



Happy New Year

# FEEDBACK



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## SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE MARC AWARDS BANQUET

The meeting for the Massillon Amateur Radio Club will be held on January 10th 2004 at the Perry Grange, 6300 Richville Drive beginning at 5:30 PM, with dinner to begin at 6:00 PM. This is our annual Awards Banquet Dinner Meeting. You must have reservations for this meeting and dinner. Please call club Treasurer Anne Ballinger, N8GAF, at 330-832-8612 or Club Secretary Linda Finley, K8MOO at 330-832-9757 for reservations. Please do so ASAP. The dinner will consist of two meats, chicken of Swiss steak with potatoes and vegetables role with butter AND dessert all for \$ 9.00 ( a \$1.00 increase from last year) !

We will have the usual "serious" awards following the meal and then following the "not-so-serious awards. The evening concludes by the installation of new Officer's for 2004. They are:

PRESIDENT	JIM FARRISS WA8GXM
VICE PRESIDENT	JOE HERRICK WD8BGW
SECRETARY	LINDA FINLEY K8MOO
TREASURER	ANNE BALLINGER N8GAF
TRUSTEE	GARY BLAGG KC8IHR
	DON WADE W8DEF
	DAN ANASTIS W8DEF

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICER'S  
and Good Luck in 2004!**



## - SHORT SKIP -

Look'n into my crystal clibrator I see for 2004. . . .

- a. More new super rigs from the big 3.
- b. A large gathering of hams in the Dayton Area in May.
- c. Less sunspots and neither the democraps nor the republicans will address this most important issue.
- d. ARRL will encourage our FCC to "grand father" the truckers on the low end of ten meters to amateur radio - on April 1st . . . .

And here's hoping you'll enjoy amateur radio even more in 2004!

**73 de WB8OWM**

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## MARC MINUTES

### December 12,2003

The December Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 24 members and guests present.

In MARC President Rich KA8ZQH absence Vice President Jim WA8GXM opened the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Jim WA8GXM then asked to suspend reading the November minutes. They were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK by Sandra N8TZB and second by Byron KF8UN.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report. A motion was made to accept this report by Don W8DEF and second by Sandra N8TZB.

Jim WA8GXM could not give the correspondence report because they were with Rich KA8ZQH.

### OLD BUSINESS

Gary WC8W asked about the fairgrounds for next year. The deposit has been made and the date of October 31,2004 was announced as the next Hamfest 2004.

There was a discussion about the sale of illegal items (amplifiers, rigs) sold at all Hamfests. We are waiting to here the Leagues opinion on the subject.

The MARC banquet will be January 10, 2004. Time 5:30 P.M. at the Richville Grange. There was an error in Anne N8GAF telephone number last month. To make your reservation the correct number is 330- 832-8612.

Perry W8AU was notified by ODOT about MARC safety breaks. He will apply for 3 different sessions in 2004, and perhaps we will get two sessions ; hopefully one will be a holiday weekend.

Jim WA8GXM read an article in the Section Journal about MARC 75th Anniversary and receiving the certificate the evening before the Hamfest. He also read a note from ARRL Assistant Section Manager Connie Hamilton N8IO, from Marrietta Ohio . She wanted to thank Doris WD8IKC and Stan WA8NZE for their hospitality. She stayed with them during the Hamfest weekend.

### NEW BUSINESS

Congratulations goes to Gary WC8W and the FEEDBACK for placing 6th in the 8th Call Area for the MARC newsletter.

The Trustees then conducted the elections. The officers for 2004 will be

President Jim Farriss WA8GXM

Vice President Joe Herrick WD8BGW

Secretary Linda Finley K8MOO

Treasurer Anne Ballinger N8GAF

Trustees Gary Blagg KC8IHR

Don Wade W8DEA

Dan anastis N8DZM.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers, Vice President Joe WD8BGW and Trustee Dan N8DZM.

Everyone was reminded the Tusco Hamfest will be in January.

Gary WC8W gave the VE report' 10 tested with congratulations going out to 9 for passing.

MARC Technician classes will start in late February or early March. More will be decided at the February meeting.

Dan N8DZM will consider starting fox hunting again in 2004.

We welcomed 2 new members, Rodger KA8FTS and his XYL Helen (no call).

Congratulations goes to Don W8DEF for winning the 50-50 for \$10.50.

The meeting closed at 9:05 P.M. with motion made by Don W8DEA and second by Gary WC8W

**Minutes by Linda K8MOO**  
**Secretary MARC**

**Happy New Year everybody and welcome to 2004. As we open this new year let's talk a bit about Public Service.**

## .... ARRL Emergency Communications Certifications .....

**T**he November issue of QST Magazine includes an article updating the efforts of the ARRL Emergency Communications Courses and Emcomm Certification since the inception of the program. Let's look at some history of this effort and how it has impacted our local ARES program.

The initial design for the ARRL ARECC program was born in January 2000 when the ARRL Board of Directors approved the formation of a continuing education program for amateurs with Emergency Communications at the top of the list.

Section officials, RACES officers among others were polled to develop course material and by December 2000, the Level 1 course was opened for registration. In those 18 months before grant funded tuition reimbursement became available, ARRL trained 1,080 hams in emergency communications, developing a solid curriculum and building a base of dedicated volunteer instructors and mentors.

The response changed from strong to overwhelming after the events of September 11, 2001 and the availability of grant funding for the program. The success of the programs has enabled additional grant funding every year since with Level 1 Certification at over 1,700 so far. Registration continues to be strong and the League hopes to have an additional 1,600 amateurs certified by the summer of 2004.

The ARRL ARECC Certification has enabled amateur emergency communications training to take a huge leap forward in preparing amateurs to handle emergency situations. "The courses give amateurs with an interest in public service the advanced preparation to perform useful service to served agencies." according to ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP.

The courses are broken up into three levels: Level 1, introductory which covers basic message handling, emergency nets, the incident command system, equipment, activation, operation, safety and logistics. "All these criteria are utilized during practice drills and all will help provide the necessary skills that would be needed in an actual disaster situation", cites Stark County AEC Terry Russ, N8ATZ, "All of these situations were evident during the Jackson Tornado touchdown in 2001 and the Stark County Flooding during the summer of 2003."

Level 2 covers liaising with public safety officials and served agencies, running an emergency net, Skywarn, hospital and medical communications, and working with volunteers. Level 3 tackles ARES and RACES, local and federal response plans, large scale disasters, mobile operations, severe weather disasters, health and welfare traffic, building an ARES group and designing disaster drills.

Amateur Radio's usefulness in times of crisis is being recognized on the national level. Events such as September 11, 2001 and the Columbia space shuttle disaster have found hams providing vital backup communications, estab-

lishing critical links when nothing else could handle the job. The courses have given the average ham uniform training a connection to a national effort that is approved by the federal government. They are increasingly recognizing that ham radio has an important role to play.

A newly revised version of the Level 2 course is now on-line. While the variety emergency communications should remain the same, the ARRL hopes to improve the course content to meet new situations. New learning units such as aiding in a bio-terrorism event or an ecological disaster, or other special topics could be added in the future.

Being an effective emergency communicator, however, requires more than studying material and passing a multiple choice test. The ARECC Certifications were meant to be a starting point for those involved in public service communications. Like any skill, gaining proficiency in emergency communications requires practice.

Stark County ARES currently has 48 registered volunteers with only 7 having achieved ARRL ARECC Certification, all being Level 3 certified. This represents about 15 percent of the total registered ARES members. One of our goals for 2004 is to increase this number, perhaps by having training workshops so that all active ARES members have Level 1 Certification.

Every journey begins with the first step. For hams interested in emergency communications public service work, getting your ARECC Certification is the best first step one can take !

## .... MARC Spotlighted in Winter Ohio Section Journal ....

The Winter 2003 Edition of the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) features several items spotlighting the MARC and its members.

Under Assistant Manager news, we received very nice kudo's from both Southeast ASM Connie Hamilton - N8IO and Northeast ASM Robert Winston - W2THU. Connie attended our Hamfest Banquet and both visited our October Hamfest and had a very enjoyable time.

Ohio Section News included a great picture taken at our banquet celebrating our 75th Anniversary and was well attended by club members and ARRL leadership. Both Section Manager Joe Phillips - K8QOE and Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver - K8JE joined us for the evening and then attended the hamfest on Sunday.

Club member Terry Russ - N8ATZ was also included in the OSJ with his story covering his view of the 2003 ARRL Great Lakes Convention including his induction into the Royal Order of Wouff Hong along with Don Finley - W8DEF.

A special thanks to both the ARRL and the Ohio Section Journal for this special recognition ! Go to the club's website for a link to download a copy.

That's about it for this month. I'm currently working on last year's public service report and will have that for you in February. It was another busy year for amateurs involved in public service.

**73's till then.  
Terry - N8ATZ**

## ARRL NEWS SECTION MANAGERS COLUMN

This year pushed ARRL into a new era of membership involvement in nonpartisan political advocacy. In the past, we knew our dedicated HQ staff could be as good as any in managing Amateur Radio-related issues with the FCC. Certainly, there were setbacks (the reduction of code requirements to 5 wpm is probably the single-most recent example of FCC action flying in the face of Amateur Radio wishes); however, pressure beyond technical argument previously had little to do with how FCC reacted to technical issues. This was because FCC generally chose to be a nonpolitical agency.

During 2003 FCC Chairman Michael Powell and some Commissioners jumped squarely into politics. The Chairman and other Commissioners openly promoted BPL to other organizations because of reasons totally unrelated to overall technical benefit to the nation. In response, you for the first time in my memory were requested strongly to comment to FCC against BPL. For the first time, the number of comments filed was considered as being important. No sooner than our involvement with BPL diminished (but did not end), you were asked to write your Senators and Representatives asking them to cosponsor and support the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. This effort continues and we are adding a request to meet with you legislators while they are at home during the Congressional break.

The fact is you, their constituents represent something more powerful even to calloused politicians than money. You represent votes. They need votes to be reelected. Most politicians want to be returned to office; therefore, joining en masse to influence their vote works. If you don't believe this, ask the unions, the NRA, the NAACP, the AARP and many other organizations.

### 2004

We will be renewing and expanding our effort to pass Spectrum Protection. Our tactic is simple. Get as many legislators as possible to cosponsor the bill. If, for example, we got over 50% of them to be cosponsors, we would be certain the bill would be voted out of committee to the floor for final vote. If we got over 50% to cosponsor, the final vote would nearly certainly be to pass the bill. To help accomplish this, you will find that at the Division level, we will become better organized to help you do the job.

### FINALLY

These are exciting and challenging times for Amateur Radio. We ask you to join in the fight to preserve and enhance our great avocation. In the meantime, thanks to everything you have done so far.

## THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC. LEADERSHIP OFFICIAL

(Ed Note: the text is not included here, it is just too long for the newsletter, so just the cover letters are printed here; we will have the full text for you at the January Dinner Meeting)

December 17, 2003

Dear ARRL Affiliated Clubs,

I have been asked by Dick Mondro, W8FQT, ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director, to send you this information regarding the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, known as House Bill HR 713.

I know that this may be getting to you late for your meetings but if you could inform your members of this important information it would be greatly appreciated.

I had originally sent this by email to all the clubs who have email addresses and I received several messages that the email could not be sent. Please make sure that your email address on the Affiliated Club listing with the ARRL is up to date. This is where I get my information.

Thank you for supporting the ARRL and this special call for action.

Happy Holidays.

'73

**Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP**  
**ARRL Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator.**

## TO ALL GREAT LAKES DIVISION ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS

December 9, 2003

### SPECIAL CLUB PROGRAMS - A CALL FOR ACTION

Is your amateur radio club looking for a meeting program that will be more beneficial to amateur radio than anything else you can do?

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, known as House Bill HR 713 and Senate Bill S 537, is legislation now being considered and we can do more to help amateur radio than anything we have done in the past. Our very existence is at stake!

Many members of Congress will not consider co-sponsorship of comparatively small, technical bills like HR 713/ S537  
(CONT NEXT PAGE)

without concrete evidence of support from **their own constituents** . So if you'd like to help Amateur Radio make a statement on the Hill, consider getting together with your members at an upcoming **special meeting** of your club to send a letter, or even QSL Card to your legislators. Yes I said **Special Meeting, because time is running short** ! Our legislators are going on Holiday recess and there is no better time than now to get this done. You may even set up a personal meeting with your legislator while they are in their home office for the Holiday Recess.

This is so very important to the amateur radio service that I would suggest making this a part of your Holiday Party Meetings. It takes very little time if you prepare in advance by having addresses ready for your members to use. Please read the following hints from the firm that is lobbying these bills for ARRL. They are professionals and they know the ropes. Please read and follow their suggestions.

Another thought for a meeting that will help is to invite your legislator to attend your club meeting and ask for their support as a co sponsor. To those of you that have legislators that are co sponsors, take a moment to send them a note to thank them for their support. **It is the numbers that count and will make a difference, the more mail the better.**

Please forgive the length of this document. I have also included sample letters (boiler plate) that can be used as a guide as well as a list of the sponsors and co sponsors and the latest news on the bills. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JPB testified on Capital Hill, this Summer, on the importance of this bill to protect amateur radio. Please heed this call for action and get our members mobilized to protect our valuable spectrum. Nothing is more important this time. While your at it you may want to remind everyone of the importance of ARRL Membership and support of the Spectrum Defense Fund. We need your help.

Happy Holidays to all.

**73, Dick Mondro W8FQT  
Vice Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division**



## Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 641

### December 29, 2003

The Ohio/Penn DX PacketClusterDX Bulletin No. 641

BID: \$OPDX.641December 29, 2003 Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, K1XN & GoList, NC1L, NG3K, W3UR & The Daily DX, K4VUD, N4AA & QRZ DX, N4KZ, W4DKS, KN5G, N5FG, K8JE, K8YSE, CT1EEB, DL/VE3ZIK & [www.contesting.info](http://www.contesting.info), F5CWU & La Gazette du DX, F5NQL & UFT, I0JBL, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, JI6KVR & JA-IOTA Islands News, M5AAV, UA2FM, VA3RJ & ICPO, XE1KK, XE2AC, Z35M and ZL4HU for the following DX information.

**SPECIAL EDITOR'S NOTE:** My family (wife/OPDX's chief proof-reader Linda, Teddy [TJ] and wife Jessica, Katie) and I (KB8NW) would like to wish all DXers, Contesters and OPDX readers a very "Happy Safe and Healthy New Year". Also, we would like thank the many who have contributed information over the year (there are too many to list).

**REMEMBER**, without them there would not be an OPDX Bulletin. I would also thank the many who sent holiday greetings. I tried to answer some and wished I could answer each one of them individually, but it would take a huge amount of time. You would not believe the amount of E-mail I receive..... 73 and Have a Great Holiday de Tedd KB8NW

1A, SMOM. The following is a press release on an upcoming operation from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM). Luciano Blasi, I0JBL, reports: Following the significant number of "new one" requests received in these years, a team led by Francesco, IK0FVC, will activate **1A0KM** during the weekend from **January 2nd to January 5th, 2004**. Other team members will be I0JBL, IK0FTA and IK0PRG. From the beginning this operation, the QSL manager for the 1A0KM's activities will be Sergio, IK0FTA. For further information an E-mail address

will be activated: [1a0km@sixitalia.org](mailto:1a0km@sixitalia.org)  
 5V, TOGO. Members of the F6KOP Le Radio Club de Provins 77 (near Paris) plan to be active from Lome (Grid Square JJ06) as **5V7C** from **March 6-12th**. Operators mentioned are: Dany/F5CW (one of the TO4E gang), Franck/F4AJQ, Pascal/F5TVG, Pascal/F5JSD, Romain/F8BUI and Guenther/F5VHQ/OE5TGL. Activity will be on 160-6 meters CW, SSB and Digital. QSL Manager is F5TVG: Franck Savoldi, P.O. Box 92, F94223 Charenton Cedex, FRANCE. An E-mail address is available for more information, support, sponsoring, help, skeds and etc at: [5V7C@free.fr](mailto:5V7C@free.fr) The groups Web page (in French) is available at: <http://5v7c.free.fr>

9N, NEPAL (News). Charles Harpole, K4VUD, informed the DX community this past week that his efforts (along with Satish/9N1AA) to expand ham radio in 9N-land including a memorial club station for Father Moran, 9N1MM 9SK), are on an indefinite hold due to the disturbed social and political conditions there. All radios, including other gear and cash, that was donated some years ago have been distributed to the existing licensed native 9N hams (cash used immediately upon donation to purchase needed items like coax and Morse keys, etc.). Charles states, "That gear will come back to a club station someday. Foreign visitors have operated there, as you know. Please bear with this situation and extend understanding."

A5, BHUTAN. Dane, S57CQ, is now active as **A52CQ** and is expected to stay in Bhutan **through January 14th**. Activity is expected to be on all bands as much as possible (no 160m). He was spotted this past weekend on 40m (as early as 1700z and as late as 2345z, then moves to 80m), 20m (1230- 1300) and 10m (after 0900z). QSL via S57DX.

DXCC NEWS. ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, informs OPDX that Kirk E. Swallow, W8QID, of Cincinnati, OH, was appointed the Great Lakes Division Representative on the DXAC, effective January 1, 2004. He will succeed Billy (Pick) Pickard, WA5PAE, who had recently become a "Silent Key" (SK). Kirk is a lifelong worker/manager in the field of two-way communications and retired recently from Verizon as a technical area

manager. He is former president of the Queen City Emergency Net (Red Cross affiliate) and is an active member of the SWODXA. He has gone on numerous DXpeditions to the Caribbean (most recently to TI a couple of weeks ago) and is listed at 345 at the Top of the (DX) Honor Roll. Kirk and his wife Joyce serve as QSL Managers for a variety of DXpeditions.

IOTA NEWS.....

KP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (Special Event). To celebrate the New Year, remember to look for operators David/N4KZ and Mark/K4MCE to activate the special event station, **N4Z**, between **December 30th to January 6th** from **St. Croix**. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, SSB and CW. QSL via N4KZ.

PACIFIC OPERATIONS (A3 and T2). Sara/HA9SD and Eli/HA9RE are expected to be active during the new year from **Tuvalu** between **January 1-18th** (their call signs not yet known) and from **Tonga** as **A35RE** from **January 20th to February 4th**. They will have two stations active with operations on 80-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL ONLY direct to HA8IB (with 2 new IRCs or 2 USD).

XF4, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS. Ramon/XE1KK and Luis/XE2AC inform OPDX that the Federacion Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores (FMRE) announced last Sunday, December 21st, a XF4 DXpedition is expected to begin **March 3rd**, for **2 weeks** from **Socorro Island (NA-030)** using the call sign **XF4IH**. They mentioned that 95% of the paperwork is ready. There will be 8 operators (all XE ops). Operators mentioned are: Pepe/XE1J, Ismael/XE1AVM, Rafael/XE1GRR, Javier/XE1KOF, David/XE1XR, Luis/XE1GLL and Martin/XE2ML. Their activity will be on all bands 160-6 meters including the WARC bands, VHF, UHF. The modes will be CW, SSB RTTY and PSK31. No QSL info was mentioned yet. More details to follow.

Z3, MACEDONIA. Look for Antonio/IZ8CCW and Pietro/IZ8FWN to be active as either **Z38M** or **Z3/homecalls** between **January 2-6th**. Activity is expected to be on all bands CW, SSB and RTTY. Several members of Z37M are expected to be with them. QSL via IZ8CCW.

- Victor Loginov, UA2FM, **UA2 QSL Bureau official**, informs OPDX that on December 6th during a UA2 annual meeting, they decided to start their own incoming QSL bureau. This means that they will stop getting incoming QSL cards from SRR QSL Bureau in Moscow (P.O. Box 88). The new address is: UA2 QSL Bureau, ROSTO Technical School, ul.Ozyornaya 31, Kaliningrad, 236029, Russia. Please update your QSL bureau address book, and from now on send all QSL cards for UA2 only to the address above. Otherwise they won't get them. ADDED NOTE: Victor mentions UA2 is the second call area of Russia. They have the following active prefixes: all UA2, RA2, RK2, RU2, RV2, RX2 and R2MWO (permanent callsign for the Museum of the World Ocean). (Note that RK21Z was from R1Z.) RW2F is a contest call for the UA2 Contest Club, RK2FWA.
- Vlado, ZA/Z35M, informs OPDX that all direct QSL cards for **ZA/Z35M, Z35M and Z3100M** received no later than December 22nd, have been answered the same way they were received. All QSLs for the Z3100M operation were sent via the bureau. Direct QSLs should be sent via Z35M to: Vladimir Kovaceski, Box 10, Struga 6330, Macedonia.
- The Kermadec DX Association along with ZL2HU and ZL4HU wish to advise that with the very strong New Zealand Dollar the way it is at the present, one green stamp no longer covers the cost of ECONOMY postal replies to QSL cards. However, one IRC is still sufficient to cover return mail costs. The Association will respond directly to all requests posted to them before January 1, 2004, where there has been only one green stamp included. As they are a non profit organization, all cards mailed to them on and after January 1, 2004, which do not include sufficient funds for Economy Class return mail will be replied to VIA THE BUREAU. If and when the U.S. Dollar gains some ground against the New Zealand Dollar, they will further consider their position. THEY do appologize for this delay for those expecting to receive cards by the direct mode, but it is beyond their control when governments set currency exchange rates that are not favourable to their cause. "I trust you will all understand. Regards ..... Ken Holdom, ZL4HU, Group Organizer/Team Leader/QSL Manager for the Kermadec DX Association."

TI, COSTA RICA. Bob, KE0UI, is now active as **TI5/KE0UI** but only **until December 31st**. He states that he will only be using low power with modest antennas, and CW on the WARC bands will be his priority. QSL via his CBA or via the Bureau.

TO4E QRT. The TO4E/TO4WW team is back home and stopped their transmissions **December 20th** around

ZF2, CAYMAN ISLANDS. Just a reminder that Pete, N2LM, will be active as **ZF2PD** on **Grand Cayman Island (NA-016)** now **through January 8th**. Activity will be 80-6 meter CW/SSB. Requests for QSL cards can be sent to his home callsign, N2LM.

Excerpts and distribution of The OPDX Bulletin are granted as long as KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80 receive credit. To contribute DX info, please send via InterNet Mail to: kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org - OR - kb8nw@arrl.net Information can now be faxed to the following "NEW" phone line at: 1-419-828-7791 (F A X only!)

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY JANUARY 19th

King



## FEMA Says BPL Will ‘Severely Impair’ Essential HF Operations:

A proverbial monkey wrench in the works for BPL? Expressing “grave concerns” about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) told the FCC that BPL could “severely impair FEMA’s mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology.” FEMA responded December 4 to last April’s FCC BPL Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104. Now part of the Department of Homeland Security—the agency said its primary worry is BPL’s potential impact on the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) on HF. FNARS is FEMA’s primary command and control backup medium under the Federal Response Plan.

“FEMA has concluded that introduction of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems such as FNARS,” FEMA asserted. “FNARS radio operators normally conduct communications with signals that are barely above the ambient noise levels.” FNARS HF stations, FEMA said, typically are in residential areas of the sort that BPL might serve.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA’s perspectives on BPL could carry substantial weight at the FCC, which may issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making as early as February. The FCC’s BPL Notice of Inquiry has attracted more than 5100 comments—many of them from the amateur community.

FEMA said BPL also could render useless such “essential communications services” as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Civil Air Patrol. FEMA and ARRL last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding that focuses on how Amateur Radio may coordinate with the agency in disasters and emergencies.

Calling the HF spectrum “an invaluable and irreplaceable public safety resource,” FEMA said there’s no current alternative to HF in terms of

meeting national security and emergency preparedness requirements at the national, state and local levels. The agency advised the FCC to beef up its Part 15 rules to ensure no increase in interference levels to existing FCC or NTIA-licensed communication systems. Otherwise, FEMA predicted, “any noise increase inevitably would diminish the ability to maintain essential communications” and would “directly impair the safety of life and property.”

Likewise, FEMA pointed out, amateur HF transmitters could possibly interfere with and interrupt BPL service, leading consumers not familiar with Part 15 to blame licensed radio services.

Concluded FEMA: “The purported benefits of BPL in terms of expanded services in certain communications sectors do not appear to outweigh the benefit to the overall public of HF radio capability as presently used by government, broadcasting and public safety users.”

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/html/plc/>. To support the League’s efforts in this area, visit the ARRL’s secure BPL Web site, <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

**Source:** The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 49 December 12, 2003

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A large, stylized graphic with the words "Happy New Year" in a bold, bubbly, outlined font. The letters are thick and have a white fill with a black outline. The words are stacked vertically: "Happy" on top, "New" in the middle, and "Year" at the bottom. The overall style is festive and celebratory.

# January 2004

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>December 03</caption> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>February 04</caption> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29						<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Massillon ARC meeting West Stark info net. 147.180 at 8:00 PM	<i>3</i>
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Please contact KA8ZQH to add,delete or change Calendar