thurs. on 147.00(-600)  
**Monroe County FM Net:** Sunday 9pm Alternating between  
146.79 and 146.88 repeaters Hilltop Bulletons before FM net  
**Also CW Practice:** Wed. 8:30 – 8:45 147.00.(-) pl 71.9  
If anyone has some suggestion maybe some HF nets send  
me info. Thanks Irv wa2sok

## FCC AFFIRMS \$21,000 IN FINES LEVIED ON MAINE RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has affirmed a total of \$21,000 in fines it proposed last year to levy on Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The FCC's Forfeiture Order (NoF), released March 29, comes nearly 10 months after a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the case. The FCC has alleged that Baxter violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.

"The noted violations of the rules involve interference with the ongoing communications of other Amateur Radio stations, failure to exercise station control, transmission of communications in which Baxter had a pecuniary interest, and transmission of communications that constituted impermissible broadcasting," the FCC said. The NoF reiterates specific allegations outlined in the NAL last June.

The FCC also has concluded that Baxter "apparently willfully and repeatedly" failed to file required information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive. In two warning notices in 2004, FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth directed Baxter to provide information on how K1MAN was controlled and the identity of the station's control operator.

"The Boston [FCC] Office found that Mr. Baxter's statements that '[n]o correction actions are necessary' and '[n]o changes are needed with regard to station control' failed to comply with the Bureau's demand for station information, the FCC said in the NoF.

Replying to the June 2005 NAL, Baxter denied any liability for the forfeiture amount, the FCC said. According to the Commission, Baxter cited the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution and requested "all documentation regarding the alleged apparent liability" and "a trial like hearing before the full Commission." Baxter did not submit "any substantive responses" to the alleged violations recited in the NAL, the Commission said.

The FCC denied Baxter's request for a hearing. According to the Communications Act, the FCC said, providing a hearing is at the Commission's discretion, and a hearing is "not normally utilized when only monetary forfeiture matters are involved."

Its procedures, the FCC noted, do not deprive Bax-

**RACES NET SUNDAY 8:45 PM 146.685**

### CLUB ADDRESS:

Dave Taylor KB2KBY Club Trustee  
228 W. Jackson St. Palmyra, NY 14522  
Packet: Kb2kby-1 thru Newark Node  
Email : kb2kby@juno.com

ter of his right to due process, because the Communications Act provides that any forfeitures issued in accordance with its procedures are "ultimately subject to a trial de novo in federal district court" should Baxter not pay the fine beforehand. A licensee's decision to forego presentation of arguments and evidence in response to an NAL "does not create a right to a hearing," the Commission contended in the NoF.

The FCC further noted that the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution "address the rights of defendants in criminal cases" and said Baxter's reliance on those amendments to support his hearing request "is misplaced."

"Baxter received notice regarding the legal and factual bases for the apparent violations and proposed forfeiture and has been afforded an opportunity to respond 'why no such forfeiture penalty should be imposed,'"

the FCC said. According to the NoF, Baxter, while denying any liability, "has chosen not to present any specific exculpatory arguments or evidence in response to the violations set forth in the NAL."

Baxter has 30 days from the release of the order to pay the \$21,000 or appeal. If the forfeiture is not paid within that time, the FCC can refer the case to the US Department of Justice for collection. A copy of the NoF is on the FCC Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-663A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-663A1.pdf)>.

Baxter's Amateur Radio license expired last October 17, but according to the FCC, he has continuing operating authority since he filed a timely renewal.

His renewal application remains under review based on complaints filed and on FCC correspondence regarding the operation of his station. The forfeiture action is separate.

From the ARRL Newsletter on Line

#### ARIZONA BPL FIELD TRIAL ENDS

A BPL field trial in Cottonwood, Arizona, that drew complaints from Amateur Radio operators from 2004 until earlier this year apparently has shut down for good. The small system, which Mountain Telecommunications Inc (MTI) operated under an FCC Part 5 Experimental license WD2XMB, went silent in early March. The Part 5 license stipulates that the company "establish and maintain" a relationship with the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA), which called for the system's shut-down as recently as last December. According to VVARA BPL Committee Chair Bob Shipton, K8EQC, MTI initially took the system down for a firmware upgrade but subsequently told him that it was discontinuing the experiment in Cottonwood and mov-

ing it, possibly to the Phoenix area, where MTI is headquartered.

"There's no definitive statement from Arizona Public Service or Mountain Telecommunications that they have stopped BPL in the state of Arizona entirely," Shipton told ARRL this week. "It's just that they pulled out of the Cottonwood area."

Not only did the VVARA determine the system was generating interference on the high end of 20 meters and elsewhere, Shipton said, the club demonstrated that it could "break" the system's datastream while running as little as 65 watts from a mobile station.

"I think that was a bit of a surprise to them," allowed Shipton, who noted that MTI remained helpful and lived up to its agreement to keep the VVARA in the loop. At the same time, he said, MTI learned everything it wanted to learn in the Cottonwood area, "and they know we're not going to let this thing go."

According to club measurements made in cooperation with MTI, the BPL interference in the vicinity of the system on the upper end of 20 meters was 20 dB over S9, Shipton said, and even in the middle of the band, it was S7 to S9. "On 17 meters, from 18.059 to 18.180 they were S9, on the 15 meter band they were S7," he added.

In support of the VVARA effort, the ARRL twice asked the FCC to shut down the Cottonwood BPL field trial for interfering with Amateur Radio communication. The League's own testing of the Cottonwood system in the summer of 2004 indicated "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels.

Beyond the mere fact of the RF interference, Shipton continued, was the nature of the interference itself. "With the high-speed chipsets, the sound is so obnoxious that you don't necessarily have to have a lot of RF strength on an S meter to cause interference when you're trying to listen to a station--even if it's stronger," he said, describing it as an annoying "raspy, buzzing" noise.

In December, the VVARA filed with the FCC what Shipton characterized as an "informal" interference report of ongoing interference on 20, 17 and 15 meters and reiterated its request that the FCC shut down the system. While MTI's interactions with the VVARA may not have been the primary factor in its decision to take its BPL pilot elsewhere, Shipton believes his club at least played a role.

"We feel at least we got 'em out of Dodge--they're out of Cottonwood," he said. "What they do in Phoenix will have to be taken up by the Phoenix amateur operators, if they do anything."

Shipton said he believes efforts like those of the VVARA to raise the interference issue and keep it before the public are prompting the BPL industry to take a harder look at how to avoid the problem altogether. "The issue of ham interference was one issue on their plate out of many, many issues," he said.

From the ARRL newsletter on Line

News Letter Stuff Send To: Irv Walter, WA2SOK  
2881 Macedon Ctr. Rd. Lot #57 Palmyra, NY. 14522  
Packet: DARC thru Newark 144.95  
E-mail: [wa2sok@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wa2sok@rochester.rr.com)

Web Page: <http://www.drumlinsarc.com>

# April 09 - May 20, 2006

## Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, LTD

| Sunday   | Monday          | Tuesday                        | Wednesday   | Thursday                     | Friday                             | Saturday                                |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>April 9</i><br><b>WARECS</b><br>8:45 pm<br>N2MLA B'Day    | <i>April 10</i> | <i>April 11</i><br>N2COJ B'Day | <i>April 12</i>   | <i>April 13</i>              | <i>April 14</i><br>KD2CO B'Day     | <i>April 15</i><br>Darc Meeting<br>9 AM |
| <i>April 16</i><br><b>WARECS</b><br>8:45 pm<br><b>Easter</b> | <i>April 17</i> | <i>April 18</i><br>N2MKT B'Day | <i>April 19</i><br>DARC Mting<br>7:30pm<br>This Meeting<br>Canceled | <i>April 20</i>              | <i>April 21</i>                    | <i>April 22</i>                         |
| <i>April 23</i><br><b>WARECS</b><br>8:45 pm                  | <i>April 24</i> | <i>April 25</i>                | <i>April 26</i>   | <i>April 27</i>              | <i>April 28</i><br>AA2MS B'Day     | <i>April 29</i>                         |
| <i>April 30</i><br><b>WARECS</b><br>8:45 pm                  | <i>May 1</i>    | <i>May 2</i>                   | <i>May 3</i>  | <i>May 4</i>                 | <i>May 5</i><br>NN2H B'Day         | <i>May 6</i>                            |
| <i>May 7</i><br><b>WARECS</b><br>8:45 pm                     | <i>May 8</i>    | <i>May 9</i>                   | <i>May 10</i>   | <i>May 11</i><br>N5THV B'Day | <i>May 12</i>                      | <i>May 13</i>                           |
| <i>May 14</i><br><b>WARECS</b><br>8:45 pm<br>N2MLE B'Day     | <i>May 15</i>   | <i>May 16</i>                  | <i>May 17</i><br>DARC Mting<br>7:30pm                               | <i>May 18</i>                | <i>May 19</i><br>Dayton<br>Hamfest | <i>May 20</i><br>K4FXD B'Day            |

**Breakfast at Crosspark Restaurant**

**7:30 am Saturday Aril 15, 2006**

**Meeting 9am**

**State EMO Rte, 31 Newark, NY**

**Breakfast at Alton Coffe Shop, Rte.14**

**Saturday Mornings 7:00 am.**

**Check in on 146.685**

**Lunch at Cross Park**

**Rte. 31 Newark**

**Friday Noon**