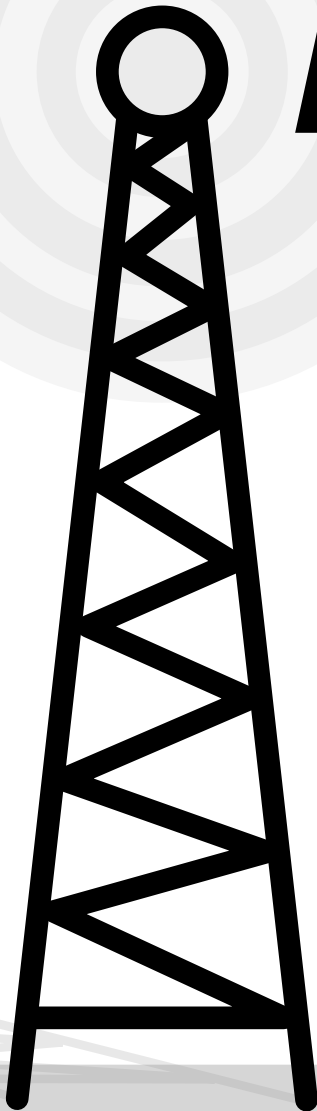


April 2005 Vol. 59, No. 4

The MODULATOR

Newsletter of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club



Antenna Zoning:

Thinking of putting
up something
really big?

also:

- BARC Field Day 2005
- NCAC EC Training
- New Ham Training
- Induction into the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong

The MODULATOR

published by *The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club*

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Hamboree website: <http://www.gbhc.org>

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Items for *The Modulator* should be sent by the 5th of the previous month, to:

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or email to modulator@baltarc.com.

The club meets at 7:30 pm. the first and third Wednesday of every month in the club facility at 12360 Owings Mills Blvd., 3/10 mile south of Bond Ave. See ADC map page 16-D8. Complete directions web page <http://www.baltarc.com/directions.htm> or call the Club Facility at 410-526-4263.

VE Testing: First weekend of each month. Contact Rusty, N3WKE at arrl.net

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Are you interested in amateur radio, and don't know where to begin?

BARC is willing to help. See "How to Get Started in Amateur Radio, page 13, about our upcoming training class. Our web page at www.baltarc.com has lots of information about services the club can offer. The American Radio Relay League, www.arrl.org, is also an excellent source of information about amateur radio.

Correction:

In our **Library Corner** last month, we got a major contributor's name wrong. **K3QKO** is **Warner Stortz**. I was fortunate enough to be the one to pick up those materials some time ago from Warner, and get a look at his shack just before he dismantled it as they were preparing to move out of the house. The writings that Henry told you of last month are most fascinating, and worth a look. We appreciate Warner's kindness, and we apologize for our proofreading failure. **Doug N3VEJ**

The President's Corner

By the time you read this the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computefest will be a few days away, but it is not too late to volunteer. We need people up to and including the day of the event to cover for those who need to drop out due to circumstances beyond their control. Contact *Robin, aa3sb at arrl.net* before the show or stop by the BARC table in the Exhibition Hall and ask if you can help out, even it is only for an hour or two. Not to repeat myself, but it is important to remember, the Hamfest is our primary source of revenue. It supports our public service activities, the scholarship fund, field day, training classes and the repeater network.

Ed, K3CAV and **Bill, N3WD** have accepted their marching orders to make Field Day a memorable community event and are well on their way to making it happen. Be sure to read all about it in this month's Modulator.

BARC in conjunction with the Harford County Emergency Communications group will be sponsoring an entry-level weekend licence class in April and May at the McFaul Activities center in Bel Air. This is a great opportunity for your friends and family who have always wanted to obtain their license but did not know where to begin the process. For further information, please contact *Doug, n3vej at arrl.net* or *Philip, photoexpert at earthlink.net*.

Good news on the internet front, Verizon notified us that a DSL port is now available in the Reisterstown CO and it will be allocated to BARC. They are in the process of provisioning the line and I have been told that it will be operational in time for April's program meeting. I am keeping my fingers crossed on this one.

As reported last month, the Maryland Senate passed Senate Joint Resolution 2 46-0 and forwarded the resolution on to the House of Delegates where it was referred to the Rules Committee. As I write this, amateurs are sending e-mails and letters to members of the Rules Committee urging them to refer the resolution to a Standing Committee. By time you read this, the Resolution may be in the House awaiting a favourable report. Please check your e-mail on a regular basis for a note from myself, **Tom (N3IJ)** or **Tom (W3TOM)** requesting you to contact your Delegate and request that they vote "yes" and support Amateur Radio in Maryland.

On February 9, Senator Bilirakis of Florida introduced H.R. 691, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005. Since its introduction, our legislative

affairs team has contacted three members of the Maryland delegation and two of the three, Roscoe Bartlett and Elijah Cummings are now co-sponsors. We expect the third, Wayne Gilchrest to sign on as a co-sponsor shortly. Throughout April and May our team will meet with the remaining members of the Maryland delegation together with constituents from their respective districts. With your help, the entire Maryland delegation will support H.R. 691.

Once again, I want to thank all those members who have contacted me expressing their support for our initiatives, please keep the e-mails and letters coming. Your e-mails and letters are extremely important and help me understand what the membership's concerns are and what needs to be done to make BARC the premier Maryland club.

That is all for now, and I hope to see you at Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest the weekend of April 1, at the April 6th business meeting, the April 20th program meeting, or at this month's Lunch with the President, until then...

Remember, this club exists because of you and it cannot exist without you!

Joe Kryzstoforski, AJ3X, President BARC
AJ3X at arrl.net

Upcoming Programs:

April: John Morrison – DXing on 2 Meters - IRLP & ECHOLINK

May: Bob Zimmerman – Life Without Gravity: Amateur Radio and the International Space Station

June: TBA

July: Tom Abernathy, WA3TOM – What's Up in the ARRL MDC Section

LED Flashlights

At least one Exhibition Hall dealer will have the new flashlights with a large number (more than 10) of LED's to make the light beam. These are great for emergency communications work, they last forever, it seems.

BARC Field Day 2005

As most of you know Field Day is ALWAYS the fourth weekend in June. That makes this year's Field Day weekend, the 25th – 26th of June. I have been asked to Co-Chair our effort this year with **Bill Dobson, N3WD**. Bill and I have divided the necessary jobs to each other. Bill is in charge of securing our location, overseeing the dinner social and a couple of other tasks. I am in charge of setup at the site, scheduling operators and maintenance of the radio operations.

This year's Field Day event will be held at the Hannah More Park in Reisterstown. It is on Reisterstown Road, just north (on right at second light) of Franklin Boulevard. We will be in the open field behind the Senior Center and the old church. When you make a right at the light, stay to the right and continue to the end of that lane. Turn left and continue until you reach the stop sign. The open field in front of you is where we will be. Just off to the right you will see two pavilions. The one furthest to the right will be where the dinner social will be.

Another change this year is that we will be working with the Hanover Area Hamming Association. Bill and I discussed this and they have active members into things like satellite contacts. It will also give us a larger manpower force to work from. It is always a problem keeping someone in front of the radio making contacts for the full exercise time.

Bill and I discussed about six different sites in the Northwest Baltimore County area. The Department of Recreation and Parks is going to allow us to use Hannah More Park, including access to bathroom facilities and use of the pavilion for our dinner social. They made us an offer for less than it would cost us just to get the portable toilets to the site. We owe a very large thank you to Department of Recreation and Parks.

After reviewing the rules for 2005, I have decided to remain a 2A station again this year. Staying a 2A station will keep the number of operators needed down and hopefully keep the radios populated for the full time. It will also allow us a GOTA HF station and a possible 2m SSB station. The GOTA and VHF/UHF stations are freebies since we are in the A class.

As I said before, we are in an open lot at Hannah More Park, it has only a few spotty trees. We have use of the whole field for the entire duration of the Field Day exercise. We also have use of the lower parking lot for parking the trucks.

As I see it, we have no problem getting our antennas set up in this area. My plans are to utilize the club towers as necessary to get the antennas up. I am planning on a tri-band beam for the SSB station with a Windom antenna for the other bands. On the CW station I am planning on a Windom for their use. We will also be utilizing ICE filters on the two stations so we need to keep in touch when switching bands. I also plan to have a 2m vertical for talk-in/communications on the SSB tower. As time gets closer, we can determine if the GOTA and VHF/UHF stations are doable.

I think setting up two-hour shifts is the best way to go. Those of you who are experienced can do longer shifts if you want. I am thinking that two-hour shifts for most would be best. That gives you time to operate and time to relax. If you want to do another shift after, that's even better for me. I would like to see lots of involvement from the Technician class members on HF. This is the chance to get on the HF bands without having passed that next level or CW test.

If you have never operated in a Field Day or contest style environment, I suggest coming in one to two hours early and logging for whoever is operating. That way you can see how things should be done and not go into it blind. There should always be a control operator present so you can use the frequencies from their privileges.

Logging will be handled by **N3FJP's** network software. We are hoping to have a central computer set up and networked to a laptop in each operating station.

As I see it right now, there looks to be a possible 1100 bonus points. Most of them do not cause an overage of work to get. The only ones outside of operator's hands are the Site Visitation by an elected government official and Site visitation by a representative of an agency. There are even a few more that we might be able to do.

I am going to add what I consider to be a challenge. If you are going to operate Field Day on the SSB station (I could do this for CW too but it would be more work for whoever, believe me) and work four hours or more at the Hamboree, I will log for your two-hour schedule. Let's see if you can wear this OM out!



73 de K3CAV

April 2005

Upcoming Public Service & Events

May 1, 8am: March of Dimes Walk America
 May 29, 7am: Veteran's Run 5 & 10k
 Jun 11 & 12: MS 150, Eastern Shore

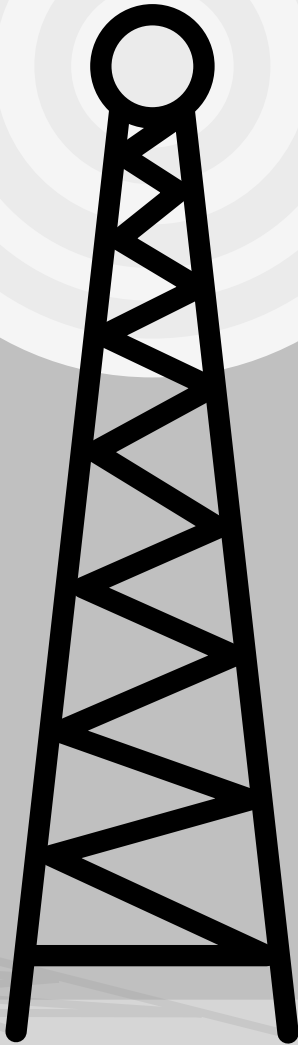
Upcoming Contests

Jun 11-13 - June VHF QSO Party
 Jun 25-26 - Field Day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Phases of the Moon 04/02 Last Quarter 04/08 New Moon 04/16 First Quarter 04/24 Full Moon					1	2
					APRIL 1-3 2005 THE GREATER BALTIMORE HAMBOREE AND COMPUTERFEST 	
3 THE GREATER BALTIMORE HAMBOREE AND COMPUTERFEST 	4	5	6 Club Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7	8	9 PS Event-10:00 am MS Walk, Inner Harbor
10 PS Event-10:00 am MS Walk, Inner Harbor	11 Deadline— May Issue of <i>The Modulator</i>	12	13	14	15	16 Kickoff Class session in Bel Air
17	18	19	20 Program Meeting: John Morrison – DXing on 2 Meters – IRLP & ECHOLINK	21	22	23 Passover Apr 23 - May 1
24	25 Deadline— Feature Articles for June Issue of <i>The Modulator</i>	26	27	28	29	30 BARC New Ham Training class Bel Air 9-5 and May 1st, 1-5

ANTENNA ZONING: THINKING ABOUT PUTTING UP SOMETHING REALLY BIG?

by Tom Coates N3IJ



In addition to the electrical safety code, there are two things to study and a question to ponder.

The first thing to study is the zoning ordinance, available in the public libraries. You may have to ask for it—it wasn't on the shelf in my local library. If your plans are serious, don't rely on my descriptions of the ordinances, or anyone else's: read them yourself. Things change, and I'm not giving legal advice here, anyway. The Baltimore City ordinance is crisp and clear, but not as friendly as the County one. The City code says that if you want to erect anything, on the roof or off, that extends more than 12 feet above the top of the roof, you have to go to a hearing. More about hearings appears below.

The Baltimore County ordinance refers to Amateur antennas in two places. It looks as though one of them was meant to supersede the other, but the replacement didn't happen. Both are poorly written. (It is not clear that cleaning up the writing would be prudent—sleeping dogs, etc.). The basic part of the County's ordinance was adopted in 1970, and is located in the front of the book, where it will be the

first thing that many people will find. On page 1B4 and dated September 2004, §1B01.1A18b seems to say that if an antenna extends above 50 feet, a hearing is required. But in the back is section 426A, strangely titled “Radio Operator Antennas.” In the body, though, it does mention “FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators,” inadvertently excluding foreigners holding reciprocal licenses. That section was adopted in 1998, and states that the limit “by right” is 100 feet, with a 20-foot setback from all property lines. “By right” means you don’t have to go to a hearing. The only other requirements are that it can’t be in the front yard and that the height of the antenna and structure has to be less than or equal to the distance to the nearest property line. Since a square acre measures 208.7 feet on a side, that would mean that in order to put up the full 100 feet, you would need almost an acre if your tower was at the exact center of a square property. Of course, if you need to deviate from the specified limits, you can apply for a variance. As I understand what the man in Baltimore County’s zoning office told me, when you apply for a variance, you have to put a sign on the property for a certain period, during which anyone may request a hearing.

The second thing to study is the book by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, “Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur,” (2002, ARRL) which helps with the answer to the philosophical question below. It also provides a world of help with practical questions. In all, it consists of 143 8 x 11 inch pages in 12 chapters, not counting the introduction, bibliography, three appendixes and more than 180 files on an included CD. Of the files on the CD, 52 are Word files that you or your attorney may edit for local use. The first 8 chapters cover preparation in all its nuances and details. Every imaginable objection is identified and countered (with one minor exception, mentioned below). If someone tells you about a bad outcome in a zoning hearing, it is possible that they did not prepare thoroughly enough.

Sometimes it is suggested that we should have the neighbors over, get them liquored up and explain our plans. Those suggestions are often rebutted by accounts of neighbors who were happy to approve their host’s plans but showed up at the hearing with torches and pitchforks. Fred explains just how to approach each neighbor individually and get them to sign a letter. A range of sample letters is on the CD.

Sometimes concerns are expressed about property values. Fred explains how to use official data from the local tax assessor to produce “comparables” and provides several sample spreadsheet files. Maryland real estate tax data is now

available from http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/.

The book contains a thorough discussion of what ought to be in a zoning ordinance, on the off chance that you get to write or revise one. And it has a chapter of miscellaneous legal advice (with more sample letters on the CD) covering a variety of situations. My favorite is the neighbor on your doorstep with an RFI complaint and a weapon.

One thing that I didn't see addressed specifically: Participating in emergency communications is impressive, which is why is mentioned in many of Fred's sample letters and other documents. But it needs to be genuine. One ham lost an appeal in federal court, partly because he claimed that his big new tower would be used for public service communications, even though he had never participated before.

Fred endorses full disclosure and (speaking of the old cowboy movies) he says, "Always wear the white hat," another form of Riley's good advice, "Always act as though you're representing Amateur Radio."

Why are we so phobic about hearings, even with excellent guidance available? Maybe it's because the time to prepare and present could be better spent chasing DX or teaching license classes. Plus there's the cost of legal advice (a bargain, though), which would buy another beam. K1VR recommends keeping your neighbors informed of your plans, whether a hearing is required or not. He sent me an example of a letter used by a Silver Spring amateur who wrote a note to all the neighbors about his home-improvement plans for the season-paint, landscaping, fencing, etc., concluding with a description of his new tower and how carefully it would be installed. People hate surprises. Hearings eliminate the surprises. By notifying his neighbors of his plans, even though he wasn't required to do so, this ham avoided surprising his neighbors. In a sense, he conducted a substitute hearing, with one difference: he wasn't requesting permission.

If you have to go to a hearing, consider the preparation as like the foundation for your tower-not a good thing to skip on. A zoning hearing is an opportunity to wear the white hat representing Amateur Radio as you explain your plans to your neighbors.



BARC New Ham Training class will be in Bel Air, Md, April 30, 9-5 and May 1st, 1-5, testing begins at 6:30 PM. Registration is \$20 and includes the book. Mail to: Tech Class-BARC, PO Box 120, Reisterstown, MD 21136-0120. For additional information, call Doug at 410-256-0257.

NOTE, the times shown here are changed from incorrect times that were printed in the March issue of *The Modulator*.

How to Get Started in Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio is a great service, defined by federal law and participated in by a great cross section of the population. Amateur Operators serve the community with as little as \$100 worth of radio gear and a desire to help others. We work with Red Cross, Salvation Army, county, state and federal emergency services and many other groups. Our skill is in passing messages for them when other communications methods are not available. We connect computers to transceivers (transmitter/receivers) and sometimes even connect those same computers to the internet. We have a long history of technology growth that continues today.

A beginner can secure the required FCC license for a total cost of less than \$40. One of the best books to study from is “*Now You’re Talking*”, published by www.arrl.org. It retails for less than \$20. This book requires ten to thirty hours to read and study a bit. Half the book is taken up with the complete list of questions that could be on your exam. The exam actually contains only 35 multiple choice questions, but they come from a pool of several hundred. Once you are ready, contact a Volunteer Examiner team. Our team’s monthly report is on page 15 of this magazine. Others can be found in www.arrl.org’s locator page. The exam session starts with a registration period, then the exams are written, then you get your grade and certificate immediately. Within a few days, the FCC issues your callsign and you are on the air.

Clubs are a great way to actually learn about being an amateur. The club participation is your key to working with the various emergency and public service activities. Clubs also provide a venue for actual radio operation for fun; be it in the club shack or at outdoor events such as Field Day. Our web page at www.baltarc.com has an additional document on becoming an amateur radio operator.



Rusty:

Thank you and all of the VE Team for hosting the testing session. Because several people were still taking their exams, I didn't go thank each one.

Please convey my thanks.

Ron Collins, KG5NQ - a new 'Extra Class' licensee

EmComm Seminar at NCAC Institute

April 23rd, check in begins at 8 AM, just off the Capital Beltway at the Prince George's County Fire Service Building, 6820 Webster St., Landover Hills, MD 20784

- **Online Education** – **Dan Miller K3UFG** ARR. Coordinator of the Program
- **Winlink** – **Lou Linden KI5TD**, talks about connecting email to amateur radio
- **Skywarn training:** the NWS “eyes in the field” program
- **ARES/RACES Organization and Science Fair**

\$10 cost for training and lunch, more info at ncacdc.com.



Induction Into The Royal Order of The Wouff Hong to Be Held at GBH&C

“Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air.”

—www.arrl.org

The Royal Order meets at conventions to induct new members. We will conduct inductions at 9 PM on both Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2. Register in the exhibit hall until 5 PM either day (during setup on Friday) or at the door, at the Vista Room, beginning at 8:30 PM. This solemn ceremony reminds us of some of the cornerstones of good amateur operation. Certificates will be provided to all inductees.



VE Report - April 2005

A Laurel ARC Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (LARC VEC) affiliated testing session was held at the BARC Meeting and Training Facility in Owings Mills, MD, on Saturday, March 5. Ten people took exams for either their initial ham license or to upgrade their license.

*One participant wrote a nice note,
the VE Team is happy to be a part of Ron's success!*

The examinees achieved the following:

Became new Technician Class licensee

- Samuel Ramsamy KB3LZT
- Michael Mitch KB3LZU
- Murray Hunt KB3LZV
- John Halt KB3LZW

Passed Element 1 to earn HF privileges in Novice/Tech bands

- Monte Schaszberger N3TVL

Upgraded to Amateur Extra Class licensee

- Ronald Collins KG5NQ

Overall, six tests were passed out of eighteen administered:

- Element 1 (5 WPM CW): 100%
- Element 2 (Technician Written): 67%
- Element 3 (General Written): 0%
- Element 4 (Extra Written): 33%

Thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made the session possible:

Bill Dobson N3WD Ed Kriston K3CAV Rusty Schaefer N3WKE
Don Friedmann W3QYL Jerry Matthews N3XWT Doug Wittich N3VEJ
Tom Hendricks KB3CVS Doc Sanders W3FYA David King (runner)
Rus Kaufman N3YI

There will be a testing session at the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest Sunday, April 3. The testing will take place at the Timonium Fairgrounds at 9:00 AM. Pre register for this session with **John Creel WB3GXW** 301-572-5124 (after 6 PM) or email *creewb3gxw at aol.com*.

Next testing session at the BARC facility is Saturday, May 7, 2005. Registration opens at 1:00 PM and testing starts at 2:00 PM. For information about the exam session, please send email to *n3wke at arrl.net* (or call Rusty Schaefer 410-247-0578).

73, Rusty N3WKE

VE Team Leader

The **MODULATOR**

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 120
Reisterstown, MD 21136-0120

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
Repeater System **W3FT**

Frequency	PL
146.07/146.67	107.2
222.64/224.24	107.2
444.625/449.625	107.2

simplex: 146.55

web: <http://www.baltarc.com>

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