

The "Membrain"

"Dedicated to the memory of our former Publisher, Peter WB2B"

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DVRC Club Net @10:00 PM Tuesday after ARRL Audio News

W2CAM/R 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 mHz) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz

Also Accessible via Echolink at "W2CAM/R"

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When's the last time you saw a 1960 Edison Base Argon AR-1 Lamp glowing on 120VAC? Here! ☺

(July) & August 2008 Issue

Editor's Corner



By George – WA2RCB

The 2008 DVRC Field Day was held on Saturday June 28th at the FAA Radar Station on Haddonfield-Berlin Road in Gibbsboro. While we did not have as many people come out as in past Year's we did have a great time. There was fun, food and friendship amongst the attendees however we all did miss not having our Official DVRC Chief Cook and Bottle Wwasher out at the site. 19 States were contacted including 3 foreign countries and while we do not strive for 'pointless points' like many of the contest-related clubs do we still had a great time of fun in a picnic atmosphere which is what we were all looking for. Hope to see you all out at DVRC Field Day 2009.

There are a number of new developments concerning the 146.820 Repeater which will be discussed at the August meeting so please plan to come out for a briefing on the same.

George, WA2RCB



Bud having a fun day at DVRC Field Day 2008

German Radio Manufacturer Halts Transceiver Production

In a surprise move, Hilberling GmbH has stopped production on the much anticipated PT-8000 series of HF/VHF Amateur Radio transceivers. Apparently due to CE marking regulations, Hilberling had to make constant adjustments to the design of the radio and was unable to repeat the performance of prototypes in production models and was not able to justify the expense involved with further redesign work. The CE mark certifies that a product has met European health, safety and environmental requirements, ensuring consumer safety. Array Solutions -- which had been set to be the North American distributor for the transceiver series -- featured the PT-8000 at its booths at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention.

Dutch Amateur Radio Satellite On Air

The linear transponder aboard the new Dutch OSCAR 64 satellite (otherwise known as Delfi-C3) is now open for CW and SSB operation. The spacecraft boots into transponder mode whenever it is in full sunlight. Ground controllers will briefly switch the satellite to either "basic" or "science" configuration once every two weeks; otherwise, the linear transponder will be the default mode. The transponder uplink passband is from 435.530-435.570 MHz with a downlink passband from 145.880-145.930 MHz. The transponder CW beacon can be heard at 145.870 MHz. Delfi C-3 was successfully launched April, 28, 2008 from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle and was successfully commissioned, currently transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, Delfi C-3 has an uplink on the 70 cm band. The satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and facility members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. Delfi C-3 carries two experiments -- one involving thin film solar cells developed by Dutch Space, and an autonomous wireless Sun sensor from the Dutch Government Research Institute (TNO). E-mail reports are welcome.

Teenage Ham featured on Local News

A teenage Minnesota ham has been featured on a local news show for his outstanding accomplishments as both a radio amateur and an athlete. 13 year-old Cal Darula, K0DXC, of Waconia has been featured on Minneapolis St. Paul station KTSP in a story that highlights his love of baseball and his dedication to our world wide communications hobby. Darula says that he has been playing baseball since he was a toddler. He discovered ham radio at age 10 when he got his Technician license. At 12 upgraded to General, and he has since worked the world using mainly Morse. In fact, Cal can handle Morse at speeds up to 30 words per minute. In the KTSP news item, K0DXC says that ham radio is really a hobby for people of all ages. He also says that it has also helped him to become a straight A student in school.

In addition to his love of Morse, Cal Darula is a member of the ARRL, FISTS, the Minnesota Wireless Association, the Young Amateur Contest Ham Team and World Wide Young Contesters. He is also the ARRL Minnesota Youth Assistant Section Manager. You can see the complete news item featuring Cal Daruls, K0DXC, on line here:

<http://kstp.com/article/stories/S519423.shtml?cat=206>

What If Cold Fusion Is Real?

It was the most notorious scientific experiment in recent memory -- in 1989, the two men who claimed to have discovered the energy of the future were condemned as imposters and exiled by their peers. Can it possibly make sense to reopen the cold fusion investigation? A surprising number of researchers already have. Almost four stories high, framed in steel beams and tangled in pipes, conduits, cables, and coils, the Joint European Torus (JET) claims to be the largest fusion power experiment in the world. Located near Oxford, England, JET is a monument to big science, its donut-shaped containment vessel dwarfing maintenance workers who enter it in protective suits. Here in this gleaming nuclear cauldron, deuterium gas is energized with 7 million amperes and heated to 300 million degrees Celsius - more than 10 times hotter than the center of the sun. Under these extreme conditions atomic nuclei collide and fuse, liberating energy that could provide virtually limitless power. Maybe. High-tension lines run directly to the installation, but they don't take electricity out - they bring it in. For a few magic seconds in 1997, JET managed to return 60 percent of the energy it consumed, but that's the best it's ever done, and is typical of fusion experiments worldwide. The US Department of Energy has predicted that we'll have to wait another five decades, minimum, before fusion power becomes practical. Meanwhile, the United States continues to depend on fossil fuels for 85 percent of its energy. Many miles away, in the basement of a fine new home in the hills overlooking Santa Fe, New Mexico, a retired scientist named Edmund Storms has built a different kind of fusion reactor. It consists of laboratory glassware, off-the-shelf chemical supplies, two aging Macintosh computers for data acquisition, and an insulated wooden box the size of a kitchen cabinet. While JET's 15 European sponsor-nations have paid about US\$1 billion for their hardware, and the US government has spent \$14.7 billion on fusion research since 1951 (all figures in 1997 dollars), Storms's apparatus and ancillary gear have cost less than \$50,000. Moreover, he claims that his equipment works, generating surplus heat for days at a time. Storms is not an antiestablishment pseudoscientist pursuing a crackpot theory. For 34 years he was part of the establishment himself, employed at Los Alamos on projects such as a nuclear motor for space vehicles.

Subsequently he testified before a congressional committee considering the future of fusion. He believes you don't need millions of degrees or billions of dollars to fuse atomic nuclei and yield energy. "You can stimulate nuclear reactions at room temperature," he says, in his genial, matter-of-fact style. "I am absolutely certain that the phenomenon is real. It is quite extraordinary, and if it can be developed, it will have profound effects on society." That's an understatement. If low-temperature fusion does exist and can be perfected, power generation could be decentralized. Each home could heat itself and produce its own electricity, probably using a form of water as fuel. Even automobiles might be cold fusion powered. Massive generators and ugly power lines could be eliminated, along with imported oil and our contribution to the greenhouse effect. Moreover, according to some experimental data, low-temperature fusion doesn't create significant hazardous radiation or radioactive waste. Most scientists laugh at these claims. "It's pathological science," says physicist Douglas Morrison, formerly employed by CERN in Geneva. "The results are impossible." Yet some highly qualified researchers disagree. George Miley, who received the Edward Teller medal for innovative research in hot fusion and has edited Fusion Technology magazine for the American Nuclear Society for more than 15 years: "There's very strong evidence that low-energy nuclear reactions do occur. Numerous experiments have shown definitive results - as do my own." John Bockris, formerly a distinguished professor in physical chemistry at Texas A&M University and a cofounder of the International Society for Electrochemistry: "Nuclear reactions can occur without high temperatures. Low-energy nuclear transformations can - and do - exist." Michael McKubre, director of the Energy Research Center at SRI International: "I am absolutely certain there is unexplained heat, and the most likely explanation is that its origin is nuclear." Arthur C. Clarke, science fiction writer, futurist, and funder of Infinite Energy magazine: "It seems very promising to me that nuclear reactions may occur at room temperatures. I'm quite convinced there's something in this." Statements like these prompt an obvious question: If nuclear fusion can be demonstrated in anyone's basement workshop for a few thousand dollars, and could revolutionize society - why haven't we heard about it? We have. On March 23, 1989, Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann announced their discovery of "cold fusion." It was the most heavily hyped science story of the decade, but the awed excitement quickly evaporated amid accusations of fraud and incompetence. When it was over, Pons and Fleischmann were humiliated by the scientific establishment; their reputations ruined, they fled from their laboratory and dropped out of sight. "Cold fusion" and "hoax" became synonymous in most people's minds, and today, everyone knows that the idea has been discredited. Or has it? In fact, despite the scandal, laboratories in at least eight countries are still spending millions on cold fusion research.

During the past nine years this work has yielded a huge body of evidence, while remaining virtually unknown - because most academic journals adamantly refuse to publish papers on it. At most, the story of cold fusion represents a colossal conspiracy of denial. At least, it is one of the strangest untold stories in 20th-century science.

FCC AND ARRL MEET TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF BPL

The ARRL and the FCC have met to discuss the future of Broadband over Powerline Internet access. This after an appeals court ruled earlier in the year that the FCC handled the matter of B-P-L's introduction to the U-S improperly. On July 9, ARRL officials including President Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD met with members of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. According to Imlay, the meeting was hold to discuss a possible regulatory approach to BPL with the FCC. Suggestions put forth by ARRL addressed the needs and concerns of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding harmful interference from BPL systems while imposing the minimum necessary regulatory obligations on B-P-L deployments. Imlay said, that there are at this point rules that could be adopted which would, at once, both protect Amateur Radio communications from predictable harmful interference from BPL; and permit broadband over power line systems to operate in the 3 to 80 MHz range without significant constraint and without substantial redesign or retroactive build outs. Meantime, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ordered that the Federal Communications Commission \ reimburse ARRL for the docketing fee and the cost of reproducing copies of briefs and other documents in the ARRL's successful challenge of the FCC's Broadband over Powerline rules. The Order, issued on July 9 following review of an opposition from the FCC and a reply from the ARRL, awarded the ARRL's full claim of \$6,096.18. (ARRL)

FCC Issues Citation to Georgia Company for Selling, Importing Unauthorized RF Devices

On July 21, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Citation to the owner of a Georgia company for selling unauthorized radio frequency devices (specifically wireless video transmitters) and importing radio frequency devices without filing the proper FCC forms with the US Customs office and the US Border Patrol. The FCC found that Vladimir "Vova" Reznik, owner of RangeVideo, was "marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices, specifically, wireless video transmitters." The Commission sent Reznik a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) regarding this and noting the following specific items he had for sale on the RangeVideo Web site:

900 MHz 100 mW audio/video transmitters; 900 MHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 1.3 GHz 300 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 200 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 1000 mW audio/video transmitters, and 2.4 GHz 1000 mW cased audio/video transmitters. According to the FCC, the 900 MHz devices are capable of operation on 980 MHz, 1010 MHz and 1040 MHz; the 1.3 GHz device is capable of operating on 1240 MHz, 1320 MHz and 1360 MHz, and the 2.4 GHz devices are capable of operating on 2490 MHz. "Thus, these transmitter devices cannot comply with the FCC's technical standards and therefore cannot be certified or marketed," the Citation reads. Reznik responded to the LOI, admitting that he first imported the devices in 2006 and that he continues to import the devices. The FCC noted that he admitted to selling more than 2600 of the transmitters since 2006. Reznik also admitted to not filing the proper forms with the US Customs Office or the Border Patrol.

The FCC also noted that Reznik stated that before he ships a transmitter device, he "switch[es] it to operate only in the Amateur Radio Service ('ARS') bands. While radio transmitting equipment that transmits solely on ARS frequencies is not subject to the equipment authorization requirement prior to manufacture or marketing, it appears that the seven transmitter devices marketed on your website are equipped with external toggle switches on the unit, which if engaged would allow operation of the device on the restricted frequencies." In 1996, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) released a Public Notice "to clarify the Commission's Rules regarding equipment intended to operate in various radio services in the high frequency radio spectrum, including 10 meter Amateur Radio Service equipment." The Notice states that transmitters intended for operation on non-amateur frequencies "must be approved prior to manufacture, importation or marketing." The Notice specifically includes Amateur Radio Service transceivers to be designed "such that they can easily be modified by the users to extend the operating frequency range into the frequency bands" of other non-Amateur Radio Services among those devices, subject to equipment authorization procedures. The Notice also states that the FCC considers these transceivers as intended to be operated on frequencies where the use of type accepted equipment is required "because of the simplicity of modifying them to extend their operating frequency range." According to the Citation, "the transmitter devices listed on [Reznik's] website require a grant of equipment certification prior to the initiation of marketing in the United States, but, as noted above, cannot be certified because they operate on restricted frequencies." Reznik has the following legal disclaimer posted on the RangeVideo Web site: "high power video transmitters operate in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS) frequency band, and according to FCC regulations users must obtain proper licensing for legal operation. There are no restrictions on the sale of this equipment, however RangeVideo urges users to become familiar with and observe all laws and regulations governing ARS licensing

and the operation of ARS equipment. Please visit the FCC's Website for more information." He then gives the FCC's Web site address that discusses how to receive an Amateur Radio license (wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/). The FCC warned Reznik that if he violates the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules "in any manner described herein" after receipt of the Citation, "the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed \$11,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." Reznik was given 30 days to reply to the Citation, either through a personal interview at the FCC's Atlanta Field Office or via a written statement. Through the Citation, Reznik was told that his response "should specify the actions that you are taking to ensure that you do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency equipment in the future."

DVRC FIELD DAY – 2008









TENNESSEE TOWN WONT CHARGES FCC INSPECTORS WITH IMPERSONATING POLICE OFFICERS

Charges won't be filed against two Federal Communications Commission agents who allegedly told Church Hill, Tennessee police they were with the states Bureau of Investigation Meth Task Force this past June. The TimesNet dot com electronic newspaper says that arrest warrants had been written but not served against two FCC investigators who were in Church Hill, Tennessee, on an undercover mission last spring. The FCC agents were in the town on June 10th investigating complaints made by the neighboring Mount Carmel Police Department that someone was continually "keying over" radio transmission made between one of its officers and Hawkins County Central Dispatch. The TimesNet story says that the FCC agents decided to use a cover story that they were part of a Tennessee Bureau of investigation Meth Task Force. The on-line newspaper quotes a Church Hill Police Department report that says that on June 10th about 11 p.m. Officer Danny Depew stopped an SUV with Alabama license plates. This, after it pulled onto Main Boulevard from a parking lot without its headlights on. According to the report, the two male occupants of the SUV stated they were "state Meth Task Force agents" although they didn't have credentials. Mount Carmel Fire Chief and Police Officer Chris Jones, who actually is a member of the states Methamphetamine Task Force came to the scene to vouch for them. in his report Officer Depew stated that he later talked about the traffic stop with Officer Chip Whitaker. They discussed the possibility that the men in the SUV were not what they claimed and were only impersonating officers. Depew and Whitaker then stopped the SUV in the Food City parking lot shortly after midnight and spoke again to the undercover FCC investigators. Again they identified themselves as Meth Task Force agents, and again Chief Jones arrived on the scene to vouch for their identity. The FCC agents were released, but the incident was later turned over to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. On Friday, August 1st the Church Hill police received confirmation that the men in the SUV were not Meth Task Force agents or any other type of local, state or federal law enforcement officers. Instead they were FCC employees who were in the area working on a radio complaint. The Church Hill Police Department prepared warrants charging both men with multiple counts of impersonating police officers but held off serving them after Tennessee Judicial District Attorney General Berkeley Bell advised against it. Bell told the TimesNet dot com that he was leaving the decision whether or not to charge the FCC investigators to Church Hill, but he was very much against it. Also, as others observed, there was also the possibility that the FCC might go into Federal Court and charge the Church Hill Police Department or its officers with impeding a federal investigation. Either way, for now the case has been shelved.

HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

More than 380 lighthouses in more than 51 countries from Argentina to Wales will be on the air for the 2008 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. The event is organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group and will take place as this newscast goes to air the weekend of August 16th and 17th. International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is more of a QSO Party and amateur radio demonstration than it is a contest. Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself. The sponsors say that a Field Day-type station at or adjacent to the light is more than sufficient to be a part of this fun event. In a related story check out the Maritime Radio History Society web page....A wonderful website with videos and audio files of the very old and well-maintained powerful vintage transmitters. Check out the transmitter maintenance, antennas and also hear those marvellous old time mercury rectifier tubes buzzing! Very interesting, worth a look to remember those very missed good old times! → Link: <http://www.radiomarine.org/>

"Tarnished Gold" (Made in China of course)

China's thus far impressive haul of gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics was tarnished somewhat today when it was revealed that "abnormally high levels of lead" were found in the first-place medallions.

The medals, which were supposed to be made entirely of gold, were instead found to be composed of 99% lead alloy and coated with a gold-colored lead-based paint.

The shocking revelations roiled the Olympic complex today and sent officials looking for answers from the Chinese manufacturer of the medals, the Wuhan Medal Corporation. "We are trying to determine how exactly so much lead got into those gold medals," said a spokesman for Wuhan, China's largest exporter of gold medals. "Until we do, we are urging all first-place athletes not to lick, taste or suck on their medals." The company sad in a hastily worded press release.

The news about the potentially toxic gold medals spread panic among Olympic champions, especially U.S. swimming phenomena Michael Phelps. "I am very, very concerned about my extensive contact with those gold medals," Mr. Phelps told reporters. "But what am I supposed to do? Stop wearing them?"