

# The Membrain

"Dedicated to the memory of our former Publisher and DVRC Founding Member, Pete Butler - WB2B"

**A Publication of the Delaware Valley  
Ragchew Club  
PO BOX 8813  
Collingswood, NJ 08108-8813**

Club Callsign: **N 2 H Q X** – [WWW.RAGCHEW.ORG](http://WWW.RAGCHEW.ORG)  
DVRC Net: 146.820/R on Tuesday at 10:00 PM EST  
Meetings: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at the Haddon Township NJ Public Library Meeting Room

## DVRC CLUB REPEATER FREQ'S

**146.820 (- 600) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz**  
**147.210 (+ 600) Absecon NJ PL = 123.0 Hz**  
**448.0250 (- 5.0) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz**

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## In Memorium



**Bud Frye – KB2JCP (SK)**

**January 2011**

## Editor's Corner



**George – WA2RCB**

We open this New Year's Edition of the DVRC Membrain on a sad note. The DVRC and Southern NJ Amateur Radio Community has lost a dear member of our Fraternity with the passing of Bud Frye, KB2JCP. Bud was a Master Television/Radio Technician considered to be one of the best in SNJ of his era. He also designed and prototyped many home/consumer application related electronic circuits which were ahead of their time and was an avid participant at DVRC Field Day and other Club events. We will miss him.

Our next club meeting will be on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

73es! George WA2RCB

## General Motors Turns to Ham Operator to Solve Antenna Problem

The 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible -- available February 2011 -- features its AM/FM radio antenna inside the spoiler, thanks to some ham ingenuity. The "shark fin" antenna is for satellite radio, OnStar and cellular signals.



[2011 Chevrolet Camaro Photo courtesy of General Motors]

When General Motors -- the world's second largest auto maker -- encountered a problem with the AM/FM antenna on its 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, it was at a loss as to what to do. Spy photographs showed a pre-production version of the car with a long whip-style antenna on its rear fender. After what GM called "an outcry among Camaro enthusiasts," the company decided to rethink the antenna. But how?

On hardtop Camaros, the antenna is integrated into the rear windshield, but given the disappearing nature of this car's roof, that wasn't possible on the convertible. So GM turned to two antenna engineers -- Don Hibbard, W8DBH, and Gregg Kittinger -- who were tasked with doing what some thought was impossible: concealing the AM/FM antenna without sacrificing radio reception, while not putting it inside the Camaro's window (ARRL)

### Sunspots Report:

Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers were up nearly 24 points this week to 50, while the average daily solar flux rose more than 9 points to 89.5. The lagging three month average of daily sunspot numbers was down 3.5 points from last month's average of the previous three months. The three month moving average of daily sunspot numbers --ending on June through December -- was 16.2, 20.4, 23.2, 28.9, 33, 35.6 and 32.1. The latest forecast from NOAA/USAF for the next 10 days has a solar flux of 88 on January 6-7, 86 on January 8-9, 84 on January 10, 82 on January 11 and 80 on January 12-15. Planetary A index is predicted at 7 on January 6-7, 10 on January 8-10, 7 on January 11 and 5 on January 12-15. There is a chance of a stiff solar wind and geomagnetic storms on January 7-8. Yekta Gursel, KJ6DRO, alerted us to an article in the February 2011 issue of Sky & Telescope titled "The Perfect Solar Superstorm." You can read most of it here; click on "Preview" if you are not a subscriber. Your local library may also provide online access to the magazine. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site after Friday, January 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Amy Lowell's A Winter Ride. (ARRL/K7RA)

### ARRL QuickStats Poll Online

Four new poll questions have just been published on the QuickStats page on the ARRL website. Let your voice be heard!

Questions in this month's QuickStats poll include:

- Do you use a computer to send or receive CW?
- Do you subscribe to any publications that you read online?
- Do you have a separate room in your home that's dedicated strictly to your ham station?
- When operating SSB, do you use a speech processor?

Visit the QuickStats page and be sure to bookmark it in your browser. Results from this QuickStats poll will be published in the April 2011 issue of QST on the QuickStats page, located in the rear advertising section of the magazine. Along with monthly poll results, QST QuickStats offers colorful charts and graphs that highlight many related and interesting Amateur Radio statistics.

The ARRL QSP is at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



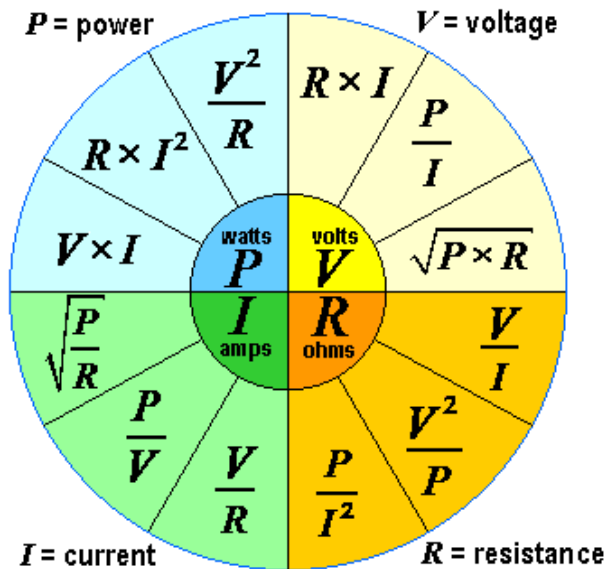
### FCC News: FCC Cites Retailer for Marketing CB Radios as Amateur Radios

In October 2010, an agent from the FCC's Enforcement Office visited Monroe, Michigan-based Doctor Radio's CB Shop to find that the store was selling, among other items, a radio that was described as "an Amateur Radio that could operate on CB frequencies" that was modified to operate above the approved power limits. As such, the FCC issued a Citation to the store on January 4 for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States in violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's rules.

### FCC Sends License Renewal for K1MAN to Administrative Law Judge

The FCC has issued a Hearing Designation Order (HDO Action) to determine, among other things, if the Amateur Radio license of Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, should be renewed. According to the Order, "Baxter has apparently *willfully and repeatedly* engaged in unlawful Commission-related activities, including causing interference to ongoing communications of other amateur stations, transmitting communications in which he had a pecuniary interest, failing to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) directive, engaging in broadcasting without communicating with any particular station and failing to exercise control of his station." Baxter, whose amateur license expired in 2005, filed a timely renewal on July 22, 2005; his license expired on October 17. Because of the timely renewal, Baxter's license remained in effect past the expiration date. The FCC said it "believe[s] that Baxter's apparent continuing course of misconduct raises a substantial and material question of fact as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee." (at the time of this writing K1MAN continues to broadcast on or around 3.890 nightly for an hour and a half starting at 3AM) (ARRL)

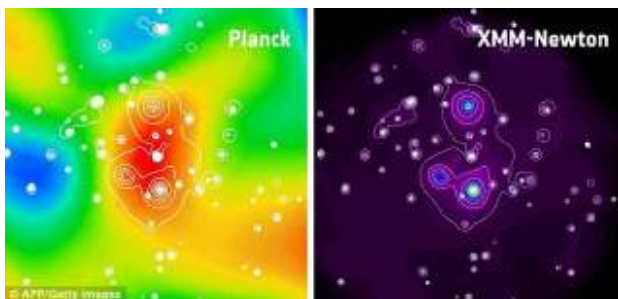




### The Ohm's Law DC Whiz Wheel

#### Planck Space Telescope makes curious discovery

The Planck space telescope has detected two of the largest structures yet spotted in the universe. The distant structures are clusters of galaxies that are gravitationally bound to each other and measure tens of millions of light-years across. They show up in the Planck data as compact silhouettes against the cosmic microwave background. The European Space Agency (ESA) telescope has identified 189 so far, including 20 previously unknown clusters that are being confirmed by ESA's XMM-Newton X-ray observatory.



By surveying the whole sky, Planck stands the best chance of finding the most massive examples of these clusters. They are rare and their number is a sensitive probe of the kind of Universe we live in, how fast it is expanding, and how much matter it contains. Dr Nabila Aghanim, of the Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale in Orsay, France, said: 'These observations will be used as bricks to build our understanding of the Universe.' The galaxy clusters are located up to four million light-years from Earth. Each one contains vast quantities of stars, gas and dust as well as 'dark matter', an even larger amount of unidentifiable matter.

Planck was largely built with the help of British scientists, many of whom are involved in its operation. It is the UK

Space Agency's flagship project. The telescope, which began its mission in August 2009, is designed to look at 'cold' parts of the universe which are not easy to detect. Its sensitive instruments register light at very long infrared wavelengths far beyond the range of the human eye. Rather than capturing images of stars and galaxies, it finds evidence of the raw material - gas and dust - from which the universe is made.

Other Planck results presented in Paris yesterday included new data on cold clumps of matter in the Milky Way representing the first stages of star birth. Echoes of the universe's fiery formation soon after the Big Bang have also been captured. The primary goal of Planck is to probe the 'cosmic microwave background', the faint afterglow of the Big Bang itself. A key aim is to find the 'smoking gun' evidence for inflation, the super-fast expansion of the universe that cosmologists believe occurred in the first moments after the Big Bang. Dr David Parker, director of space science and exploration at the UK Space Agency, said: 'We're proud to be playing a key role in this amazing discovery machine. 'These new results are all vital pieces of the jigsaw that could give us a full picture of the evolution of both our own cosmic backyard - the Milky Way galaxy that we live in - as well as the early history of the whole universe.' (Daily Mail UK)

#### Microsoft and Apple dispute "App Store" Name

Microsoft is fighting Apple's attempt to trademark the phrase 'App Store', arguing the term is generic and can be used by any shop selling programs for gadgets including smartphones. Apple submitted an application for the name - used for its iPhone, iPad and Mac download services - in 2008. But Microsoft has asked the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to reject the application on the grounds that the term is too generic and should be open to all Apple's competitors. In legal files submitted this week, Microsoft lawyer William Ferron Jr said: 'The undisputed evidence shows that 'App Store' is a generic name for a store offering apps. 'Apple cannot leverage its early success to prevent competitors from using this generic term for their own app stores.' Mr Ferron claimed that even Apple boss Steve Jobs has publicly referred to rival software shops as app stores. Downloadable apps are now commonplace on the smartphone market. Microsoft has its own application store for Windows phones, while Google and Nokia have their own versions, Chrome Web Store and Ovi Store respectively. Web retailer Amazon also recently announced plans to open its own app store.

Microsoft made its legal move just days after Apple expanded the app store idea to its line of Mac computers. Following on from the phenomenal success of app stores on the iPhone and iPad, Mac users who have the latest version of Apple's computer operating system - Snow Leopard - were last week prompted to update their software.

After launching the store software, people can browse through more than 1,000 programs for Macs. Some are free, and some will cost money; people can log in and buy software using their existing iTunes account information. As with the existing app stores for Apple's other gadgets, people can see lists of the most popular programs and rate software they purchase.

### **Better Use of Light Bulbs Act (BULB) - H.R. 91.**

Texas Insider Report: Washington, D.C. – Reps. Joe Barton, R-Texas, Michael Burgess, R-Texas, and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tennessee, joined 12 other Republicans to reintroduced the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act or BULB Act, H.R. 91.



The BULB Act repeals Subtitle B of Title III of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which is a de facto ban on the incandescent light bulb.

"This is about more than just energy consumption, it is about personal freedom. Voters sent us a message in November that it is time for politicians and activists in Washington to stop interfering in their lives and manipulating the free market. The light bulb ban is the perfect symbol of that frustration. People don't want congress dictating what light fixtures they can use," said Rep. Barton. "Traditional incandescent bulbs are cheap and reliable. Alternatives, including the most common replacement Compact Fluorescent Lights or CFL's, are more expensive and health hazards – so why force them on the American people? From the health insurance you're allowed to have, to the car you can drive, to the light bulbs you can buy, Washington is making too many decisions that are better left to you and your family."

"Thousands of American jobs have been shipped overseas as a direct consequence of this light bulb provision in the Democrats' 2007 energy bill," Burgess said. "I have stated all along that exposing our citizens to the harmful effects of the mercury contained in CFL light bulbs, which are being manufactured in China, is likely to pose a hazard for years to come. Not only would this bill be better for the environment, but it would be one step to bringing jobs back to America."

"These are the kinds of regulations that make the American people roll their eyes. It is typical of a 'big Washington' solution to a non-existent problem. In this case it manifests itself as an overreach into every American home, one that ships good jobs overseas and infuriates the American consumer," added Rep. Blackburn.

Other co-sponsors include: Reps. Todd Akin (R-Missouri), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Paul Broun (R-Georgia), Ann Marie Buerkle (R-New York), Dan Burton (R-Indiana), Howard Coble (R-North Carolina), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyoming), Tom McClintock (R-), Ron Paul (R-Texas), Steve Scalise (R-Louisiana), Cliff Stearns (R-Florida), and Don Young (R-Alaska).

Alternatives to traditional incandescent bulbs have many drawbacks. They are all considerably more expensive. The most common alternative, compact florescent light bulbs have a number of problems:

- Most CFLs are not manufactured in the United States. A recent Washington Post story reported that GE is shuttering an incandescent lamp plant in Winchester, Va., eliminating 200 jobs in the process.
- CFLs contain mercury and have to be disposed of carefully. The amount of mercury in one bulb is enough to contaminate up to 6,000 gallons of water beyond safe drinking levels. The EPA recommends an elaborate cleanup ritual, including throwing away any clothes or bedding that has come in direct contact with the mercury from the bulb.
- CFLs are not designed to be turned off and on frequently; the lifespan of a CFL may be reduced by up to 85 percent if you switch it off and on a lot.
- People with certain health conditions can be harmed by CFLs. Reactions range from disabling eczema-like reactions, to light sensitivities that can lead to skin cancer.
- The Energy Star program warns that CFLs can overheat and smoke under certain conditions.

