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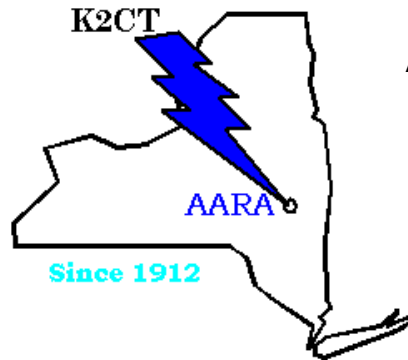
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Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League  
An ARRL Special Services Club

## AARA

Meets at the  
Colonie Community Center

1653 Central Ave. Colonie

**Friday JUNE 8**

Social Hour 6:55 PM  
Meeting begins 7:47 PM

refreshments  
soda, diet soda, coffee etc.

### K2CT Repeater

**Talk-in repeater**

**145.19 (-) MHz**

**pl tone 103.5Hz**

**or**

**444.30 (+) w/pl tone 100.0Hz**

### **AARA Dues**

Dues are \$15 with  
B-PLUS available at the K2CT Web page in  
.pdf format [www.k2ct.net](http://www.k2ct.net)

OR \$20 for first class mailing of the  
newsletter Checks should be made out to  
AARA and sent to: Saul Abrams, K2XA,  
307 Maple Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159

## JUNE Meeting

### Field Day 2007

Thatcher Park Knolls Flat area

**June 22 - 23 - 24**

Set-up starts with some work on  
Fri June 22 at 2:30PM

Sat. June 23 set-up at 8AM  
Contest starts at 2PM

Take down Sun June 24 1PM

# ATVET Ham Radio EXAM

**June 27, 2007, Wednesday**, doors open 6:20 PM,  
exam starts 7:00 PM

ATVET LIAISON: Gerald Murray,  
[atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) or 518-482-8700

## FCC'S TERMINATION OF PROCEEDINGS A MIXED BLESSING FOR HAM RADIO

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 20 May 18, 2007

The FCC's recent termination of two aging proceedings has some favorable and less-than-favorable implications for Amateur Radio. As part of a recent effort to clear the decks of languishing proceedings, the FCC closed out a Notice of Inquiry and Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NOI and NPRM) in ET Docket 03-237

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-237/>>, aimed at establishing an "interference temperature metric" as a model for managing interference and "to expand available unlicensed operation" in certain bands. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, referred to the interference temperature model as "a flawed concept" and said the May 4 termination Order <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-78A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-78A1.pdf)> is good news. The FCC appeared to agree.

"Commenting parties generally argued that the interference temperature approach is not a workable concept and would result in increased interference in the frequency bands where it would be used," the Commission said in its termination Order. "While there was some support in the record for adopting an interference temperature approach, no parties provided information on specific technical rules that we could adopt to implement it."

The Commission further conceded that "with the passage of time" the November 2003 NOI and NPRM and the record in the proceeding "have become outdated." The termination was "without prejudice," suggesting the Commission could resurrect the concept later.

The FCC asserted four years ago that the new metric "could represent a fundamental paradigm shift" in its spectrum management approach by using a standard that takes into account "the cumulative effects of all undesired RF energy" at a given instant. It initially wanted to implement the concept in two microwave bands, suggesting that it the interference temperature limit for a band "would serve as an upper bound or 'cap' on the potential RF energy that could be introduced into the band."

When the ARRL filed comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-237/>> in the proceeding in 2004, it called the interference temperature concept "highly premature" and said it should not go forward. The ARRL contended that the FCC didn't have enough information to put such a model into place, and it should not try to take a shortcut, as it did in the broadband over power line proceeding.

In a second Order <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-79A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-79A1.pdf)> released May 4, the FCC also terminated its inquiry, in ET Docket 03-65, into whether it should "incorporate receiver interference immunity performance specifications into spectrum policy decisions on a broad basis." Sumner commented that immunity standards for consumer electronics devices, including receivers, have long been an ARRL objective. The Commission again asserted that "the passage of time" had rendered out of date its Notice of Inquiry <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-54A6.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-54A6.doc)> and record in the proceeding.

"Further, to the extent receiver interference immunity performance specifications

are desirable, they may be addressed in proceedings that are frequency band or service specific," the Commission remarked in the Order. The FCC also left the door open to consider the issue again down the road.

In its July 2003 comments <<http://www.arrrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-65/ARRL-ET-03-65-cmts.pdf>> in ET Docket 03-65, the ARRL told the FCC that improved interference standards for consumer electronic devices is the most-pressing need as the Commission considers the interference immunity performance of receivers. While recommending "either mandatory receiver immunity standards or at least guidelines" in most other services, the ARRL said no receiver immunity standards are necessary or practical in the "essentially experimental" Amateur Service.

"With the current explosion of consumer electronics and unlicensed devices," the League said, "the Commission must establish interference rejection standards for unlicensed home electronic equipment and systems."

**QCWA, Newsline** to collaborate in mentoring program: The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) <<http://www.qcwa.org>> and Amateur Radio Newsline (ARNewsline) <<http://www.arnewsline.org>> have joined forces in cosponsoring the Roy Neal, K6DUE, Amateur Radio Mentoring Program. ARNewsline launched the post-licensing educational service in 2004. It's designed to pair newcomers with veteran radio amateurs who can share their skill and experience. "Amateur Radio is a tremendously complex arena", says Newsline Executive Producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. "We have hams who are truly experts in numerous fields [and] we want to take advantage of that talent pool to help educate the next generation of operators and generations to follow." The collaboration with QCWA makes thousands of veteran radio amateurs available as potential mentors -- each with at least 25 years of experience in the hobby. QCWA President John B. Johnston, W3BE, called the arrangement "a good deal for all of Amateur Radio." A retired FCC employee and

Dayton Radio Amateur of the Year, Johnston says he believes that it is important to keep ham radio traditions alive. ARNewsline and the QCWA are now seeking both new radio amateurs and potential QCWA mentors -- or Elmers. E-mail <[mentor@arnewsline.org](mailto:mentor@arnewsline.org)> your name, call sign, address with ZIP code, telephone number and a convenient time to call The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 20 May 18, 2007

### **FCC DEMANDS AMBIENT DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH BPL LICENSE CONDITIONS**

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 21 May 25, 2007

The FCC has called on BPL equipment manufacturer Ambient Corporation to demonstrate that it's complying with all terms of its Part 5 Experimental license or face possible enforcement action. Ambient operates the Briarcliff Manor, New York, BPL pilot program under Experimental license WD2XEQ. In a May 21 letter to Ambient Chief Engineer Yehuda Cern, FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Kathryn S. Berthot noted that the FCC is investigating ARRL complaints dating back to 2006 that Ambient's Briarcliff Manor BPL system has caused and continues to cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio stations. She said Ambient's most recent six-month report failed to address one condition of its Part 5 license relating to emission measurements to prove compliance.

"Access BPL systems are generally required to meet the pertinent radiated emission requirements specified in Section 15.611(b) of the Commission's rules," Berthot wrote. "However, Ambient's facility, operating under an experimental license, is subject to the operating conditions contained on its license."

Condition 4, Berthot pointed out, requires a progress report six months from the date of grant, which was last August. Condition 5 provides that the progress report "should include, but is not limited to, a description of measurements and results demonstrating compliance" with the radiated emission limits of §15.109.

Ambient's most recent six-month report indicated that the company had notched out BPL signals on Amateur Radio bands, "demonstrating significant advancements," the FCC noted. Still lacking, the Commission contends, is information to satisfy Condition 5.

Berthot gave Ambient 20 days from the date of this month's letter to submit the results of any measurements it conducted before its most recent progress report to demonstrate compliance with §15.109. "Any measurements made in the areas addressed in the ARRL complaint should be highlighted," she continued. "If any area included in the ARRL complaint was not previously subject to measurements, measurements must now be taken in that area to test for compliance with §15.109."

Further, Berthot said, Ambient must note any measurements that reveal any non-compliance with §15.109, and, in that case, it must include a description of its plans to bring the system into compliance with the conditions of its Experimental license.

"Furthermore," Berthot concluded, "Ambient must submit to the Commission a follow-up report confirming compliance, once it has completed the necessary system modifications. We caution you that failure to respond to this letter may result in enforcement action."

Ambient operates the BPL system on power lines owned and operated by Consolidated Edison, under an experimental FCC authorization. In January 2006, in the wake of continued FCC inaction in response to several previous complaints, the ARRL filed a renewal of its complaint against Ambient's BPL system in Briarcliff Manor.

Without adjudicating ARRL's repeated complaints about interference throughout the amateur 20 meter band, the FCC renewed Ambient's experimental license for an additional term, from August 1, 2005 to August 1, 2007.

Saratoga County RACES still needs a few operators for the Tour de Cure bike race on Sunday, June 10.

Event map is available at <http://www.wa2mux.net>

Contact Lee Palmer [lpalmer@capital.net](mailto:lpalmer@capital.net)  
(518)383-2677

Thanks & 73

Frank N4ZHG AARA Public Service Chair

## Operating Events

**June 9 – 11** ARRL June VHF QSO Party

**June 23 – 24** ARRL Field Day

**June 16** Kid's Day Contest

**June 16** West Virginia QSO Party

**July 14 – 15** IARU HF World Championships

## **FIELD DAY 2007**

Thatcher Park Knolls Flat area

**WE need coolers half filled with ICE**

**WE need help with set up on Friday after 2pm and on Saturday starting at 8AM**

**WE need gas containers filled w/gas**

If you can't bring it with you contact  
Mike, WD2AJS 489-3110

**WE need operators**

**The contest runs Sat. 2PM to Sun 2PM**

**AARA contest dinner is Sat 5PM**

**WE need help with take down Sun at 1PM**

**WE need operators**

edited by Mike Bergman, WD2AJS, 45 Swartson Ct., Albany, NY 12209 489-3110.  
**Articles** and B-PLUS **Swap Shop items** accepted and solicited via mail, phone, or e-mail to [wd2ajs@arrl.net](mailto:wd2ajs@arrl.net)

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